F-1 17-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 17-month STEM extension of OPT. Refer to the F-1 17-month extension of OPT handout 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. USCIS advises that the applicant submit the 17-month extension of OPT application (I-765) within 90 to 120 days before the expiration date of the current OPT authorization period.

Required Documents: This form (completed); Recent letter from the employer stating the dates of employment; 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 card (front and back) for the F-1 and F-2 dependents (if they have travelled outside the U.S. since the OPT was recommended by ISS).

Applicant Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last/Family Name:</th>
<th>First/Given Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UIN:</td>
<td>Telephone Number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail Address:</td>
<td>Degree Level:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major:</td>
<td>Graduation Date (Month, Year):</td>
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For a list of eligible majors in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), refer to the USCIS website: http://www.uscis.gov/. For a list of currently eligible STEM majors at Texas A&M, refer to http://iss.tamu.edu/Webfile/Employment/OPT/UpdatelistofSTEMmajorsJan2013.pdf. If you notice a major missing from the list on the ISS website, please contact ISS.

Have you or your dependents traveled outside the U.S. since receiving your initial OPT recommendation?
☐ Yes ☐ No  If yes, copies of your most recent I-20, passport, visa, and I-94 (front and back) must be submitted to ISS.

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).
Employment Information

In addition to the following questions, all OPT employment information must have been entered online in the OPT Data System recently (within 1-2 weeks). Please visit [https://iss.tamu.edu/employment/optds/](https://iss.tamu.edu/employment/optds/) to ensure that all of your employment information is correct.

Are you currently employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How many days have you been unemployed during your current OPT period? 

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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:**

- I understand that my address must be updated within 10 days of moving. This information can be updated in the “My Record” tab in the Howdy portal ([http://howdy.tamu.edu](http://howdy.tamu.edu)).
- I understand that I am required to report any changes of employer name, address, or interruption of employment through the OPT Data System (see the ISS web site) for the duration of the 17-month extension of OPT within 10 days of the change.
- 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 17-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 48 hours that I have ceased working for them. My employer should send a fax to ISS at 979-862-4633 indicating the last date of my employment with them.

**General Responsibilities:**

- I understand that in order to receive a 17-month extension of OPT, I must first request a 17-month extension of OPT recommendation from ISS.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to properly file my application in a timely manner. My 17-month extension of OPT application must be received by DHS within 30 days of ISS issuing a new I-20 with the 17-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 DHS regulations require me to seek employment directly related to my major area of study and commensurate with my education level.
- I understand that my employer must be registered in E-Verify.
- I understand that I cannot accrue 120 days or more of unemployment at any time during the 12 month of post completion OPT and 17 month extension of OPT combined.
- I understand that if I leave the U.S. while my 17-month extension of OPT application is pending, I am considered abandoning my application (i.e., my 17-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 17-month extension of OPT recommendation has been issued and the application sent to DHS, 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:**

- ISS strongly encourages you to maintain health insurance for you and your dependents throughout the duration of your OPT authorization period, including the 17-month extension of OPT.

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________