

**General Information**

At Liberty University, doctoral programs are offered mainly through online and intensive courses. This format is very different from the traditional residential programs in which international students typically enroll. International students may join doctoral programs as long as they comply with 3 requirements necessary to maintain their F-1 Status here in the U.S. This form is to be signed before an I-20 can be issued to the student.

**1. Maintain Full-time enrollment each semester**

- Enroll in at least 6 residential credit hours each fall and spring semester. Residential courses include:
  - Traditional semester-long courses that meet in a classroom
  - Intensive courses that physically meet in a classroom at a Liberty course site in the U.S.  
These courses typically meet for 1-2 weeks, or over several weekends.
- Spring semester is considered to be January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Fall semester is considered to be July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Online courses may be taken in addition to the required residential courses.
- During the dissertation preparation and defense, students may enroll in only the dissertation research and dissertation defense courses (989 and 990)

**2. Remain in the U.S. during their studies**

- Students must remain in the U.S. during the fall and spring semesters.
- Students may not leave the U.S. for more than 5 months at a time.

**3. Report enrollment plan before each semester begins**

- Students must complete the **Doctorate Registration Form** each semester.
- The International Student Advisor will email the form to all students at the beginning of each semester.
- Forms must be submitted to their International Student Advisor before the beginning of each semester.

**Employment Benefits**

Like all international students, doctoral students are eligible for certain employment benefits. It is important to remember that any employment outside of the following options is considered to be illegal employment and will result in the termination of the student's SEVIS record and immediate departure for the U.S. The employment options include:

**1. On Campus Employment**

Students may apply through the Human Resource Department for job openings. Students may work up to 18 hours per week during the university semesters, and more than 18 hours per week during official university breaks (Spring Break, Summer Break, etc.)

**2. Off Campus Employment**

Students may apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) employment authorization with their International Student Advisor. CPT can be given for courses that require students to gain field experience in the area of their studies. Examples include independent study and dissertation research. Please contact your International Student Advisor to learn more about CPT.

**I agree to the Enrollment Requirements as listed on this form for the doctoral program that I wish to join.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Liberty I.D.: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_