

LIONBRIDGE CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Part-Time Work: Know the Rules

A decision checklist for foreign students in Singapore

For Indian students and families considering Singapore

Practical, source-led, and designed for discussion - not a substitute for official admissions, immigration, employment, or financial advice.

The safe starting point

A Student's Pass does not automatically allow every kind of work. Eligibility depends on the institution, full-time student status, pass validity, whether it is term or vacation, and the nature and hours of the work.

During school term

A qualifying full-time student at an institution on MOM's school-term list, holding an ICA Student's Pass, may work without a separate work pass when either:

- Work is limited to a maximum of 16 hours per week; or
- The work is an industrial attachment/internship conducted by the institution and contributes towards graduation requirements.

During vacation

A student at an institution on MOM's vacation list may work without a work pass when full-time, holding an ICA Student's Pass, and aged 14 or above. The vacation and school-term institution lists are not identical, so check the correct section.

Situations needing extra caution

- Exchange students are not permitted to work under this exemption.
- A leave of absence for an extra attachment that does not contribute to graduation may require a work pass.
- After studies and Student's Pass expiry, the employer generally needs to obtain the appropriate work pass.
- Training-attachment students may require a Training Work Permit, Training Employment Pass or another valid route.
- It is an offence to work without the required authorisation.

Before accepting any role

Question	Evidence to retain
Is my institution on the current relevant MOM list?	Dated screenshot/PDF of MOM page
Is my Student's Pass valid for the full period?	Digital pass and expiry date
Is this term time or official vacation?	Academic calendar
Will total work stay within 16 hours/week in term?	Written schedule across all roles
If an internship, does it contribute to graduation?	Institution confirmation
Are pay, duties and employer genuine and lawful?	Written contract and employer details

A practical boundary

Do not sign, start a trial shift, freelance, or accept cash work until the institution and current MOM rules confirm that the arrangement is permitted. 'Unpaid' does not automatically mean outside employment rules.

Planning reality

Treat permitted work as optional experience and supplementary income. It should not be the foundation of the tuition or essential living-cost plan, because hours, eligibility, study load and job availability can all constrain earnings.

Official sources and verification

Rules, fees, dates and eligibility can change. Re-check these pages before acting.

MOM - Work pass exemption for foreign students

<https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/work-pass-exemption-for-foreign-students>

Current institution lists and rules for vacation, term-time work, internships and prohibited cases.

ICA - Completion and issuance of Student's Pass

<https://www.ica.gov.sg/reside/STP/collect>

Links Student's Pass holders to MOM's specific work conditions.