

# NAFSA Comments on SEVP Draft Policy Guidance 1312-08: Internship with an International Organization

[25 September 2015]

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## Recommendations

### 1. Reasonable commuting distance during school breaks

Policy 1, item 2 (p. 2), “location,” states that “employment with an IIO must be within reasonable commuting distance of the school.” Given the clustering of international organizations in major metropolitan areas, students from more distant areas may have opportunities for summer internships with an international organization. Since they are not required to be registered for classes during the summer or while school is not in session, these students may legitimately travel to a location beyond 75 miles to participate in the internship, which should not trigger any kind of “red flag” referenced in the definition of “reasonable commuting distance.” NAFSA suggests that this be addressed by:

- Amending footnote 3 on page 1 to read: “This distance is considered an acceptable limit for a student commuting between school and employment. Any distance greater than 75 miles while school is in session may be more closely examined by adjudicators, and a DSO should be prepared to explain the rationale for recommending the employment.”
- Amending Policy 1, item 2 on page 2 to read: “Location. Employment with an IIO must be within reasonable commuting distance of the school unless it takes place during the student’s annual vacation or while school is not in session.”

### 2. Clarifying that IIO employment has no hour limitation

The draft guidance at Policy 3, Hours (page 2) properly notes that “there is no limit on the number of hours that a student who has IIO employment authorization may work.” That being the case, the first sentence of that paragraph (If a student violates regulatory limitations on the number of hours worked on a weekly basis, a DSO must terminate the student’s SEVIS record) is irrelevant, and should be removed to avoid confusion. Please also refer to NAFSA recommendation 4 in its comment to SEVP Draft Policy Guidance 1311-02: F-1 and M-1 General Employment, presenting NAFSA’s position that the regulations do not prohibit an F-1 student from having concurrent employment authorizations under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9) and (f)(10).

### 3. Clarifying that IIO employment is not subject to time-in-status requirements

Unlike practical training and off-campus employment, IIO employment is not subject to any “full academic year time-in-status” requirements. NAFSA suggests that this be made clear by adding another bullet point to second set of bullet points under Policy 5.1 (page 4):

There are no requirements for an IIO internship to:

- ...
- Require the student to have been enrolled or in F-1 status for one full academic year