Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)  
24-Month Extension for STEM Majors

If you are currently on post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) and meet one of the following:
- have completed a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field; OR
- have completed all course requirements for the degree, excluding any thesis requirement or equivalent; OR
- have completed a STEM degree in the U.S. within the last 10 years

you can request a 24-month extension of your Optional Practical Training with an employer who is enrolled in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) E-Verify employment verification program. You may participate in the STEM OPT extension twice during your academic career in the U.S. if you earn a second qualifying degree at a higher level.

To obtain this benefit, you must apply to USCIS for a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Since the process usually takes about three months, we recommend that you apply 90 days in advance of the current OPT end date listed on your EAD card. Please submit the following information to the International House:

- STEM Request Form (see page 2)
- Copy of your OPT I-20, pages 1 and 2
- Copy of passport page(s) showing picture, biographical information, and expiration date
- Copy of most recent U.S. entry visa and I-94 (www.cbp.gov/i94)
- Copy of your current Employment Authorization Document (front and back)
- Copy of your diploma or transcript showing your STEM-related degree and major
- Completed Form I-765 which includes:
  - Eligibility Category (c)(3)(C) [Item 16]
  - ISSS Mailing Address [Items 2,3] c/o ISSS, 2200 S Josephine St. Denver, CO 80208
  - Degree level (BS, MS, PhD) & CIP code for STEM Major from Program of Study section on Page 1 of I-20 [Item 17]
  - Your employer’s E-Verify Company or Client Company Identification Number [Item 17]
  - The most recent version of the Form I-765 can be downloaded from the USCIS website: http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-765.pdf
- Two identical passport-style photos taken within 30 days of filing application. Do not reuse old photos.
- Check or money order for $410 made out to U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Employer letter
- Earnings statement (recommended)
- Copy of W-2(s) (recommended)
- Form I-983, Training Plan for STEM OPT Students, completed with your employer (Instructions).
- Optional: Form G-1145 (to be notified by email that your OPT application was received by USCIS)
You must also agree to report the following information to ISSS:

- **Within 10 days:**
  - Change of legal name
  - Start or loss of employment
  - Change of employer name or location
  - Change of immigration status
  - Permanent departure from the United States
  - Material changes to Form I-983 such as employer’s EIN, reduction in compensation/pay, significant decrease in hours per week, changes to learning objectives on Form I-983.

- **Validate SEVIS information every six months:**
  - Legal name
  - Residential or mailing address
  - Employer name and address
  - Status of current employment

- **Each year to ISSS**
  - Self Evaluation on Form I-983.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.
# 24-Month STEM OPT Extension Request Form

This request form must be submitted along with all of the documents listed below. Once your request has been processed, you will receive an email from ISSS to come to the International House to sign the new I-20. Please visit our website for more information about the OPT extension for STEM majors: [http://www.du.edu/isss/employment/opt-stem-extension.html](http://www.du.edu/isss/employment/opt-stem-extension.html)

## Eligibility Requirements for 24-month OPT extension for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics majors

1. Degree is included on the U.S. Government’s [STEM-Designated Degree Program List](http://www.du.edu/isss/employment/opt-stem-extension.html)
2. Currently on post-completion OPT based on STEM degree (awarded or all coursework completed excluding thesis) or completed a STEM degree in the U.S. before the most recent degree
3. Have not exceeded 90 calendar days of unemployment during initial period of post-completion OPT
4. Have job or job offer for at least 20 hours per week of paid employment from an employer enrolled in E-Verify
5. Form I-765 must be received by USCIS before expiration of current Employment Authorization Document (EAD)

## Section A: Student Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST (FAMILY) NAME in Passport:</th>
<th>FIRST NAME in Passport:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
<td>DU ID Number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DU Email Address:</td>
<td>Current EAD Expiration Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employer Name:  
Job Title:  
☐ Full-time (more than 20 hours a week)  
☐ Part-time (20 or less hours a week)

Employer Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code):

Submit an explanation of how your employment is related to your coursework to [here](http://www.du.edu/isss/employment/opt-stem-extension.html). Use the subject line “STEM OPT Employment Explanation.” The explanation must be 1000 characters or less (approximately 150 words).

Please verify that you understand and accept the following items:

- The 24-month extension is only allowed if I have not been unemployed more than 90 days during my current post-completion OPT.
- I can only accept paid employment that is directly related to my STEM degree and all employers must be enrolled in E-Verify.
- I understand that while I am on the 24-month extension of OPT I must report the following to ISSS within ten days:
  - Change of legal name
  - Start or loss of employment
  - Change of employer name or location
  - Change of immigration status
  - Permanent departure from the United States
  - Material changes to Form I-983 such as employer’s EIN, reduction in compensation/pay, significant decrease in hours per week, changes to learning objectives on Form I-983.
- During the 24-month OPT extension I must make a Validation Report to ISSS every six months.
- During the 24-month OPT extension I must make an annual self-evaluation on Form I-983 to ISSS.
- I understand that the I-20 travel signature is only valid for six months but can be renewed by ISSS.
- I understand that my work authorization will be terminated if my F-1 SEVIS record is transferred to another school.

I hereby confirm that the information I have provided in this application is accurate. I have read and understand the requirements that are part of the 24-month OPT extension for STEM majors.

I hereby authorize the release of any information necessary for this request and authorize any changes needed to complete my request.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: DATE:

---

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Checklist of documents to be submitted with OPT Extension Request Form for STEM majors:

☐ STEM OPT Request Form
☐ Copy of current OPT I-20, pages 1 and 2
☐ Copy of passport page(s) showing picture, biographical information, and expiration date
☐ Copy of most recent I-94 card (www.cbp.gov/i94) and U.S. entry visa
☐ Copy of current Employment Authorization Document (EAD) (front and back)
☐ Copy of transcript showing your STEM-related degree and major
☐ Completed Form I-765—Application for Employment Authorization
☐ Two color passport photos less than 30 days old (print name and I-94 number on back). Do not reuse old photos.
☐ Check or money order for $410 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security
☐ Employer letter
☐ Earnings statement (recommended)
☐ Copy of W-2(s) (recommended)
☐ Completed Form I-983 signed by you and your employer
☐ Completed Form G-1145 if you would like to be notified electronically that your application has been accepted by USCIS