What is OPT?

- “Temporary employment for practical training directly related to the student’s major area of study”

What is Post-Completion OPT?

- 12 months of work authorization
- Starts after program completion
- Employment in field of study (Major on I-20)
Who Can Apply for OPT?

• Student must have been enrolled full-time for one continuous academic year
• Student must not have used full-time Curricular Practical Training for 12 months or more
• Student must not have used 12 months of OPT at current education level. Students are eligible for 12 months of OPT per higher education level
• Student must apply for graduation if graduating in the semester before OPT starts
• Student must be maintaining F-1 status
OPT Timeline
(Spring Graduation)

Program Completion: 05/15/2019

When to come to OISS to apply:

Choose a date for work authorization to start:

End date*: Up to 12 months after start date

*End date cannot be more than 14 months after program completion

How long should it take to receive the OPT card: 90 days from the date USCIS receives application

What about using CPT to start working earlier:

CPT

End date: 05/15/2019
OPT Timeline
(Summer Graduation)

Program Completion: 08/15/2019

When to come to OISS to apply:
- 90 days: 05/17/2019
- 60 days: 10/14/2019

Choose a date for work authorization to start:
- 60 days: 08/16/2019 to 10/14/2019

End date*: Up to 12 months after start date
*End date cannot be more than 14 months after program completion

How long should it take to receive the OPT card: 90 days from the date USCIS receives application

What about using CPT to start working earlier:
CPT
- End date: 08/15/2019
OPT Timeline
(Fall Graduation)

Program Completion:
12/18/2019

When to come to OISS to apply:
90 days: 09/19/2019
60 days: 02/14/2020

Choose a date for work authorization to start:
60 days:
12/19/2019 to 02/16/2020

End date*: Up to 12 months after start date
*End date cannot be more than 14 months after program completion

How long should it take to receive the OPT card: 90 days from the date USCIS receives application

What about using CPT to start working earlier:
CPT
End date: 12/18/2019
90 Day Unemployment Rule

• You should not accumulate more than 90 days of unemployment from the start date on your EAD card during the 12-month post-completion OPT period

• You are considered to be in violation of your F-1 status if you accumulate 90+ days of unemployment unless you complete any of the following steps before the 90 days:
  • Applied for a new program or to transfer to another U.S. institution
  • Left the U.S.
  • Applied for a change of status
How to Avoid 90 Days of Unemployment

• Plan your OPT start date
• Find other types of employment in your field of study with at least 20 hours of work per week
  ▪ Part-time paid employment
    ▪ Requires more than 1 employer if less than 20 hours per week
  ▪ Volunteering/unpaid employment
  ▪ Employment hours may vary weekly but should average to at least 20 hours per week each month

Always keep documentation for proof of all employment – paid or unpaid!
How to Apply

1. Go to Optional Practical Training (OPT) Form
2. Obtain academic advisor’s recommendation for OPT
3. Make an appointment with an advisor at OISS for OPT and bring all required documents
4. If you have all the required items, the OISS advisor will create a new I-20 requesting OPT and assist you with your OPT packet
   - The OISS advisor will shorten the end date on your I-20 in order to recommend post-completion OPT

5. Mail the OPT packet to USCIS and wait for your receipt and card

6. Please allow 90 days from the day USCIS receives your application for processing
1. Optional: Students may attach Form G-1145 (E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance) to the 1st page of the application to request an e-Notification (email or text) of the receipt of the application at the USCIS Lockbox facility. There is no fee for this service
2. *Money order, personal check, cashier’s check, or credit card using Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions in U.S. currency for the filing fee payment of $410.00 (four hundred and ten).*

- Make checks and money orders payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with “OPT filing fee” in the memo line
- Remember to sign the money order, personal check, or Form G-1450

* Filing fee subject to change, check [http://www.uscis.gov/i-765](http://www.uscis.gov/i-765) for the correct fee
3. 2 identical passport photos (2” x 2”) taken within 30 days of filing your application with your name and I-94 number lightly written on the back of the photos using a pencil or felt tip pen and in a small envelope or the vendor provided photo sleeve. Go to https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/photos/photos.html for specifications
OPT Packet (What to Mail cont. (3))


- Read the instructions and questions carefully
- We recommend you type your responses
- If a question does not apply to you, type or print (handwrite) “N/A” unless otherwise directed
  - If you are typing your application, the form does not allow you to enter the “/” therefore you will have to handwrite “N/A” in black text after printing the application
- If your answer to a numeric response is zero or none, type or print “None” unless otherwise directed
- Use black ink to print and sign
I-765
Page 1

- Enter name as it appears on your I-20

**Part 1. Reason for Applying**

I am applying for (select only one box):

1.a. X Initial permission to accept employment.

1.b. Replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged employment authorization document, or correction of my employment authorization document NOT DUE to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) error.

**NOTE:** Replacement (correction) of an employment authorization document due to USCIS error does not require a new Form I-765 and filing fee. Refer to Replacement for Card Error in the What is the Filing Fee section of the Form I-765 Instructions for further details.

1.c. Renewal of my permission to accept employment. (Attach a copy of your previous employment authorization document.)

**Part 2. Information About You**

**Your Full Legal Name**

1.a. Family Name (Last Name) [FAMILY NAME]

1.b. Given Name (First Name) [First Name]

1.c. Middle Name [N/A]
- Enter any previous names, including aliases, maiden name, and nicknames
- If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in Part 6. Additional Information
I-765 Page 2

- Your U.S. Mailing Address will be used by USCIS to mail any documents for your application.

- If your mail is sent to someone other than yourself, please include an “In Care Of Name” as part of your mailing address.

- If “No” to item 6, enter your U.S. Physical Address.

Your U.S. Mailing Address

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.a.</th>
<th>In Care Of Name (if any)</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.b.</td>
<td>Street Number and Name</td>
<td>123 Street Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.c.</td>
<td>Apt. Ste. Flr.</td>
<td>X 1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.d.</td>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Reno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.e.</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.f.</td>
<td>ZIP Code</td>
<td>89557 (USPS ZIP Code Lookup)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Is your current mailing address the same as your physical address?  
   - Yes  
   - No

NOTE: If you answered “No” to Item Number 6, provide your physical address below.

U.S. Physical Address

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7.a.</th>
<th>Street Number and Name</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.c.</td>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.d.</td>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.e.</td>
<td>ZIP Code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- F-1 students do not have an A-Number or a USCIS Online Account Number
- Item 12: check yes if you have previously applied for an EAD
  - Copies of the front and back of the EAD card(s) should be included in your application packet
13.a. Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to you?

☐ Yes  □ No

NOTE: If you answered “No” to Item Number 13.a., skip to Item Number 14. If you answered “Yes” to Item Number 13.a., provide the information requested in Item Number 13.b.

- Follow the instructions carefully
- Items 16.a. to 17.b.: if it does not apply to you, print “N/A”
- Follow the instructions carefully

Your Country or Countries of Citizenship or Nationality

List all countries where you are currently a citizen or national. If you need extra space to complete this item, use the space provided in Part 6. Additional Information.

18.a. Country

China

18.b. Country

N/A
Place of Birth

List the city/town/village, state/province, and country where you were born.

19.a. City/Town/Village of Birth
   Beijing

19.b. State/Province of Birth
   Hebei

19.c. Country of Birth
   China

20. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
   01/20/1996

Follow the instructions carefully
### Information About Your Last Arrival in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.a.</td>
<td>Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record Number (if any)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.b.</td>
<td>Passport Number of Your Most Recently Issued Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E12345678</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.c.</td>
<td>Travel Document Number (if any)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.d.</td>
<td>Country That Issued Your Passport or Travel Document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.e.</td>
<td>Expiration Date for Passport or Travel Document (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/22/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Date of Your Last Arrival Into the United States, On or About (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/16/2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Place of Your Last Arrival Into the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Immigration Status at Your Last Arrival (for example, B-2 visitor, F-1 student, or no status)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-1 Student</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Your Current Immigration Status or Category (for example, B-2 visitor, F-1 student, paralee, deferred action, or no status or category)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-1 Student</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Number (if any)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-0012345678</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Enter (c)(3)(B) for post-completion OPT (to start OPT after program completion or during thesis/dissertation stage after completing all required coursework)
- Items 28 to 31.b. do not apply to a 12-month post-completion OPT application
- Follow the instructions carefully
- Read the full "Declaration and Certification" carefully
- Float your signature inside the “Applicant’s Signature” box, do not touch or go outside the lines
These sections do not apply to you if you completed the form yourself

**Part 4. Interpreter's Contact Information, Certification, and Signature**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interpreter's Full Name</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpreter's Family Name (Last Name)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreter's Given Name (First Name)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreter's Business or Organization Name (if any)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part 5. Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the Person Preparing this Application, If Other Than the Applicant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparer's Statement</th>
<th>LEAVE BLANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.a. I am not an attorney or accredited representative but have prepared this application on behalf of the applicant and with the applicant's consent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.b. I am an attorney or accredited representative and my representation of the applicant in this case extends does not extend beyond the preparation of this application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preparer's Certification**

By my signature, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I prepared this application at the request of the applicant. The applicant then reviewed this completed application and informed me that he or she understands all of the information contained in, and submitted with, his or her application, including the Applicant's Declaration and Certification, and that all of this information is complete, true, and correct. I completed this application based only on information that the applicant provided to me or authorized me to obtain or use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparer's Signature</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparer's Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Complete this page if:
  - You needed more space for any of the items in Parts 2 to 5
  - You have used a different SEVIS ID in F-1 status in the U.S. (for example, you attended school for a while, left the U.S. to take a break from school, and returned with a new I-20, you would have a SEVIS ID from your first period of attendance that is different than your current SEVIS ID)
  - Page Number 3, Part Number 2, Item Number 26
  - List all previous SEVIS IDs used, include the education level, and start and end dates (MM/DD/YYYY to MM/DD/YYYY) for each SEVIS ID
  - You have been approved for CPT or OPT in the past
    - CPT: Page Number 3, Part Number 2, Item Number 27
    - Enter the SEVIS ID, CPT, PT/FT, Education Level, Employer Name, Start and End Dates (MM/DD/YYYY format)
    - OPT: Page Number 2, Part Number 2, Item Number 12
    - Enter the SEVIS ID, pre- or post-completion OPT, Education Level, PT/FT, Denied/Granted Start and End Dates (MM/DD/YYYY format)
      - If Granted, enter Employer Name
- Enter the information for each item (previous SEVIS ID(s), CPT, OPT) in a new item number. For example, enter all previous SEVIS IDs in Items 3.a. to 3.d., previous CPT(s) in Items 4.a. to 4.d., etc.

  - For a to c, replace the “x” with the corresponding information as listed in the previous slide

  - If you need more space than is provided, you may make extra copies of Part 6
OPT Packet (What to Mail cont. (4))

5. Copy of the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} pages of I-20 with OPT recommendation

6. Copies of the bio page of your current passport (include extension page if applicable), current visa, and Form I-94

7. Copies of the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} pages (or 1\textsuperscript{st} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} pages for I-20s issued before July 2015) of any I-20s with employment authorization (CPT, SEH, OPT)

8. If you changed your status to F-1 within the U.S., make a copy of Form I-797 Approval Notice

9. Front and back copy of any previous EAD card(s), if applicable
Where to Send the OPT Packet

*U.S. Postal Service deliveries (request tracking option)
USCIS
P.O. Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ  85036

*Express mail and commercial courier deliveries
USCIS
ATTN: AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034

* Filing address subject to change, check [http://www.uscis.gov/i-765](http://www.uscis.gov/i-765) for the correct addresses
Where to Send the OPT Packet (cont.)

• If the address in item 3 of your Form I-765 is not in Nevada, refer to the “Where to File” section at http://www.uscis.gov/i-765 for the filing address.
What to Expect After Mailing

• In 2 - 4 weeks of mailing your packet, you will receive a receipt notice, Form I-797C
• Check the status of your OPT application online with your receipt number at https://www.uscis.gov
• About 90 days from the receipt date on the receipt notice, you should receive the OPT card
• If you receive a Request For Evidence (RFE) or Request for Information (RFI), contact an OISS advisor immediately
• If your application processing takes more than 90 days from the received date on the receipt notice, contact an OISS advisor
What About Travel Outside the U.S.?

- You may travel out of the country and return before the program end date on your OPT I-20 with a travel signature and a valid passport and visa.

- If you want to re-enter the U.S. after your program end date, have the following documents with you:
  - OPT I-20 signed for travel (valid for 6 months) on the 2nd page
  - Valid visa (it is possible to renew a visa after OPT approval)
  - Passport valid for at least 6 months from the date you re-enter
  - Receipt notice if your OPT has not been approved
  - OPT EAD card and job offer/contract if your OPT has been approved

- Please note, re-entry after travel out of the country is never guaranteed. If your application is denied while you are out of the country, it may not be possible for you to return on the F-1 visa or to resume OPT.
What if I Don’t Graduate and Post-Completion OPT Has Not Been Approved?

- You may keep the OPT and take part-time classes while maintaining your OPT
- You may withdraw your application by writing a letter to USCIS requesting the withdrawal with an explanation of the reason for the withdrawal
  - The OISS advisor will email the letter to USCIS
- You will NOT be reimbursed your Form I-765 filing fee
What if I Don’t Graduate and Post-Completion OPT Has Been Approved?

• If coursework is still required during fall and spring semesters only work part-time (up to 20 hours/week). The 90-day unemployment limitation will still apply

• If you only have your thesis or dissertation, you may work full-time

• You must complete your program before your OPT ends since your I-20 cannot be extended
OPT Reporting Requirements

- Use the SEVP Portal to report:
  - Changes to your mailing or physical address
  - Telephone number changes
  - Employment updates
- Report within 10 days of change
OPT Reporting Requirements, cont.

• On your approved OPT start date, you will receive an email from do-not-reply.sevp@ice.dhs.gov with instructions on creating an SEVP Portal account
  • If you do not see the email in your inbox, check your spam or junk mail folder. If you still do not see it, contact OISS at oiss@unr.edu to request an account reset
  • The link to create your account will expire within 14 days of the date the email is sent
• You may go to SEVP Portal Help for more information
If you need to change your email address, use the Change of Address Form.

OPTIONAL: If you want a new I-20 with your OPT employer information, complete the Student I-20/DS-2019 Request Form and select “SEVP Portal Employer Update” for the request reason.

You should maintain health insurance coverage during your OPT authorization period.
I’m starting a new academic program/level after I graduate, do I need OPT?

1. Must be admitted to new program/school by end of 60 day grace period
2. New program must start at next available term or within 5 months of program end date, whichever is sooner

The 90 days of unemployment rule is still applicable if a student applies for OPT to bridge the gap between academic programs.
I’m starting a new academic program/level after I graduate in December, do I need OPT?

1. Must be admitted to new program/school by end of 60 day grace period
2. New program must start at next available term or within 5 months of program end date, whichever is sooner

The 90 days of unemployment rule is still applicable if a student applies for OPT to bridge the gap between academic programs.
24-Month STEM OPT Extension Eligibility

- F-1 students with STEM field degrees
- Must be working for a U.S. employer in a job directly related to the STEM field of study (traditional paid employment)
- Employer must be registered in E-Verify
- File for extension up to 90 days before 12-month post-completion OPT ends
H-1B (Specialty Occupations)

• Granted up to 6 years
• Must have at least a U.S. bachelor’s degree (or foreign equivalent)
• Will be working in a job that requires at least a bachelor’s degree
• Employer must be willing to sponsor a visa petition
• H-1B Cap of 65,000 new H-1B approvals each year. Graduates with U.S. advanced degrees (master’s or higher) have an additional allocation of 20,000
• If your H-1B petition is timely filed, you will be eligible for a “cap gap extension”, a period in which a student’s status is automatically extended to bridge the gap between the end of F-1 status and start of H-1B status
OPT / H-1B Timeline
(Spring Graduation)

Current Year
MAY

Next Year
APR  MAY  JUN  JUL  AUG  SEP  OCT

OPT:

OPT

OPT Automatically Extended to September 30

60 day Grace Period

Apply for H-1B
(Due 1st Business Day in April)

H-1B Start
(October 1)

Students are not eligible to have their post-completion OPT extended during the cap-gap period if their OPT ends before their H-1B petition is submitted.
Students are not eligible to have their post-completion OPT extended during the cap-gap period if their OPT ends before their H-1B petition is submitted.
OPT / H-1B Timeline
(Fall Graduation)

Current Year
DEC

Next Year
APR

OCT

DEC

OPT:

OPT

Apply for H-1B
(Due 1st Business
Day in April)

H-1B Start
(October 1)
OPT STOPS

60 day Grace Period

H-1B
OPT and J-1/H-1B in Higher Education

- J-1 (Researcher/Professor) can be extended to 5 years
- H-1B’s are not subject to the quota or the timeline
- Changing status to J-1 or H-1B can take 2 weeks to 6 months, so OPT is recommended to maintain status while the change of status application is pending
- Possible to leave the U.S. apply for new visa and re-enter under the new status
- Consider dependent’s work and school options
  - J-2’s can apply to work and engage in full/part-time study
  - H-4’s cannot work, but can engage in full/part-time study