Optional Practical Training (OPT) STEM Extension Information

F-1 students approved for Post-Completion OPT based on a bachelor’s, masters, or doctoral degree in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) field that appears on the DHS STEM-Designated Degree Program List can apply for a one-time 17 month extension of post-completion OPT.

To be eligible for this, the student and student’s employer must meet the following qualifications:

1. The student must have completed a degree in a DHS STEM Designated field of study.
2. Employer must be registered in E-Verify.
3. The student must report any changes of employment during this time period to your international student adviser. (This can be done through the OPT Current Employer Information Form)
4. The student must apply for the STEM OPT extension before their current OPT expires.
5. The student must agree to make periodic reports to the DSO.

Process for submitting an OPT STEM Application

Part One

   a. You will need to use one of the following code when filling out #16 on the form: (c) (3) (C) – OPT STEM extension
   b. You will need to fill out #17 and include your degree title, your Employer’s Name as listed in E-Verify, and the Employer’s E-Verify Company Identification Number (please request this specific information from your employer. The Graduate School does not have access to this information. If you are unsure who to contact, begin with the Human Resources office at your company).
2. Complete Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application /Petition Acceptance
3. Obtain a copy of your degree (ex. Official transcripts stating your degree, copy of your diploma are acceptable).
4. Send the Form I-20 received from the Graduate School after you have signed it. (This must be sent within 30 days of the signature listed on the I-20 by the representative of the Graduate School).
5. Obtain a check or money order of $380 payable to Department of Homeland Security.
6. Obtain 2 passport-size photos (on back write your name and Receipt Notice Number found on your original OPT Approval Notice)
7. Send a copy of your passport biographical page, visa page, and most recent I-94
8. Send a letter from your employer stating that you are working in for the company in a STEM extension field of study with the E-Verify number included. (Please send a copy of this letter to your international student adviser as well via email).

Part Two

After compiling your OPT STEM extension packet, please send it to the following address within 30 days of receiving OPT I-20 with International Student Adviser’s signature:

USCIS
PO Box 660867
Dallas, TX 75266

**Students are encouraged to send this application via trackable mail to ensure receipt.**

4301 West Markham, Slot #601  Little Rock, AR 72205  p.501.686.5456  gradschool.uams.edu