

Yeshiva University

24 Month OPT STEM Extension Instructions

F-1 students who are currently authorized for OPT employment based on completion of a Bachelor's, Master's or Ph.D. degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) field, as defined by DHS, may be eligible for a 24-month extension of OPT.

Eligibility requirements: student must:

- Be currently authorized for post-OPT based on a STEM-eligible degree or have received a [STEM degree](#) earned in the past 10 years from an SEVP approved school in the U.S.
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/eligible-cip-codes-for-the-stem-opt-extension>
- Have had fewer than 90 days of unemployment while on OPT
- Be employed by, or have a job offer from, an **employer who is registered in the E-Verify employment verification system**

There is a lifetime limit of **two** periods of 24-month STEM OPT; each occurring after a higher degree level has been obtained. A STEM degree obtained at a U.S. university prior to your current degree may be the basis for a STEM extension under certain circumstances.

See detailed information on the STEM Hub: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub>

Materials required for the OPT STEM extension application:

To the OISS:

- ___ Completed and signed Request for 24 Month STEM OPT Extension
- ___ Completed [Training Plan I-983 form](#)

To USCIS:

- ___ Completed and signed Form I-765 (for help see "I-765 guidelines")
- ___ Check or money order for \$410, payable to "Dept. of Homeland Security"
- ___ 2 color, U.S. passport-style, photographs: write name and SEVIS ID on back
- ___ **Copy** of new I-20 from OISS, with STEM OPT Extension recommendation (keep the original I-20 for yourself)
- ___ Copy of your current OPT I-20
- ___ Copy of the front and back of your EAD
- ___ Copy of your current I-94 printout www.cbp.gov/i94
- ___ Copy of your passport identity page (and any renewal pages)
- ___ Evidence that your degree meets the STEM degree/major requirements
 - Transcript noting your STEM major and program completion **OR**
 - Copy of the diploma that shows your degree level and program of study
 - If your diploma does not specific the STEM degree then also submit your transcript.
- ___ Form G-1145 <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765> (Optional)

Submitting OPT Application to USCIS

Students are responsible for submitting the application the appropriate USCIS Service Center.

Remember:

- Sign your original STEM OPT I-20 in blue ink, then make a copy to include in your application to USCIS.
- Make a copy of the entire application (for yourself) before you submit it to the USCIS.
- **Mail the application to the USCIS Lockbox with jurisdiction over the address you list on the I-765 form. Filing jurisdiction information can be found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>**

Download I-765 form here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

[Guidelines for filling out Form I-765](#)

Guidelines for the “[Two Passport Style](#)” photos

- Your head must face the camera directly with full face in view.
 - You must have a neutral facial expression or a natural smile, with both eyes open.
 - Taken in clothing normally worn on a daily basis
 - Taken in the last 6 months
 - Use a plain white or off-white background
 - Be sized correctly
 - 2 x 2 inches (51 x 51 mm)
 - Head must be between 1 -1 3/8 inches (25 - 35 mm) from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head
 - Printed on matte or glossy photo quality paper
 - Printed in color
 - You cannot wear glasses.
 - If you cannot remove your glasses for medical reasons, please include a signed note from your doctor with application.
 - **You cannot wear a hat or head covering.**
 - **If you wear a hat or head covering for religious purposes, submit a signed statement that verifies that the hat or head covering in your photo is part of recognized, traditional religious attire that is customarily or required to be worn continuously in public.**
 - If you wear a hat or head covering for medical purposes, submit a signed doctor's statement verifying the hat or head covering in your photo is used daily for medical purposes.
 - Your full face must be visible and your hat or head covering cannot obscure your hairline or cast shadows on your face.
 - You cannot wear headphones or wireless hands-free devices.
- ✓ ***Submit the STEM OPT application to USCIS within 90 days of your initial OPT expiration date.***
- ✓ ***While the STEM OPT I-765 is pending with USCIS, you may continue to work for up to 180 days.***