

This notice is for 2021 graduates of SVA's master's degree programs who applied for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT).

IMPORTANT: H1B Employment Visa Eligibility

If you plan to apply for a change of status to H-1B this year (the fiscal year 2023 beginning October 1, 2022 with the application opening April 1, 2022) or anytime thereafter, please be aware of the following.

SVA master's degree holders who meet the required qualifications are eligible to apply for the standard "regular-cap" H-1B category. 65,000 new status/visas are available each fiscal year. [Information about the H-1B visa is available here.](#)

Because SVA is a proprietary institution, a master's degree earned from SVA does not qualify an individual for the additional 20,000 cap H-1B category ("advanced degree exemption"), which is limited to those who have earned a master's or higher level degree from a U.S. *public or nonprofit* institution of higher education.

SVA's International Student Office does not handle H-1B visas or provide legal advice in connection with H-1B petitions or eligibility. Please consult with your immigration attorney or employer's human resources office with any questions.