Pay Options for International Students

Deciphering the truth from the rumors of UCPath’s impact on international student employee pay.

International student employees can set up a checking account using their International Taxpayer Identification Number. See https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-7. The UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars office can offer assistance – see https://siss.ucdavis.edu/siss-student-advising.

International student employees can set up a checking account at some banks, including large banks with offices overseas that also have local branches in Davis. They can do this by using a passport or other form of government identification if the student goes in person to the local branch to open the checking account.

International student employees can set up Direct Deposit. Setting up a checking account will allow international student employees at UC Davis to set up Direct Deposit if they choose to do so. Student employees can opt to continue receiving a paper paycheck. However, that check will arrive after payday since it is mailed from out-of-area on payday and is sent to the student’s permanent home address on file, not the student’s local address in Davis.

International student employees cannot sign up for a personalized pay card. Unfortunately, international student employees do not have access to the personalized pay card, a new payment option coming to UC Davis when UCPath goes live. That is because a social security number is needed to sign up for a personalized pay card. An ITIN is not acceptable to set up a personalized pay card.

International student employees will have access to emergency pay. Emergency pay cards are available to all students who have Social Security numbers in the event that there is a need for a significant adjustment to the student employee’s pay. These cards will be loaded by the UC Davis payroll office and will require a Social Security number. Students needing an emergency pay adjustment who do not have a Social Security number will be paid by other means.