DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY®

What is OPT STEM Extension?

OPT STEM Extension is an additional 24 months of employment for thos included in the STEM Designated Degree Program List.

See detailed information on the STEM Hub: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub

How is OPT STEM Authorized?

The authorization for the OPT STEM Extension is issued by USCIS—an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) must be applied for <u>by</u> the student <u>to</u> the US government. The IPO will assist in requesting OPT STEM Extension Authorization.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Currently be participating in a 12-month period of approved post-completion OPT
- Have successfully completed a degree included in the STEM Designated Degree Program List
- Be working for a US employer in a position directly related to your major area of study**
- Be working for or accepted employment with an employer enrolled in the E-Verify Program
- Have fewer than 90 days of unemployment while on OPT
- Must apply for the STEM Extension *before* your current OPT expires

> **There are several aspects of the STEM OPT extension that do not make it apt for certain types of arrangements, including: multiple employer arrangements, sole proprietorships, employment through "temp" agencies, employment through consulting firm arrangements that provide labor for hire, and other relationships that do not constitute a bona fide employer-employee relationship.

OPT STEM Extension Application Checklist:

Completed and signed Form I-983
This also includes your employer's signature

> **Details for Form I-765**
> Item #27-- (c) (3) (c) – F-1 STEM OPT Extension and fill in #28 with the appropriate information.

Completed and signed Form I-765*

Completed and signed Form G-1145*

Copy of employment letter including E-Verify number

Completed and signed Request for 24 Month Extension or OPT

When you've completed the list above send these electronically to international@dsu.edu. The IPO will process your OPT STEM Extension I-20 and send this along with a letter of support and remaining items/instructions for a complete application to USCIS.

**Gather the following items in preparation of completing your OPT STEM Application:

Two (2) passport photos with your printed name and I-94 number written on the back of each photo

Check made payable to **Department of Homeland Security** for $410

Copy of current EAD card (front and back)

Copy of your degree (diploma or transcript: http://dsu.edu/assets/uploads/resources/transcript-request.pdf)

Copy of your passport, F-1 visa, and I-94 information as you did for your OPT application.

Copy of I-20 for Post-Completion OPT and CPT (if applicable)

REQUEST FOR 24 MONTH OPT STEM EXTENSION

Last Name _____ First Name _____

SEVIS ID #: N_____ Phone Number:_____

Non-DSU email address: _____

Current Home Address_____

Your Job Title:_____ Employer EIN ___ ___ - _____

By signing below, you verify that you understand and agree to adhere to the following DHS regulatory requirements:

1. You are currently on Optional Practical Training (OPT) and are employed or have been offered employment for practical training in your major field of study.
2. Your current or future employer is enrolled in E-Verify. For more information, see:
http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/programs/gc_1185221678150.shtm
3. You have not been unemployed for more than 90 days while on OPT.
4. **You will report to international@dsu.edu within 10 days of each occurrence:**
   - any change in your home address each time that you move
   - any change in the name **AND/OR** the address of your employer by submission of a new I-983 form
   - the loss of your job at any time during your OPT authorization
5. Your employer agrees to notify the International Programs Office (international@dsu.edu) within 5 days in the event of the **termination of your employment or your departure from the job.**
6. You and your employer agree to **submit an I-983 form to update your employment information** as soon as a material change occurs and within 10 days of each 12-month evaluation.
7. You will "check in" with the IPO **every six months** during the STEM OPT extension from the start date listed on your new OPT card by completing the OPT Reporting Form.
8. Your OPT will end if you accrue a total of 150 days of unemployment (counted from the start of your total OPT period), or if you transfer to another school.

I affirm that I understand the information provided to me on this request form and am responsible for utilizing and understanding the information on the Study in the States STEM OPT HUB.

_____   _____

Print Name (*this indicates your signature of this form*)   Date