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# POST-COMPLETION OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT) APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**Important DHS Policy Update:** The information on this page does not yet fully reflect changes resulting from the new DHS rule ending Duration of Status (D/S). Please review DHS Policy Update: End of "Duration of Status" (D/S) for F and J Students, Scholars and Dependents for information about how the new rule may affect the information and procedures described on this page.

**Travel and re-entry to the U.S. at any point before or after applying for OPT may affect the application process.**

| Scenario | What this means for you: |
|---|---|
| You are in the U.S. on September 15, 2026, and remain in the U.S. until OPT is approved.<br><br>You qualify for OPT transition provisions if you apply for OPT before March 18, 2027. | Follow application instructions on page 2.<br><br>You do not need to file an Extension of Stay application with USCIS. |
| You apply for OPT with USCIS, then travel and re-enter the U.S. on or after September 15, 2026 before OPT is approved.<br><br>**Caution: International travel and re-entry may affect your authorized period of stay.** | Follow application instructions on page 2. Be aware that upon re-entry in F-1 status on or after September 15, your Form I-94 will contain a specific Admit Until Date (AUD) rather than D/S.<br><br>**Before traveling, carefully consider the timing of your OPT filing and your authorized period of stay.** Additional action, including an Extension of Stay (EOS) with USCIS, may be required. |
| You travel and re-enter the U.S. on or after September 15, 2026 before applying for OPT with USCIS.<br><br>**Caution: The transition provisions will not apply to you.** | Your Form I-94 will contain a specific Admit Until Date (AUD) rather than D/S. **To request post-completion OPT, you will need to apply for OPT AND for an Extension of Stay (EOS) with USCIS.** Information for filing for OPT and EOS is forthcoming. |

The earliest you can submit your OPT Request for Students in F-1 Status is 90 days before your program completion.

You must e-file your *Form I-765 | Application for Employment Authorization* with USCIS within 30 days after your program completion, and you must be in the U.S. at the time of filing. An updated Form I-20 issued by a University of Miami Designated School Official (ISSS Advisor) is one of the required documents to e-file your *Form I-765 | Application for Employment Authorization*. Please ensure you have obtained and signed your new I-20 before you submit your application with USCIS. Click here for a comprehensive timeline of the Post-completion OPT Application and Approval Process.

1. Go to www.miami.edu/opt to complete the online OPT session. If you still have questions after completing the session, contact your ISSS Advisor at isss@miami.edu.

2. Prepare the following documents for digital upload of your electronically filed *Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization*:

    a) **Most recent Form I-94.** *Go to Get Most Recent I-94.*
    b) **Copy of passport biographical page**
    Note: the passport expiration date may affect your authorized period of stay in the U.S.
    c) **Copy of passport page with F-1 visa**
    d) **Copy of passport page with last entry stamp** *(if one was given)*
    e) **Copy of Previously Issued EAD(s)** *(if applicable) Do not submit these copies to ISSS. You will need to include them in your application to USCIS.*
    f) **Copies of all previously issued SEVIS Forms I-20 with CPT and/or OPT authorizations** *(if applicable) Do not submit these copies to ISSS. You will need to include them in your application to USCIS.*

3. Submit your OPT application to ISSS by clicking on www.miami.edu/optrequest.

4. Upon receipt of a completed request form, an ISSS advisor will review your application and, if eligible, issue and email you a new Form I-20, indicating on page 2 that OPT was requested.

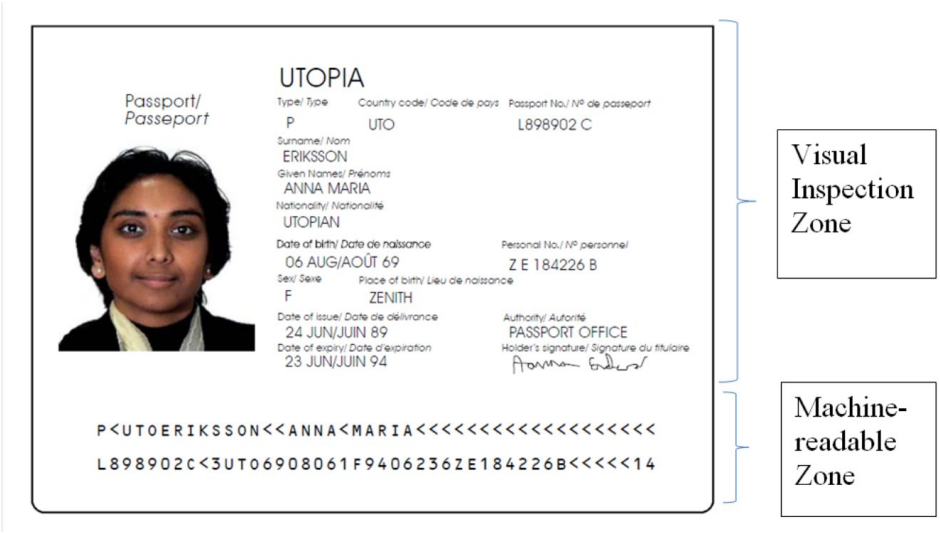
5. Once you have received your new Form I-20, refer to How to File a Form Online for tips for filing forms online, including acceptable upload formats, how to upload passport-size photos, and how to pay the filing fee.

6. Go to uscis.gov and follow the instructions under “File Online”. The first step is to create your USCIS account.

7. Search for *Form I-765 | Application for Employment Authorization*, click “File Online” and complete the online form, including the upload of the photo.

    - *Enter eligibility code (c)(3)(B) for post-completion OPT.*

    - *Include your complete last and first name as it appears in the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) on your passport biographical page. You can find the MRZ on the bottom of your passport biographical page. It usually starts with a country code followed by your last name and then first name. See sample below:*




    - *Ensure your mailing address is complete and correct. This is where your USCIS Receipt Notice and Employment Authorization Document (EAD) will be mailed. If you change your address before you have received your EAD, report the updated address at https://www.uscis.gov/addresschange.*

8. Review, sign and submit filing fee payment for Form *I-765 | Application for Employment Authorization.*

9. After you file, USCIS may require that you appear for a Biometrics Service Appointment (BSA) at an Application Support Center (ASC) to capture your photograph. After you file your Form I-765 online with USCIS, they will inform you in writing via mail and in your USCIS account if you need to attend a BSA and will provide appointment details.