

Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS)

International students are responsible for maintaining their status and complying with all F-1 and J-1 student status regulations while present in the United States. Students participating in WashU entrepreneurial programs, including the Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship, may require work authorization during the business development and/or entrepreneurial process. The WashU Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) makes every attempt to provide the most current guidance and information available through individual appointments, webinars, and website content, including published general guidance on entrepreneurial activities here: <https://oiss.washu.edu/entrepreneurial-activities/>. This guidance does **not** constitute legal advice.

International student participants in Skandalaris Entrepreneurial programs should be aware of the following:

- International students in F-1 or J-1 immigration status may engage in preliminary activities—such as brainstorming ideas, drafting a business plan, or seeking a co-founder—without applying for work authorization.
- The U.S. government considers "entrepreneurship" or any activity that generates revenue, involves client engagement, or fulfills the functions of employment to be "work."

Because it can be difficult to determine if a specific entrepreneurial activity constitutes "work" under immigration regulations, you are strongly advised to retain a personal immigration attorney to discuss and, if necessary, secure the appropriate F-1 or J-1 work authorization **prior** to proceeding.

WashU expressly disclaims any and all liability for immigration consequences, fines, penalties or other adverse outcomes arising from unauthorized work.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understood the information and recommendations above and acknowledge my obligation to maintain my F-1/J-1 immigration status and consult my OISS International Student Advisor before beginning any activity that may constitute work under my F-1 or J-1 student immigration status.

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Student Information

Signature:

Name (printed):

WashU ID:

Date: