CALTECH

Understanding Work-Study for Caltech Students
**WHAT IS FEDERAL WORK-STUDY?**
Federal Work-Study is a federally funded program that provides financial support for students with demonstrated financial need. These funds are part of your financial aid award and are to be used for part-time employment.

Freshmen may be awarded Federal Work-Study as part of their financial aid award; however, they may not begin Work-Study employment, or any part-time employment, until second term.

**HOW DO I FIND A FEDERAL WORK-STUDY JOB?**
Federal Work-Study jobs are available on campus and with the Caltech Y. As with any other part-time job on campus, Work-Study positions may be technical or non-technical in nature.

Students who have accepted their work-study awards need to register with TECHERlink to apply for work-study positions. Login to [https://caltech-csm.symplicity.com/students/index.php](https://caltech-csm.symplicity.com/students/index.php) to sign up. Once your account has been created you will start receiving emails for posted work-study jobs.

To apply for positions advertised on TECHERlink follow the instructions below.
**Step 1:** Begin by navigating to the Career Development Center website at [http://career.caltech.edu/](http://career.caltech.edu/) and click on TECHERlink.

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**Welcome to the CDC**

Career Development Center

**TECHERlink**

*Check out our online recruiting system to search for jobs, view events and much more!*

**Step 2:** Click on Student login. If you already have a username and password, you may type those in their designated boxes and click Go. If this is your first time using TECHERlink, you will need to register and can do so by clicking Register.

**TECHERlink**

TECHERlink is Caltech's full-time job, internship and work study database.

Students, Alumni, and Postdocs **STUDENT login**
If you have already registered for TECHERlink, please continue on to Step 4

**Step 3:** Once you have clicked to register for TECHERlink, you will be taken to the registration page you see below. Please be sure to use your Caltech.edu e-mail address, as this helps our office to track Caltech students in our system.

Once you have completed this registration, the Career Development Center will send you a username and password via e-mail within 24 hours.

**Step 4:** When you have logged into the TECHERlink system, navigate to the Profile tab and then the Personal sub-tab. Answer the required question regarding work study (yellow arrow).
**Step 5:** Click on the Jobs and Internships tab and then proceed to the Jobs for Caltech Students and Alumni (yellow arrow).

**Step 6:** Once you are in the Jobs and Internships tab, click on the More Options button (yellow arrow).
Step 7: After clicking on More Options, you will see a search field named Position Type- Work Study (yellow arrow). Select Work Study from the drop-down menu and click Search.

Step 8: Click on the binoculars (yellow arrow) in order to view a brief description of the work study position you are interested in.
Step 9: Click on the job title to view the entire job description and application requirements. Click the Apply button (yellow arrow) when you are ready to submit your application. Choose the required documents and click Submit. Note: If you do not know how to upload documents to the TECHERlink website or would like further instructions, please visit the Career Tools section of our website and choose Part III: How to upload your resume and other documents for your job applications.
**Step 10:** When you have completed the application process, you will see that the Apply button changes to say Applied (yellow arrow). If this does not happen, your application may not have been submitted.

**Step 11:** To view your application (or withdraw), navigate to the Applications sub-tab (yellow arrow). You are able to see which documents you submitted to the position as well as view the job description.
I’m Interested in Community Service Work. Can I Do That Under the Work-Study Program?
Students who are awarded Federal Work-Study can earn $20 an hour for doing community service through the Caltech Y! There are a number of options available both on- and off-campus ranging from tutoring and mentoring local school students to serving meals at homeless shelters. You can also work with trail maintenance programs, food banks and schools. This is an excellent way to experience a completely different type of environment, work with people in need, make a difference in the community - and get paid for it. To learn more about community service opportunities, visit the Caltech Y website at www.caltechy.org. If you are interested in receiving email announcements of upcoming community service projects, you can self subscribe to the Community Service Interest List at www.caltechy.org/lists/. For more information, call the Caltech Y at (626) 395-6163 or email caltechy@caltech.edu.

How Does a Federal Work-Study Job Differ From Other Types of Jobs?
Work-Study positions differ only in the way the salary is handled. At Caltech, the federal government pays 75% of your salary and the hiring department pays the remaining 25%. International students on the Caltech Work-Study program are paid 60% by financial aid and 40% by the hiring department.

Your award letter will show you the 100% or “gross” earnings you can earn under Work-Study. The actual salary paid to Work Study students does not differ from students in other positions. Caltech has recommended salary ranges based upon the nature of the work (technical or non-technical). These recommended ranges are adjusted each October. The salary range for Work-Study students is typically between $10.50 to $23.00 per hour.

How Many Hours May I Work?
A Caltech student works on average 4 to 10 hours per week. You cannot work more than 16 hours per week. In addition, it is important for you to know that every hour you work must be accurately reported on a timesheet or in Kronos. Remember, your Work-Study award is for a specific dollar amount. If this is used up before the end of the academic year, you may continue working only if your employer is willing to pay 100% of your salary in excess of your Work-Study. If you need to request an increase in your Work-Study award, you should visit the Financial Aid Office before your Work-Study allocation is fully earned.

I’d Like to Work During the Summer. What Do I Do?
Summer Work-Study is a need-based financial aid award determined by your eligibility to receive financial aid for the next academic year. Summer Work-Study allows you to earn a portion of your expected award for the following academic year in advance.

The application for Summer Work-Study is separate from the application for financial aid. Information about the Summer Work-Study program is available at the beginning of Spring term in the Financial Aid Office. Your financial aid file must be complete by May 1, and your application for Summer Work-Study received by May 9. Exceptions may be granted for late submissions.
WHAT BENEFITS ARE THERE TO BEING EMPLOYED IN A FEDERAL WORK-STUDY POSITION?

Although the primary purpose of the Work-Study program is to help you earn a portion of your financial aid award, part-time employment has some distinct career advantages. Students working in career-related positions make more confident career choices at graduation, adapt better to the work environment, have higher initial salary offers and are promoted more quickly.

Realistically, not all students will have the opportunity to obtain a Work-Study job that is related to their career goals. The number of career-related positions is limited. Additionally, if you are a freshman or sophomore, you may have limited work experience that may make it difficult for you to compete with juniors and seniors for these positions. However, non-career related positions can provide other benefits. Being employed can help you test your ability to handle work-related pressures and deadlines, help you learn how to interact with fellow employees, and help you learn about organizational politics and policies.

We encourage you to pursue a Work-Study job. Many positions offer unique and creative experiences that develop skills which are highly sought after by employers and graduate schools. Work-Study jobs are in offices with supportive and friendly staff whom you will enjoy getting to know. Please contact us if you have further questions.
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Center for Student Services
414 S. Holliston Avenue, 3rd floor
(626) 395-6361
www.career.caltech.edu
Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

- Advertises all student employment positions for summer and academic year.

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
383 S. Hill, 2nd floor
(626) 395-6280
www.finaid.caltech.edu
Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

- Awards Federal Work-Study, Caltech Work-Study and other financial aid.
- Answers questions about your financial aid award and the Work-Study employment process.
- Handles applications for Summer Work-Study.

CALTECH Y
505 S. Wilson
(626) 395-6163
www.caltechy.org
Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

- Hires students for off-campus & community service positions.

HUMAN RESOURCES: EMPLOYEE RECORDS
399 S. Holliston Avenue
(626) 395-6476
www.hr.caltech.edu
Hours: 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM

- Answers questions regarding the various payroll forms required to employ students.

This brochure describes the programs, policies, and procedures in effect at the time of printing, all of which are subject to change without prior written notice.

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