24-month STEM OPT Extension

F-1 students approved for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) based on a bachelor’s, master or doctorate degree in a certain STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) field may be eligible for a 7-month extension of their current 17-month STEM extension or may be eligible for the new 24-month STEM extension.

- The new 24-month STEM OPT rule is **effective Tuesday, May 10, 2016**
- The current 17-month STEM OPT rule remains in effect through May 9, 2016

**Additional Resources**
- Study in the States STEM Hub
- Transition Plan Overview
- Students Determining STEM OPT Extension Eligibility
- STEM OPT Frequently Asked Questions
- Eligible CIP Codes for the STEM OPT Extension

**Application Packet to USCIS**
- Completed Form I-765
- **Form I-983**, Training Plan for STEM OPT Students ([Instructions on how to complete](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-983.pdf))
- Copy of your diploma in one of the STEM fields on the DHS STEM-designated program list
- Copy of your job offer or employment verification letter
- Employer Affidavit and Agreement letter
- Copies of the following: I-94 form, passport identity page including its expiration date; visa stamp; I-20 forms (page 1 and 3) issued to you during the initial OPT period; current EAD
- Check or money order for $380 Application Fee made payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Write “USCIS I-765” in the memo line of the check or money order.
- 2 passport-style photos on white background taken within 30 days of application: Your name and I-94 number must be printed in pencil or felt pen on the back of the photos. For an example photo, see [http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/photoexamples/photoexamples_5331.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/photoexamples/photoexamples_5331.html).
- Original I-20 form reflecting 17-month OPT extension recommendation by International Student Services (if applicable)
- **Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance (OPTIONAL)**

**Processing**

You will need to submit all your documents to International Student Services (ISS) for initial processing. If you are approved for the extension, your application should then be mailed to the appropriate USCIS Service Center. **If you live in Texas**, mail your application packet to one of the following according to your delivery method:

**For U. S. Postal Service deliveries:**
- USCIS Dallas Lockbox
- USCIS, P O Box 660867
- Dallas, TX, 75266

**For express mail & commercial courier service:**
- USCIS, Attn: AOS
- 2501 S. State Hwy 121, Business
- Lewisville, TX, 75067

If you live in a different state during the 17-month OPT extension, refer to the page 10 of I-765 Instructions ([http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-765instr.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-765instr.pdf)) to choose the correct mailing address.