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REGULATIONS from cover

lete and undergraduate, Turhan wanted to further her education in the U.S. and landed back at Quinnipiac, which she knew was the best place for her.

For Turhan, Quinnipiac feels like "home."

As a graduate student not only looking for experience but also a source of income, Turhan held an internship over the summer and was given an offer to continue for the fall semester, which she initially accepted.

Turhan brought her offer letter to OISS, just around the same time the new rules were put into place, only to find out she would not be able to continue with her internship since it was not a graduation requirement.

"So, unfortunately, I canceled my internship with them," Turhan said.

With the new rules in place, the likelihood of holding an internship is made more difficult and can hurt students' career options as a result.

"You (are) killing my future options," Turhan said. "(For) example, I cannot say 'when I will graduate I definitely will find a job.'"

International students are already limited in their options for work while studying in the U.S., being restricted by the maximum hours they can work and companies they could work for.

"We like finding limited jobs normally too, and they right now actually (are) canceling like all (our) options, so that's really putting all international students (in a) hard position because no experience firstly. Secondly, no extra money we can win," Turhan said.

And Turhan was not the only Quinnipiac international student who had to cancel an internship this semester.

A graduate Master of Business Administration student reached the final step needed to begin her fall internship — getting approval from OISS — but was hit with the news that CPT would no longer be approved for students whose program does not require it.

Coming to Quinnipiac from Kenya, the MBA student had four years of business experience, however the experience did not carry over to the U.S.

"Especially from Africa, most of us are in our late 20s or early 30s, so we do have some experience in our career like back home," the MBA student said. "But unfortunately, those experiences don't quite (apply) here, since American companies don't consider, even if I've worked 5 years back home in Kenya. They take it as if you've never worked in America. They take it as, 'you have no experience.'"

Looking to gain that experience in the U.S., the student spent months interviewing for the position.

"It was disheartening to get it and then at that point I had signed everything, I was actually expecting OISS to approve it and I start the on boarding process," the MBA student said. "That was extremely painful."

Having begun her two-year MBA program in January 2025, she is set to graduate this winter. With that being said, she is looking ahead to post-grad and hoped to delay her internship until then.

"I was hoping maybe they might be like, 'okay, we can take you in from January when you get your paper sorted or everything,' but since I told them that they kind of went MIA," she said. "So I think it's fair to assume that the opportunity has gone."

With the new regulations for CPT, the alternative is for F-1 students to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) to obtain an Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

The EAD allows international students to work in a job relating to their major or field of study, even if it is not a graduation requirement. A student cannot start working until they receive the EAD and is limited to working 20 hours per week, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

However, it takes time and money to obtain an EAD.

Turhan explained that it costs $450 to receive the card in three to six months, and costs $2,250 to receive it in one month. Students cannot start working in the given position until they receive the card.

And for Turhan, this caused a delay in her internship over the summer, when her card arrived six months after she applied.

Turhan was set to begin working in May, but couldn't begin until July when she received her card.

Students with an EAD either have to pay the aforementioned cost or request that their company do so, which is not always achievable. And that was one of the factors leading Turhan to cancel her internship, when her company was unwilling to pay for the card.

"Of course, they cannot pay for every international student," Turhan said.

Turhan continues to feel the effects of being hindered from working in her desired field.

"It really feels like empty right now, my life, because I have a lot of empty time and I don't know what I can do because I cannot go apply (for) jobs because I don't have CPT and I don't want to pay that much money for just the eight months," Turhan said.

"That was extremely painful"
– Master of Business Administration student

DURATION OF STATUS

While the changes to CPT went into effect, other new rules and regulations affecting international students may still follow.

Sept. 14, a federal court blocked regulations that were planned to go into effect that would change how those in F-1 and J-1 status are admitted to, maintain status and extend their stay in the U.S.

These changes were planned to go into effect Sept. 15 after the July 17 final rule from the Department of Homeland Security titled "Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media."

"This court order is temporary, and the case is still being litigated," according to a MyQ press release. "The federal government may appeal the ruling, and the changes could still take effect at a later date."

Notably, this ruling would affect the "Duration of Status" (D/S) framework.

D/S is a flexible stay framework, which has been in place for around 30 to 40 years, and "allows international students to remain in the U.S. as long as they're enrolled in academic programs or approved on their post-completion work authorization," according to Driscoll.

This ruling would change that flexible-stay framework to a fixed end-date framework.

Currently, "F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors have generally been admitted to the United States for Duration of Status (D/S), allowing them to remain in the U.S. as long as they complied with the requirements of their immigration status," according to Quinnipiac's OISS.

But should this new ruling go into effect F-1 and J-1 students and scholars would be admitted for a fixed period of time.

"In most cases, the admission period will be tied to the program end date on the Form I-20 or DS-2019 plus a 30-day grace period and will be limited to a maximum of four years," according to Quinnipiac's OISS.

Driscoll noted that for Quinnipiac international students, most of their programs are either two years or four years.

"The length of the program wasn't as significant for our population," Driscoll said. "However, what would have caused challenges is if students needed more time to complete their degrees beyond four years."

If a student did need more time, they must apply for an extension with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

"So it would add a burden to students that doesn't exist currently," Driscoll said.

ACADEMIC MOBILITY

The July 17 ruling not only planned changes to D/S, but would also affect aca demic mobility.

For first-year undergraduate students, this would restrict them from changing majors or transferring schools until after they complete one academic year. And for graduate students, they would be completely restricted from changing majors, programs or schools at all.

"So those restrictions were quite new and different," Driscoll said.

The ruling also planned to eliminate the ability to laterally matriculate or reverse matriculate.

"What that means is that students could only move forward and upwardly progress in their education," Driscoll said. "So if they earned a bachelor's, they would need to go to a master's level, if they wanted to continue their studies, if they earned a master's, they would need to go to PhD level. So they would no longer be able to do two master's programs, for example."

While the changes were blocked earlier this month, it is still possible for them to eventually go into effect.

"There's still a lot unknown about the future of this rule. It may go into effect in the coming months, and we just don't know that right now," Driscoll said. "...We're working closely with the general counsel and academic partners to make sure everyone's informed and up to date."

With so much uncertainty, OISS also works to remind Quinnipiac's international student population that they are important to the community.

"Beyond just helping them understand, we're here to support them and find alternative pathways if there are alternative solutions to help them still achieve their academic goals, their professional goals, and succeed," Driscoll said. "Because ultimately, we want them to feel and know that they are supported and they are valued members of our community"