



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

International Student Services Office

Economic Hardship

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For Assistance
Review this guide and then call 972-883-4189 to schedule
an appointment with the ISSO Senior International Advisor

DESCRIPTION

Economic Hardship is an F-1 work exception reviewed by USCIS on a case-by-case basis for students who experience a severe financial hardship caused by circumstances beyond their control after obtaining F-1 status. Some examples of circumstances beyond the student's control:

- Unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student's sponsor.
- Loss of financial aid or on-campus employment if the loss is not the student's fault.
- Unexpected medical bills in the U.S. not covered by insurance.
- Large increases in tuition or living costs.
- A substantial fluctuation of currency in the student's home country.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The student must be in F-1 status for at least one academic year and be in good academic standing.
- The student is unable to obtain on-campus employment or the pay from available on-campus employment must be insufficient to meet the student's financial needs.
- The student must be able to prove to USCIS that employment is necessary due to a severe economic hardship.
- The student is not required to have a job offer to apply for Economic Hardship.

DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT TO ISSO

- Economic Hardship Request Form.
- A letter explaining the unforeseen circumstances beyond your control that led to the need for off-campus employment.
- Evidence supporting your case for Economic Hardship.
- A budget for the coming year, including the approximate amount of money needed to meet your financial obligations.
- I-765 form.
- Copy of passport identification page (photograph and expiration date).
- Copy of F-1 visa.
- Copy of front & back of I-94 card.
- Copy of any previously issued EAD cards.

DOCUMENTS TO MAIL TO USCIS

- Two passport photos.
- A check for the USCIS application fee.
- Original I-765 form.
- Copy of Economic Hardship I-20, pages 1 and 3. The issue date on the I-20 must be less than 30 days old.
- Your letter explaining the need for Economic Hardship and any additional evidence.
- Copy of passport.
- Copy of I-94, front and back.
- Copy of F-1 visa
- Copy of previously issued EAD cards, if applicable.

HOW TO APPLY

- Obtain an Economic Hardship Guide from the ISSO in person or through ISSOCurrent@utdallas.edu.
- Schedule an appointment with the Senior International Advisor to review the process.
- Submit all required documents to the ISSO.
- If the application is complete, the ISSO will issue an Economic Hardship I-20 within 3 business days.
- Come to the ISSO to sign the I-20 and receive mailing instructions.
- Mail the application to USCIS with a check for the USCIS application fee.

- The student will receive a receipt notice from USCIS within 2-3 weeks after mailing the application.
- Approval can take 2-4 months. If approved, the student will receive an EAD card.

TYPE OF WORK ALLOWED

- Approval of Economic Hardship allows the student to work off-campus in a job that is not related to the student's course of study.
- Work is limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session but can be full-time during official school breaks.
- The student is not authorized to work until the EAD card is received.

LENGTH OF WORK AUTHORIZATION

- Economic Hardship is granted for one year or until the program end date.
- Approval for Economic Hardship is not limited to one year and can be renewed. If applying for a renewal, the student must repeat the same application process and show a new unforeseen circumstance or explain why the same unforeseen circumstance continues.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- The student must remain enrolled in a full course of study while on Economic Hardship.

FAQs

- There is a high rate of denial for economic hardship, even for students who seem to have a valid reason for applying. For example, saying that your parents are having difficulty paying can be viewed as an invalid reason. A more valid reason would be a parent losing a job and not being able to find employment.
- The Economic Hardship is no longer valid if the student transfers to another school.

ISSO CONTACT INFO

- Website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/student/international/>
- Email: ISSOcurrent@utdallas.edu
- The ISSO international advisors are available on a walk-in basis Mon-Thu 10:30-5:00 and Fri 10:30-4:00 or you can call 972-883-4189 to schedule an appointment.