

If you are interested in applying for OPT, please follow the step-by-step guidance below to apply for stem extension OPT.

DO NOT APPLY UNTIL OUR OFFICE HAS GENERATED A NEW I-20 FORM WITH OPT AUTHORIZATION.

[F-1 STUDENTS SEEKING OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING CAN NOW FILE FORM I-765 ONLINE](#)

Recommended Steps for Completing the I-765 Application Online

1. Make sure your degree is on the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security STEM Designated Degree Program List](#).
2. Create your online USCIS account: <https://myaccount.uscis.gov/>
3. Gather the following documents:
 - Digital 2 x 2 color passport photo that meets USCIS specifications. [Photo crop tool](#)
 - A scan of your passport photograph page
 - A scan of the front and back of any previous EAD cards (if applicable)
 - A scan of any previous I-20s with CPT or OPT information (if available)
 - A digital copy of your I-20 with an OPT recommendation
 - Must be issued within the last 30 days for post-completion OPT and within the last 60 days for STEM extension OPT. You MUST consult with ISS to receive a new I-20 before filing for your OPT online.
 - The I-20 must be signed by the FGCU GEO DSO and by you. You can use a digital or handwritten signature.
 - Your most recent form I-94. <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home> Select "Get Most Recent Form I-94"
 - A credit card with which you can pay the filing fee of \$410
4. File a form online
 - Application for Employment Authorization (I-765)

The Application Details for Stem Extension OPT, Category C3C

Getting Started

- Basis of eligibility
 - What is your degree? - List your STEM eligible major and degree level
 - What is your employer's name as listed in E-Verify? - List your employer's name
 - What is your employer's E-Verify company identification number or a valid E-Verify client company identification number?
 - List the 5 – 7 digit number here. Note that this IS NOT the same thing as the Employer Identification (EIN) number required on Form I-983.
 - Reason for applying – Check initial permission to accept employment (as this is your first time applying for category C3C)
 - Have you previously filed Form I-765 - Check Yes
 - Preparer and interpreter information
 - Is someone assisting you with completing this application: Check No

About You

- Your Name
 - What is your current legal name?
 - Have you used any other names since birth?
- Your contact information
 - How may we contact you?
 - Daytime telephone number
 - Email address
 - What is your current U.S. mailing address?
 - Is your current mailing address the same as your physical address?
 - Describe yourself
 - What is your gender?
 - What is your marital status?
 - When and where you were born
 - What is your city, town, or village of birth?
 - What is your state or province of birth?
 - What is your country of birth?
 - What is your date of birth?
 - Your immigration information
 - What is your country of citizenship or nationality?
 - What is your Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record Number?

- When did you last arrive in the United States?
 - Date of Arrival
 - Place of arrival (airport)
 - Status at last arrival - *Most likely F1*
 - What is the passport number of your most recently issued passport?
 - What is your travel document number (if any)? *likely leave this section blank*
 - What is the expiration date of your passport or travel document?
 - What country issued your passport or travel document?
 - What is your current immigration status or category? - *Most likely F1*
 - What are your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Number?
 - *Take a look at the top left of your most recent I-20. Your SEVIS ID is listed there.*
 - Other Information
 - **What is your A-number?** - *You should include the USCIS number listed on your post-completion OPT EAD card here.*
 - **What is your USCIS Online Account Number?** - *You will most likely check “I do not have or know my USCIS Online Account Number.”*
 - Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security Card to you?
 - What is your Social Security number?

Evidence

- 2x2 photo. Crop digital photo to passport size photo at <https://tsg.phototool.state.gov/photo>
- Form I-94, which can be obtained here. www.cbp.gov/i94
- Previous Employment Authorization Document if applicable. ***If you do not have a former EAD, you should upload a copy of the photo page of your passport here.***
- I-20s with former CPT or OPT details, if applicable. You should include previous degree level CPT and OPT here if available. If you do not have these documents available, see “Additional Information” below.
- Form I-20
 - *This is the I-20 you will receive from ISS after submitting your STEM OPT I-20 Request Form. **DO NOT upload a previous I-20 without a STEM OPT recommendation on page 2.***
 - The I-20 must be signed by an ISS advisor and by you. You can use a digital or handwritten signature.
- Your diploma showing proof of the STEM eligible degree
- Institution Accreditation
 - *You do not need to upload anything for this section unless you apply for STEM OPT based on a PREVIOUS degree, as in a degree before the one you obtained at FGCU.*

Additional Information

- If you have previously authorized CPT or OPT and do not have former I-20s with these details, you should do the following:
 - Section: Evidence
 - Page: Post-completion CPT or OPT
 - Question: Post-completion CPT or OPT
 - Additional Information:
 - Type of previously authorized practical training (CPT, OPT, etc.)
 - Dates of previously authorized practical training
 - Application status (approved, denied, or withdrawn)
 - Degree Level (bachelors, masters, Ph.D., etc.)
 - The receipt or Card Number, if known

Review and Submit

(IMPORTANT** DO NOT HIT SUBMIT UNTIL YOU HAVE MET WITH YOUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR IN THE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICE)**

- Review your application
- Read and agree to the “applicant’s statement.”
- Digitally sign
- Pay the application fee
- Submit your STEM OPT application

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