17-MONTH STEM EXTENSION
OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING {OPT} INSTRUCTIONS

You are eligible to apply for a 17-month extension, beyond the initial 12 months of OPT, if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You are currently approved for post-completion OPT.
- You completed a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in a science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) field. Visit the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website for the STEM Designated Degree Program List.
- You have a job or job offer from an E-Verify employer.

WHEN TO APPLY

Apply before your current EAD expires. USCIS recommends you apply up to 90 days before its expiration. You can continue to work for up to 180 days while the application is pending.

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Submit the following to ISS (by email, mail, or in person):

- Name and address of current employer
- Your email address

Step 2: ISS will issue a new I-20 with a recommendation for the extension and will mail it back to you.

Step 3: Mail to USCIS the following:

- Completed Form I-765 (Be sure to include your employer’s E-Verify number.)
  - Tips for completing Form I-765
    - Item 10: Use the number from your I-94 card (the small, white card in your passport). It is an 11-digit number.
    - Items 12, 13, 14, 15: Use the information from your I-94 card. If you have changed to F-1 status within the U.S., include a copy of your Approval Notice.
    - Item 16: Use one of the three following codes:
      - 17-month extension for STEM degree recipients: (c)(3)(C)
      - Certification: Sign the form in blue ink.
- Photocopy of new I-20
- Application fee: $340 check or money order payable to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security"
- Copy of STEM degree (official transcript, unofficial transcript, or copy of diploma showing level and program of study)
• Copy of Form I-94 Departure Record (front and back)
• Copy of your last EAD (front and back)
• Two photos of the following specifications:
  o **U.S. Department of State Guidelines**
    ▪ The two photos should have a white background.
    ▪ They should be unmounted, printed on thin paper, glossy, and not re-touched.
    ▪ The photos should show a passport-style, full-face image, with both ears visible.
    ▪ The photos should be 2 by 2 inches, with the distance from the top of the head to just below the chin about 1 3/8 inches.
    ▪ Lightly print your name and your I-94 number in pencil on the back of each photo.
    ▪ Photographs must have been taken within the last 30 days and not previously used

Be sure to mail your application to the [USCIS Service Center](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-765instr.pdf) serving the area of your current residence.

**AFTER BEING APPROVED**

Students with approved STEM-Extensions have additional reporting requirements. You must make a “Validation Report” to ISS every 6 months starting from the start date of your extension.
• Validation Reports must include:
  o Full legal name
  o SEVIS identification number
  o Current mailing and residential address
  o Name and address of the current employer
  o Date the student began working for the current employer