F-1 STEM OPT Extension Request

STEM OPT Extension Eligibility Requirements

Highlights

- F-1 students currently on a valid 12-Month Post-completion OPT with an eligible STEM degree have the option to apply for a 24-Month STEM OPT Extension to receive an additional 2 years of employment authorization that is directly related to their STEM degree program.
- You may apply for the STEM OPT extension up to 90 days before your 12-month post-completion OPT Employment Authorization Document expires. USCIS must receive the application before OPT expiration date.
- If your STEM OPT application is filed on time, you may work up to 180 days beyond the expiration date of your original OPT EAD while the STEM application is pending with USCIS.
- A student may not be authorized for more than two lifetime STEM OPT extensions.

Things to Remember

- Employment must be paid while on STEM OPT.
- You must work a minimum of 20 hours per week per employer.
- Applicants must be working for an E-verify employer while on STEM OPT. Please refer to the E-Verify Employer Search Tool.
- The employer must be willing to complete the I-983 Training Plan with the applicant.
- You must obtain the I-20 with the STEM recommendation from the ISO prior to applying with USCIS.

List of required documents needed to apply for STEM OPT

Document checklist:

- **Completed I-765 form**

    o The form I-765 can be downloaded from https://www.uscis.gov/i-765. Click ˜Forms" in the bar at the top of the page. If applying online, the online application IS the I-765. Please refer to the STEM OPT Online Guide.
    o STEM OPT--(c)(3)(C).
    o NOTE: You must file your Form I-765 within 60 days of the date that your DSO enters the recommendation for STEM OPT into your SEVIS record. If you fail to do so, USICS will deny your STEM OPT request.

- Completed I-983 Training Plan (I-983 Guide)
- Official Offer Letter on Company Letterhead
- All **previously issued I-20s** from TCU and prior schools, if applicable (copies)
- Copy of the front and back of your current OPT EAD card
- Copy of Diploma AND official transcript showing your graduation from an eligible STEM field
- Your most recent I-94
- Copy of your valid Passport
- F-1 visa stamp

VERY IMPORTANT

You must obtain a new I-20 with a STEM OPT recommendation from the ISO prior to filing with USCIS regardless if you are filing online or by mail. Applying to USCIS without the new I-20 containing the STEM OPT recommendation will result in a denial of your OPT application and the loss of your application fee.

Please complete the following STEM OPT form to request STEM OPT with the ISO.

STUDENT INFORMATION

TCU ID #: _____   SEVIS ID #: _____

Student Name: _____   Major: _____

Current Physical/Residential Address:

_____
Street Address

_____
Street Address (line 2)

_____   _____   _____
City   State   Zip Code

City of Birth: _____   Country of Birth: _____

Program Level: ___ Undergraduate   ___ Masters   ___ Doctorate   ___ Other

[STEM Degree CIP Code](#) (XX.XXXX): _____

Date Degree Awarded: _____

Post-Completion OPT End Date (as listed on your OPT EAD card): _____

If your OPT Employment and physical address information updated in the SEVP Portal?

___ Yes   ___ No

Important: You must ensure all employment on OPT is up to date prior to submitting this form to the ISO.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Employer Name: _____

Employer EIN #: _____   Employer E-Verify #: _____

Employer Address:

_____
Street Address

_____
Street Address (line 2)

_____   _____   _____
City   State   Zip Code

Is your company address the same as your working site address? ___ Yes   ___ No

If you selected no above, you must provide your job site address below:

_____
Street Address

_____
Street Address (line 2)

_____   _____   _____
City   State   Zip Code

Supervisor First Name: _____   Supervisor Last Name: _____

Supervisor Phone Number: _____   Supervisor Email: _____

Student Job Title: _____   Number of hours worked per week: _____

Employment Start Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

___ I confirm that all information provided is true and correct. This information is directly inserted into the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), double check your answers for accuracy prior to submitting this form.

___ I understand that while the ISO is here to help in the process of submitting my application, the ISO is not responsible for incomplete applications or any errors on my STEM OPT application.
*It is your responsibility to ensure your application is complete, accurate, and correct. *

Student Signature: _____   **Date:** _____