F-1 7-Month STEM Extension of Optional Practical Training (OPT) Form

Purpose of Form: The purpose of this form is to verify that an individual is eligible to apply for the 7-month STEM extension of OPT to extend their 17-month STEM OPT to the allowed 24-month STEM OPT extension. Refer to https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub for more detailed information.

Deadlines: The applicant must apply before the current period of Post-Completion OPT authorization expires as listed on the student’s EAD card.

- Applicant is eligible to apply for the 7-month extension if the following conditions are met:
  - The student files the extension application with USCIS between May 10, 2016 and August 8, 2016
  - The student’s current 17-month OPT extension EAD card expires after October 7, 2016 which means there are 150 days left on the current STEM OPT EAD card as of May 10th, 2016.
- Applicant is NOT eligible if the current 17-month OPT extension EAD card expires before October 7, 2016.

Required Documents: This form (completed); the Form I-983 with all attestations; A legible copy of the applicant’s current EAD card (front and back) clearly depicting the OPT start and end dates; and Copies of the most recent 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: ___________________________

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).
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 for the duration of the 7-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 7-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 the 17-Month End of Employment Form to ISS at iss@tamu.edu.

**General Responsibilities:**
- I understand that in order to receive a 7-month extension of OPT from USCIS, I must first request a 7-month extension of OPT recommendation from ISS.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to properly file my application in a timely manner. My 7-month extension of OPT application must be received by USCIS within 60 days of ISS issuing a new I-20 with the 7-month extension of OPT recommendation on the third page.
- 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, 17 month extension of OPT, and 7 month extension of OPT combined.
- I understand that if I leave the U.S. while my 7-month extension of OPT application is pending, I am considered abandoning my application (i.e., my 7-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 7-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 not recommended that I withdraw my I-765 application at any time during OPT without consulting with an ISS advisor, because it could negatively affect my visa status.
- 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 for more information about the 7-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 7-month extension of OPT.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________