F-1 24-Month STEM Extension of Optional Practical Training (OPT) Request for Evidence Form

Purpose of Form: The purpose of this form is to assist individuals who has been issued a Request for Evidence (RFE) by USCIS to change their 17-month OPT STEM extension application to a 24-month OPT STEM extension application and obtain an I-20. Please refer to https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub for more information.

☐ I understand this form only applies to me if I have already submitted my 17-month extension application to USCIS prior to May 10, 2016 and USCIS has requested evidence from me to change my application. If your 17-month extension has already been approved by USCIS you will need to apply for the 7-month OPT STEM extension to receive your 24 months of OPT.

Deadlines: The applicant must apply after the Request for Evidence has been issued by USCIS and before the deadline found on the Request for Evidence.

Required Documents for ISS: This form (completed); the Form I-983 with all attestations; A copy of your Request for Evidence from USCIS; A legible copy of the applicant's current EAD card (front and back) clearly depicting the OPT start and end dates; and Copies of any I-20 and I-94 record for the F-1.

Applicant Information

Last/Family Name: ___________________________ First/Given Name: ___________________________

UIN: ___________________________ Telephone Number: ___________________________

E-mail Address: ___________________________ Job Title: ___________________________

Next Steps: Once you have received your new I-20 with the 24-month OPT STEM extension recommendation you will need send all required documents listed in the Request for Evidence to the USCIS address listed on the RFE letter.

I-20 Mailing Information

How do you want your new I-20 to be sent to you? Please choose one:

☐ I will personally pick it up at ISS.

☐ My friend will pick it up at ISS:

Name of Friend: ___________________________ UIN: ___________________________

☐ Send it by regular U.S. Postal Services to the following address:

Street Address or P.O. Box: ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ___________________________

☐ Send it by express mail. I will request shipment through eShipGlobal (https://study.eshipglobal.com).
Applicant Responsibility Statement

By signing this form, I certify that the information provided is true and accurate. I understand the rules and regulations concerning my engagement in Optional Practical Training and agree to all conditions listed below.

**Reporting Responsibilities:**
- My non-TAMU email address and Student Local Mailing address must be updated within 10 days of moving. This information can be updated through the My Record tab in the Howdy Portal (https://howdy.tamu.edu).
- I understand that I am required to report any changes of employer name, address, or interruption of employment by submitting the OPT Employment Reporting Form, and Form I-983 for the duration of the 24-month extension of OPT within 10 days of the change.
- If I do not update my employment information with ISS, I understand that SEVIS will automatically terminate my SEVIS record if I exceed 150 days of unemployment while on STEM.
- I understand that if my immigration status changes, I am required to send ISS copies of my new documents within 10 days of the change.
- I will provide ISS with a legible copy of the 24-month extension of OPT EAD card when I receive it.
- I understand that failure to do the above could result in loss of my legal non-immigrant status and that if this occurs, I may have to stop working and/or leave the United States.
- I understand that my employer is required to inform ISS within 5 business days that I have ceased working for them. My employer should send an email to ISS at iss@tamu.edu indicating the last date of my employment with them.

**General Responsibilities:**
- I understand that in order to receive a 24-month extension of OPT, I must first request a 24-month extension of OPT recommendation from ISS and submit by the deadline on the Request for Evidence from USCIS.
- I understand that my authorization to engage in OPT is automatically terminated if I transfer to another school or begin study at another educational level.
- I understand that USCIS regulations require me to seek employment directly related to my major area of study and commensurate with my education level with an employer that is registered in E-Verify.
- I understand that I cannot accrue 150 days or more of unemployment at any time during the 12 month of post completion OPT, 24 month extension of OPT combined.
- I understand that if I leave the U.S. while my 24-month extension of OPT application is pending, I am considered *abandoning* my application (i.e., my 24-month extension of OPT application will no longer be approved by USCIS).
- I understand that if I decide to travel while on OPT, I must have a valid I-20 signed by a DSO within six months before reentering the U.S., an unexpired EAD card, a valid passport, a valid employment letter, and a valid F-1 visa stamp to be readmitted to the U.S. The letter from an employer should contain salary information, a statement that the employment is temporary, and that I will be employed after returning from travel.
- I understand that once the 24-month extension of OPT recommendation has been issued and the application sent to USCIS, it may not be possible to cancel or edit it.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to stay informed about changing federal regulations that may impact my OPT or F-1 status.

**Additional Information:**
- Refer to [http://www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) for more information about the 24-month extension of OPT.
- ISS strongly encourages you to maintain health insurance for you and your dependents throughout the duration of your OPT authorization period, including the 24-month extension of OPT.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

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