



Date: March 1st, 2018

To whom it may concern,

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) allows foreign students studying in the U.S. to go on an internship during their studies. It is described in detail by the Visa and Immigration Services (VIS) office here: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/visa/current_students/employment/employment_cpt.html. The rules require that employment be an “integral” part of the student’s established curriculum (in other words, to ensure that the internship is highly related to the student’s course of study). As such, the Computer Science Department at Stony Brook University is required to enforce this rule: all graduate students going on an internship during their studies should receive a letter at the conclusion of their internship duties that briefly describes the work performed; an email to the graduate director/adviser is ok. The letter should include a note on whether the student’s performance in the project was satisfactory or not, and briefly summarize the intern’s duties so they can be assessed by the graduate program at the conclusion of the internship, for the student to receive full credit for the internship; a detailed evaluation is not needed. The CS department’ Graduate Handbook provides additional details of this requirement: <https://www.cs.stonybrook.edu/sites/default/files/wwwfiles/drupalfiles/basicpage/handbook.pdf>. The letter (from internship supervisor and on company letterhead) does not need to reveal confidential information but rather a couple of sentences outlining the work performed and its relevance to the student’s degree. It should be the same level of detail one might put on a resume/CV (so that students can indeed describe the work briefly on their CV, which is helpful for gaining full-time employment). Examples of descriptions are:

- Worked on client side security library to verify user access to a backend database. Used MySQL, C, and C++ on Linux.
- Developed regression, analysis, and benchmarking tools using Power Shell and Python scripts on Windows 10.
- Enhanced cloud-based system (on Amazon) to launch virtual machines, load data, and run machine-learning analyses, using Java, C++, and Rust.
- Added new protocol messages to a server side management system, using Thrift and HTTPS.
- Developed a driver for a new network interface card as part of a firewall appliance product.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erez Zadok".

Prof. Erez Zadok
Graduate Academic Adviser