24-MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION FOR STUDENTS IN F-1 STATUS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The earliest you can submit your 24-Month STEM OPT Extension Request for Students in F-1 Status is 90 days before your OPT end date. USCIS must receive your STEM OPT extension application before your current post-completion OPT (standard or cap-gap) expiration date. Click here for a comprehensive timeline of the OPT STEM Application and Approval Process.

1. Prepare the following documents:
   a) Form G-1145
   b) Form I-765. Follow link to USCIS and click on “Form I-765”.
      ISSS recommends that you complete these forms in typing and print single-sided.
      • Enter eligibility code (c)(3)(C) for STEM OPT.
      • Enter information about previously approved OPT(s) on page 7, items 1.a. through 3.d. Reference page 2, part 2, item 12.
      • You must sign your form with a black pen. USCIS will not accept typed electronic signatures.
   c) Form I-983. For assistance in completing Form I-983, please see Form I-983 Instructions
   d) Two U.S. passport-style photos. Submit two identical color passport-style photographs of yourself taken recently. The photos must be 2 inches by 2 inches, have a white background, be printed on thin paper with a glossy finish, and be unretouched. Write your name and I-94 number on back of both photos.
   e) Most recent Form I-94 Go to GET MOST RECENT I-94.
   f) Copy of passport biographical page
   g) Copy of passport page with F-1 visa
   h) Copy of passport page with last entry stamp (if one was given)
   i) Copy of Previously Issued EAD(s)
   j) Copy of STEM Degree Diploma
   k) Official STEM degree Transcript
   l) Money order or cashier’s check for $410.00 Must be made payable to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”. You can obtain one from your bank, any US Post Office, CVS, or Western Union. The filing fee for OPT (Form I-765) will increase from $410 to $550, effective October 2, 2020. Any application postmarked on or after this date must include payment of the new, correct fee. ISSS encourages you to apply for OPT prior to that date, if eligible.
   m) Copies of all previously issued SEVIS Forms I-20 Please do not submit these to ISSS, but you will need to include them in your application to USCIS.

2. Submit your 24-Month STEM OPT Extension Request to ISSS by clicking on www.miami.edu/stemoptapplication.

3. Upon receipt of a completed request form, an ISSS advisor will review your application and if eligible, issue a new Form I-20 indicating that STEM OPT was requested on page 2. You will be notified via e-mail when the Form I-20 will be e-mailed to you. You will also receive instructions on how to prepare and mail your STEM OPT application to USCIS for processing.