

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.]