

Optional Practical Training Extension for STEM students (STEM OPT)

Certain F-1 students who receive science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees may apply for a 24-month extension of their optional practical training (OPT).

OPT STEM Eligibility

- Currently on OPT
- Have a STEM major which is on the [STEM Designated Program List](#)
- Have not had more than 90 days of unemployment period during OPT
- Secure employment or employment offer directly related to the qualified STEM major(s)
- Work for an E-Verified employer and the job must be at least 20 hours/wk
- Must file the STEM Extension application with USCIS no earlier than 90 days prior to current EAD card end date and absolutely no later than that date

OPT STEM Application Process

1. Complete the Form I-983 and return to Junko at takada@chapman.edu.
For instructions, see the [Form I-983 instructions](#) on the [Study in the States](#) website.

Information you need for the form:

SEVIS School Code	LOS214F00335000
DSO Name and Contact information	Junko Takada, International Student & Scholar Services, 1 University Dr., Orange, CA 92866, 714-997-6829, takada@chapman.edu
STEM OPT Requested Period	First day following end of current OPT + 2 years
CIP Code	See page 1 of current I-20 (Major 1)

Evaluation on Student Progress (page 5) is for later.

2. After the Form I-983 is approved by Junko, complete the Form I-765 for STEM.
For instructions, see OPT STEM I-765 sample on our [website](#).

It is very important to follow STEM reporting requirements. Carefully review the reporting requirements on the [Study in the States](#) website. Please do not assume that you will be reminded, so mark your calendar now!

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAIL TO THE US CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS)

Put in following order and paper clip together:

- 410.00 Check or Money Order to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Form G-1145 (This form is optional. It is a request that USCIS contact you by email)
- Completed I-765 Form (don't forget signature in black ink). Include ALL 7 pages of I-765 application (although some pages will be "NA")
- Photocopies of your Passport Page and F-1 Visa Page, and a printout of your I-94 number. Go to www.cbp.gov/I94.
- If you were previously issued an EAD, A copy of your last EAD (front and back)
- Two Photographs (safest to put in envelope and write "PHOTOS" on envelope)
- STEM OPT I-20 (sign and date the "Student Attestation" section)
- Proof of final STEM degree: Final Transcript and/or copy of your diploma showing the major and degree level
- If you participated in an internship (CPT), include copies of the CPT I-20s. You will also need to include any previous school (non-Chapman) I-20's. If you previously did OPT, you will need to include OPT I-20.

MAKE COPIES OF EVERYTHING YOU SEND TO USCIS

MAIL INSTRUCTION SHEET

You will be responsible for mailing your own OPT application during the filing period.

Please send everything to:

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) deliveries:

USCIS

PO BOX 805373

Chicago, IL 60680

(the least expensive way but you have no proof that USCIS receives your application)

OR

For Express Mail and Courier deliveries (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED):

USCIS

Attn: I-765 C03

131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor

Chicago, IL 60603-5517

USCIS must receive your OPT extension application before your EAD end date and within 60 days of the OPT extension recommendation.