



The USCIS Fee Waiver Form

The USCIS Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver is used when filing USCIS forms that you wish to request a fee waiver. For CIIS F-1 students this is namely for Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization whether for Optional Practical Training (OPT) or for Severe Economic Hardship.

Please note that the government office will adjudicate your I-912, Request for Fee Waiver application first. If the fee waiver is accepted, the I-765 application will move forward. If it is rejected, they will send back both applications and you can submit your I-765 again with more information for the fee waiver request or with the fee. This will add about 14-30 days to the processing time of your I-765 application.

How to apply for a Fee Waiver

Upon reviewing information on the USCIS website <https://www.uscis.gov/feewaiver>, please make an appointment with the International Student Advisor and bring all requirements listed below along with your I-765, Request for Employment Authorization form.

- Form I-912, the Application for Fee Waiver, leave items on the form blank that is unclear
- Copies of your passport and visa (entry stamp in passport for Canadians)
- A copy of your I-94 form
- A typed letter stating the reason for your request for a fee waiver
- Evidence supporting the argument in your fee waiver letter, including W2s, statement of loss of sponsorship, proof of costs, news articles or other information.