

General Information

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

1. Maintain full-time enrollment each semester

Enroll in no less than 6 total credit hours of coursework in any given fall or spring semester, or, alternately, for programs that do not operate on a semester basis, no less than 6 credit hours in any given 6-month period, with the “period” being defined by the span between January 1-June 30 and July 1-December 31. Additional criteria and qualifications apply:

- Doctoral students must enroll in at least 3 credits of residential studies during each semester or each 6-month period.
- Residential courses include:
 - Traditional semester-long courses that meet in a classroom
 - Intensive courses
 - Independent studies
 - Thesis course work
- At least one residential course must be taken during the regular spring semester (JAN-MAY) and the fall semester (AUG-DEC)
- Only 3 online credits can be taken into consideration to meet the required full time criteria each semester
- During the dissertation/thesis preparation and defense, students may enroll in only the dissertation/thesis research and dissertation/thesis defense courses

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

- Students must remain in the U.S. during the fall and spring semesters.

3. Report enrollment plan before each semester begins

- Students must complete the **Doctorate Registration Form** each semester.
- The International Student Advisor (ISA) will email the form to all students.

Employment Benefits

Like all international students, doctoral students are eligible for certain employment benefits. Any unauthorized employment will result in immediate termination of the student’s SEVIS record and possible deportation from the U.S. The only authorized employment options are:

1. On Campus Employment

Students may apply through the Human Resources Department for campus job openings. Students may work up to 18 hours per week during the university semesters, and up to full-time during official university breaks (Spring Break, Summer Break, etc.)

2. Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Students may apply for CPT employment authorization by contacting their ISA. 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 ISA 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: _____