

International Student Center 24- Month OPT STEM Extension

Application and Processing Time Periods

To extend your OPT authorization, you must make an appointment with an ISC International Student Advisor. If you live outside San Diego County, you may make a phone appointment. Please allow one hour at the appointment for processing your extension application.

The application for the STEM extension MUST be received by the USCIS Service Center by the end date on your current OPT EAD card. You can apply as early as 120 days before or as late as 2-3 weeks before your current Post OPT expires. Unlike your previous OPT application, if you do not receive the new EAD before the current EAD expires, you are allowed to continue working for up to 180 days while the application is pending.

Name: _____

RED ID #: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Major: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Degree Conferred Date: _____

H-1 B Application Pending Yes No

Local Address _____
Street City State Zip

Employment Information

Job title or Position _____

Employer Information

Name of Employer _____

E-Verify Number _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Supervisor Information

Name of Supervisor(s) _____

Contact Information _____

Explain how employment is related to field of study:

SEVIS Reportable Dates

3 Reportable Dates _____, _____, _____

(You are required to update your employer information every 6 months during the STEM Extension, even if there is no change.)

Annual Self-Evaluation Date (after one year on STEM Extension, new I-983) _____

I understand that I must report information about my employment to the ISC every 6 months and also present an annual self-evaluation in the form of a new I-983 Training Plan after one year. Please sign here _____

Eligibility

All requirements listed below must be met to be eligible to apply for the 24-month extension:

- Must be on approved **Post-Completion** OPT.
- Must apply for the 24-month extension before the current Post-Completion OPT expires.
- Must have earned a degree (bachelor's or higher) in a STEM field.
- Must not have received more than one previous OPT STEM extension.
- All employers must be registered in the E-Verify program at the time of the application and during the extension period.
- Employment during the STEM extension must not be voluntary (unpaid).

Full list of STEM degrees: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/eligible-cip-codes-for-the-stem-opt-extension>

Dates of Extension

The employment authorization period for the 24-month OPT extension begins on the day after the expiration of the initial post-completion OPT employment authorization and ends 24 months thereafter, regardless of the date the actual extension is approved.

Periods of Unemployment

Students on OPT are limited to 90 days of unemployment during the entire period of OPT authorization. This maximum period increases by 60 days for F-1 students who have an approved 24-month OPT period (total of 150 days).

Reporting Requirements

Students are required to inform the ISC within 10 days of any change to their address and/or employer's information. Students must update this information using the ISC OPT Update Form, which can be found here: go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/internationalstudents/optupdate.aspx. You must also verify this information with the ISC every six months from the start date of the OPT extension.

An I-983 Training Plan must be submitted to the ISC at the time of the application, after one year on the extension, and if there are any changes to it.

Failure to report to the ISC could result in a violation of your F-1 visa status.

Document Checklist - Bring the following to the OPT Extension appointment:

- Valid passport with visa
- I-94- Hard Copy or printed I-94 form
- Check made out to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security" for \$380
- 2 U.S. passport style photos-2"x2"
- EAD Card and OPT I-20
- I-765 application (or obtain the form during appointment)
- Company name and address
- Supervisor's name and contact information
- E-Verify number ("you must list the employer's E-Verify Number on the I-765 form)
- Copy of diploma or SDSU transcript that shows STEM degree
- Form I-983 Training Plan filled out by you and your employer. Must be completed before application can be processed so please plan ahead and communicate with your employer about this.

OPT Extension Statement of Understanding

I fully understand all the eligibility and reporting requirements stated above. I am only allowed to work in my field of studies for E-Verified companies in a non-voluntary position. I must report address and employment changes and update the ISC with this information at the times stated above. All periods of unemployment combined can be no more than a total of 150 days.

I certify that I have read and understand the OPT Extension Statement of Understanding:

Signature: _____ Date: _____