

Severe Economic Hardship Information for F-1 Students Directly Affected by the Crisis in Ukraine

Severe Economic Hardship

F-1 Visa Students who are experiencing severe economic hardships may apply for authorization which allows for students to work due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control

- Reasons to apply can include:
 - Death of primary sponsor
 - Change in exchange rate
 - National disaster or other situation
- Eligibility
 - Student must be in good standing academically and been in enrolled F-1 status for one year
 - Student must prove to USCIS that employment is necessary due to severe economic hardship caused by circumstances beyond their control that arose after obtaining F-1 status
- Additional Information
 - Offer of employment not required as a condition of eligibility
 - Nature of work does not have to be related to major field of study
 - Employment card issued for a one year at a time
 - Processing time for authorization is 3-6 months
 - Student can work part-time while school is in session and full-time when school is not in session

Special Student Relief (SSR) is another resource for F-1 Visa Students who are experiencing hardships

- This regulation allows the Department of Homeland Security to suspend or alter rules regarding duration of status, full course of study, and employment eligibility, for specific groups of students from parts of the world that are experiencing emergent circumstances
- Specific to students from the following nations:
 - Burma / Myanmar (Effective from 5/25/2021 - 11/25/2022)
 - Haiti (Effective from 8/3/2021 - 2/3/2023)
 - Somalia (Effective from 9/18/2021 - 3/17/2023)
 - South Sudan (Effective from 4/18/2022)
 - Syria (Effective from 4/22/2021 - 9/30/2022)
 - Ukraine (Effective from 4/18/2022 - 10/2023_)
 - Venezuela (Effective from 4/22/2021 - 9/9/2022)
 - Yemen (Effective from 9/4/2021 - 3/3/2023)
- This benefit currently does not include Ukraine but likely will soon
- Benefits can be understood as a "package" consisting of on or off-campus work authorization as well as authorization to reduce one's course load. The reduced course load is only available to students who acquire work authorization through the notice, and is not available separately
- Special Student Relief is not provided for students impacted by COVID-19
- Filing process can be between 3-6 months

Helpful Links

[Announcement of Processing Posts for Visa Applicants from Ukraine](#)