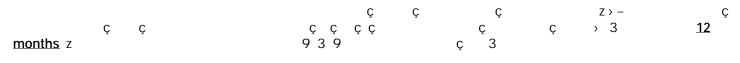
F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) Graduate Application

Eligibility



• one academic year

• 12 months or less
o 12 months or more

How to Obtain the OPT Recommendation I-20 from the International Center

APPLICATION FOR OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

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GUIDE FOR POST-COMPLETION OPT

330-972-6349

MANAGING YOUR F-1 STATUS AFTER APPLYING FOR OPT

File your application with USCIS either by mail or online.

- x You must file while you are in the US.
- x The Form 17465 and the OPT I-20 and other supporting documents musP <-4.6 (not)-uhenee USCIthuin

Required reporting.

Submit the OPT Reporting Forwithin 10 days of changing your gal name or employment. The firisthe you submit the form, attach a copy of the front and back of your EAD card to the International. Genetical can be scanned and emailed to immigration@uakron.edUhe OPT Reporting form may be found at

http://www.uakron.edu/international/forms/index.dofou may also use the SEVP Portal to update your contact information and employment. For more information on the portal, please https://example.count.com/documents/doc

Change of address. You are required to update your MyAkron account tyour home and mailing address within 10 days of the change You may also update the SEVP Portal. If you move while your OPT application is pending, contact our office for further guidance.

Document your job search and keep employment records.

You may be asked for detailed proof of OPT employment or job search activities for future immigration applications or interviews including:

- x Copies of job-speific cover letters and resumes descriptions and offer letters
- x Any letter or email that contains info about interviews, testing, or information sessions
- x Timesheets, paystubs; logs of hours.

Health insurance.

Once you are no longer enrolled as a student, you will not have or be required to have UA health insurance. We strong advise you contact our office for information on other insurance companies. If you have UA's international student health insurance plan, you will not qualify for extension of the plan during OPT if you have a gap in dates of coverage.

Determine if you are eligible for the 24Month OPT Extension.

The U.S Department of Homeland Security (DHS) limits this benefit to selected programs. Download our application fo the STEM extension at http://www.uakron.edu/international/forms/indefodatditional information.

Learn options available at the end of OPT.

After the OPT end date, there is a 60 day grace period in which you can:

- x Start another academic program at,UA
- x Transfer to another school, or
- x Leave the U.S.

During your graceperiod, you may not work and you may not leave an enter the U.S. in fi status. Please notify our office of your departure by submitting an OPT Reporting form so that a note can be placed in your immigration record.

H-1B Cap-Gap Extension

The cap gap extension allows certain students with pending or approved by apt-H1B petitions to remain in the U.S until the start date of their approved H-1B employment period, even if the OPT authorization or F-1 grace pediod would have otherwise exired before October.

You are eligible for the cappap extension if:

- x Your employer files a capubject H1B petition on your behalf and requests a change of status begin October 1, and
- x The employer files the HB petition on your behalf within your OPT authorization period or the §0-da grace period.

If your employer files your application during your OPT period, then you will have an extension of employment authorization until September 30. If your employer filed the application during your grace period, then you will only have an extension of F-1 status (not employment authorization) until September 30. Contact an International Student Advisce you have questions or need to request a new I-20 listing your apapextension. Please note the only your employer can provide accurate, official updates regarding your H-1B application.

Student Certification:

I have read and understand the information in this guide. It is my responsibility to maintain my F-1 status while on OP1

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Important Links

OPT Application:

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STEM Application

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