

Economic Hardship: Application Process

Disclaimer: KGI has prepared this guide to provide you with general guidance. However, any advice provided to you by our office, as well as the information in this document, should not be construed as legal advice. KGI staff will provide regulatory and practice information as it stands at the time of the consult. Due to the fluid nature of governmental interpretation, individuals must understand that the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office and the Department of State (DOS) may change its interpretation of established immigration laws/regulations and eligibility requirements for benefits at any time.

Who can apply for economic hardship?

You may apply for economic hardship if you have been in F-1 status for at least 9 months (1 academic year), have lost your original source of funding due to unforeseen circumstances, and are unable to support your studies on your own. It is not recommended that you apply for economic hardship if you have lost your original source of funding due to your own actions (i.e. you lost your academic scholarship because you did not attend class and were placed on academic probation). Economic hardship can be authorized up to one year at a time, but cannot be authorized past the end date of your I-20.

What happens after I apply for economic hardship?

The application may take up to 5 months to be approved. If approved, you will be given a work authorization permit (EAD card). This will allow you to work off-campus up to 20 hours a week, in addition to any on-campus job you have. Remember that you must always maintain your status (be enrolled in a full course of study and make satisfactory progress towards the completion of your program). Your work authorization will be revoked if you do not maintain your status.

I am not eligible for economic hardship. What can I do?

International students in F-1 status are eligible to work on-campus (including the other Claremont College campuses) up to 20 hours a week without permission. You can check for on-campus positions that do not require work-study awards. As an international student, you do not qualify for the federal work-study program. You can also check with food services on campus as well as the library. You may also want to look for ways to cut personal spending (i.e. share a room, take the bus, etc). Remember that you must always maintain your status (be enrolled in a full course of study and make satisfactory progress towards the completion of your program) even while working.

I am eligible to apply for economic hardship. How do I apply?

To apply for economic hardship, you will need to make an appointment with the International Student Advisor, and bring the following documents:

- Check for \$410. The check should be made out to “US Department of Homeland Security.”
- Completed [Form I-765](#). Fill out as much of the form as you can. If you are unsure of an answer, leave it blank, and you will complete it at your appointment. In Number 16, use code: (C)(3)(iii). **Do not** date the form until we meet.
- A personal statement describing the loss of your original source of funding. This letter is **very** important.
- Supporting documentation (i.e. proof from a funding source indicating they can no longer fund you).
- Copies of your personal bank statements. You should provide statements for at least the last 5 months.
- Copies of all I-20s issued to you.
- A print-out of your [Form I-94](#)
- A copy of your F-1 visa page and your passport page
- 2 passport-style photos
- Copy of transcripts/progress reports from all schools attended

When you have gathered all materials, email international@kgi.edu to arrange an appointment. Please include your full name and say that you are requesting an appointment to file for economic hardship. Provide at least a few dates/times that you are available to meet. The appointment will last roughly 30 minutes. At the appointment, you will be given a new I-20. A copy must be sent with the application materials listed above.