Optional Practical Training (OPT) STEM EXTENSION

Eligibility
Some F-1 students who are on approved post-completion OPT may apply for an extension of their OPT for an extra 17 months if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Completed a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in a STEM field (you may contact an International Programs - International Student Advisor to confirm if your degree is included in the OPT Extension STEM majors' list).
2. Have a job or job offer from an employer enrolled in the E-Verify program.
3. Current approved OPT has not yet expired.
4. Has a current, valid (unexpired) passport (not visa).

When to Apply for OPT STEM Extension
The Earliest day is 120 days before approved OPT End Date.
Deadline? USCIS must receive your complete OPT STEM Extension Application Packet BEFORE your current OPT End Date. The International Program office must receive your Extension Request no later than two months before your OPT End Date.

Example: OPT (12-month) End Date = June 1, 2015
Submit Extension Request to International Programs between February 1, 2015 (earliest date) to no later than April 1, 2015 (two months before OPT ends)

Process of Applying for OPT STEM Extension

**STAGE 1**
Send Request & Form I-765 to International Programs: ieoffice@fullerton.edu
- OPT STEM Extension Request Form
- Completed Form I-765 (go to www.uscis.gov to complete & print form)

**STAGE 2**
Receive your OPT STEM Extension I-20, copy of I-20 and Form I-765

**STAGE 3**
Assemble your Application Packet and mail to USCIS
Optional Practical Training (OPT) STEM EXTENSION

STAGE 3
Prepare your OPT STEM Extension Application Packet by gathering the following items:

- **Completed Form I-765** (sign & date form after receiving your OPT STEM Extension I-20)
- **Copy of your OPT Card**
- **Copy of your Degree**—submit one of the following: copy of diploma, official transcript, or unofficial transcript. *One-sided copies only. Transcript must show that your degree has been CONFERRED.*
- **Copy of OPT STEM Extension I-20** (showing STEM Extension on Page 3)
- Copy of I-94
- Copy of Passport page(s) showing your Name, Photograph, Date of Birth, Passport Expiration and/or Renewal. Must be valid 6 months in advance. *One-sided copies only.
- **Copies of all previously issued I-20’s**
- **Two US-style passport photos** taken within last 30 days. Place photos in a small envelope with your name & SEVIS# on the envelope. Do NOT write on the photos.
- **$380.00 Check** or Money Order payable to “Department of Homeland Security” [Write your SEVIS ID# and Date of Birth on the top of the check]

Mailing Your OPT STEM Extension Application Packet

You are responsible for mailing all of the above listed items to USCIS (please see mailing instructions).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your I-765 Address is in</th>
<th>Send your Application Packet to</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, or Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</td>
<td><strong>USCIS Phoenix Lockbox</strong>&lt;br&gt;For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):&lt;br&gt;USCIS&lt;br&gt;P.O. Box 21281&lt;br&gt;Phoenix, AZ 85036&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>For express mail &amp; courier service:</strong>&lt;br&gt;USCIS&lt;br&gt;Attn: AOS&lt;br&gt;1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S&lt;br&gt;Suite 100&lt;br&gt;Phoenix, AZ 85034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, or West Virginia</td>
<td><strong>USCIS Dallas Lockbox</strong>&lt;br&gt;For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):&lt;br&gt;USCIS&lt;br&gt;P.O. Box 660867&lt;br&gt;Dallas, TX 75266&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>For express mail &amp; courier service:</strong>&lt;br&gt;USCIS&lt;br&gt;Attn: AOS&lt;br&gt;2501 S. State Hwy. 121, Business Suite 400&lt;br&gt;Lewisville, TX 75067</td>
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Optional Practical Training (OPT) STEM EXTENSION

After Mailing Your OPT STEM Packet to USCIS

Results of Your OPT STEM Extension Application
1. I-797 Receipt Notice arrives 2-3 weeks after OPT STEM is mailed out (estimate).
   I-797 Receipt Notice confirms USCIS received the OPT STEM Extension application.
   *Please check your full name, address, and birthday are correct.*
2. I-797 Approval Notice arrives within 90 days from the date on I-797 Notice Receipt (estimate).
3. Employment Authorization Document (EAD, or OPT card) arrives within 90 days of date on I-797 Notice Receipt Date (estimate).

Working Allowed?
If your OPT STEM Extension application is still pending and your Post-Completion OPT expires, you can continue working up to 180 days after post-completion OPT expires.

Traveling Allowed?
We do not recommend traveling if your OPT STEM Extension is pending AND your Post-Completion OPT has already expired.

After OPT STEM is approved by USCIS
1. Submit the following items to the International Programs Office, i11@fullerton.edu (subject: CWID - OPT STEM EAD)
   a. copy of the I-797 Receipt Notice
   b. I-797 Approval Notice
   c. copy of your OPT STEM Extension Card of EAD (Employment Authorization Document)

2. Complete the OPT Employer Information Form on the Letters & Forms of...
   *For OPT STEM Extension, all employers must be enrolled in the E-Verify Program.*

3. Always submit address changes on Titan Online Portal within 10 days of moving.
Go to www.USCIS.gov > Form I765  
Please complete online, then PRINT. DO NOT E-FILE

Renewal of my permission to accept employment

1. Full Name (Family Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)
2. Other Names Used (include Maiden Name)
3. U.S. Mailing Address (Street Number and Name) (Apt. Number) (Town or City) (State) (ZIP Code)
4. Country of Citizenship or Nationality
5. Place of Birth (Town or City) (State/Province) (Country)
6. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
7. Gender □ Male □ Female
8. Marital Status □ Married □ Single □ Divorced □ Widowed
9. Social Security Number (Include all numbers you have ever used)
10. Alien Registration Number (A-Number) or Form (if any)
11. Have you ever before applied for employment authorization from USCIS?
□ Yes (Complete the following questions, which USCIS Office? Dates)
□ No (Proceed to Question 12.)
12. Date of Last Entry into the U.S., on or about (mm/dd/yyyy)
13. Place of Last Entry into the U.S.
14. Status at Last Entry (B-2 Visitor, F-1 Student, No Lawful Status, etc.)
15. Current Immigration Status (Visitor, Student, etc.)
16. Eligibility Category. Go to the “Who May File Form I-765?” section of the Instructions. In the space below, place the letter or the eligibility category you selected from instructions. For example, (a)(8), (c) (17)(i), etc.
17. (c)(3)(C) Eligibility Category. If you entered the U.S. before June 22,2005, you are not eligible for OPT.
18. (c)(26) Eligibility Category. If you entered the U.S. before June 22, 2005, you are not eligible for OPT.

Applicant’s Signature
I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is correct. Furthermore, I authorize the release of J.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services needs eligibility for the benefit I am seeking. I have read the information in “Who May File Form I-765?” section of the instructions and have read the eligibility category in Question 16 above, please provide the receipt number of your II-1B principal spouse’s most recent Form I-797 Notice of Approval for Form I-129.

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)
Date of Signature

Signature

Address

Certification: Your signature must NOT TOUCH the bottom lines. BLACK ink only.