



International Center

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Student Immigration and Visa

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Contact Us

Student Services Bldg. Room 170 | [Map](#)

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Email: issc@asu.edu

F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Optional Practical Training is an employment benefit from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that allows international students in F-1 status to gain off-campus work experience in their field of study before or after completion of studies for a maximum of 12 months. F-1 students who received a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math) field may apply for an extension of their 12 month OPT period. The purpose of OPT is to complete the student's academic work.

The 12-Month Optional Practical Training benefit is available to all F-1 students completing a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree.

- OPT time requested for use before the completion of a program of study is referred to as Pre-OPT
- OPT time requested for use after the completion of a program of study is referred to as Post-OPT
- Total time requested between Pre- and Post-OPT **cannot** exceed the allowed 12-month OPT time benefit

If 12 months of full-time Curricular Practical Training (CPT) have been used then a student will not be eligible for Pre- or Post-OPT.

On May 10, 2016 the 17-Month STEM OPT Extension will change to a 24-Month STEM OPT Extension. The 24-Month STEM OPT Extension benefit is available to F-1 students who have received a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in an approved STEM field during a period of Post- OPT.

The USCIS processing time is approximately 90 days for all OPT applications. We recommend applying for any OPT at least 104 days prior to your EAD card requested start date. That will allow the ISSC office 10 to 14 days to process your application and allow USCIS 90 days to process your application.

Video

More Information

12 MONTH PRE AND POST OPT
17-MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION (AVAILABLE UNTIL MAY 9, 2016)
7-MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION FOR CURRENT 17-MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSIONS (EFFECTIVE MAY 10, 2016 – AUGUST 8, 2016)
24 MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION (EFFECTIVE MAY 10, 2016)