GCTS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’
CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING

Curricular Practical Training is available to students who would like to work off-campus in order to meet requirements for their degree program (practicum or internship for MACO, or Mentored Ministry for M.Div. and/or MAEM.) Read below for more details, as well as to learn about possible academic scholarships through a local church.

Remember:
According to U.S. federal regulations international F-1 visa students cannot be employed unless:

- They work in an on-campus job, or
- They are being paid for an internship for their Curricular Practical Training (CPT).

A. For Paid Internships for Curricular Practical Training the following criteria must be met in order for the student to receive pay:

1) The F-1 student will need to have a US Social Security number assigned to them (see Brian Fleming in Student Life Services if you need one);
2) A letter must come from the church to Student Life Services verifying the internship and the employment details (including pay);
3) The student will also need to get a letter from the Mentored Ministry Department verifying the same.
4) The student may be paid only for the duration of their internship.

B. If a church wishes to give an Academic scholarship to an F-1 student to help with their seminary education and expenses, then the following criteria must be met:

1) Their check may be written to GCTS with an accompanying note stating that the financial gift is intended for the specific student;
2) The gift cannot in any way be tied to work done or to be done by the student in the church – either for a Mentored Ministry internship or for volunteer work.
3) The gift is not tax-deductible.

[* F-1 visas can be changed to R-1 visas if there is a permanent, employment arrangement made with a church or ministry. However, it takes many months to go through, and there is no guarantee that the student or former student will ultimately be...
given the R-1. R-1 visas may be applied for in either the U.S. or in the international’s home country. No payment for services may be given until the person actually receives the R-1 visa.