

## **F-1 OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING STEM EXTENSION**

### **“STEM” Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics**

There are three types of Optional Practical Training (OPT): Pre-Completion OPT, Post-Completion OPT and STEM OPT Extension. This handout focuses on STEM OPT Extension.

### **What is STEM OPT Extension?**

STEM OPT Extension is a temporary employment authorization available to eligible F-1 Students following the post-completion OPT.

A student who is eligible for the STEM OPT Extension can apply for a 17-months extension, for a maximum of 29 months of OPT if his/her degree is on the STEM Designated Degree Programs list  
<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/stemlist.htm>

A student who has been granted a STEM extension cannot accrue more than 120 days of unemployment.

### **OPT Extension Period**

The employment authorization period for the OPT extension begins the day after the expiration of the initial OPT employment authorization and ends 17 months later. This extension can be used only one time.

### **Guidelines**

1. You can submit your OPT Extension paper work to ISS 90 days prior to the end of your current OPT – expiration of your EAD
2. ISS will create a new I-20 and mail it to you along with your application to be signed and sent to the Service Center
3. It will take approximately 1-2 business days to process your OPT Extension application

### **Documents Required for OPT Extension**

1. Copy of current I-20
2. Copy of current I-94 card – front & back
3. Copy of current EAD – front & back
4. Copy of current Passport – biographic information page including expiration date
5. Completed I-765 form (included in this package) - Pay attention to **Section 17**, This is a new section that must be completed by you and your employer
6. Complete I-765 signature card with your signature
7. List your degree from line 5 of your I-20.
8. Your employer must enter the information from E-Verify
9. Processing fee of \$340. Money Order or personal check made payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** (Do not use initials as this will appear on your bank statement as an Electronic Fund Transfer)
10. 2 Photographs
11. Proof of degree in the form of an official transcript, unofficial transcript or diploma

### **Student responsibilities**

1. Maintain your current address, phone, and e-mail with ISS throughout the OPT period.
2. Maintain your employer information with ISS throughout the OPT period
3. Report termination of OPT employment to ISS within 48 hours of the time you no longer employed.
4. You may not accrue a total of more than 90 of unemployment during regular OPT and a maximum of 120 days between regular and extended OPT.

Once your documents are reviewed by the International advisor, they will be mailed to:

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
P.O. Box 87765  
Lincoln, Nebraska, 68501-7765**

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ SEVISID: \_\_\_\_\_

H1b Receipt Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYER INFORMATION**

Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Start date with this employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's E-Verify ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_