

F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) Graduate Application

Eligibility

months 12

- _____ one academic year
- 12 months or less
- 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

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 I-765 and the OPT I-20 and other supporting documents must be filed with USCIS in person.

Required reporting.

Submit the OPT Reporting Form within 10 days of changing your legal name or employment. The first time you submit the form, attach a copy of the front and back of your EAD card to the International Center. Cards can be scanned and emailed to immigration@uakron.edu. The OPT Reporting form may be found at <http://www.uakron.edu/international/forms/index.do>. You may also use the SEVP Portal to update your contact information and employment. For more information on the portal, please visit <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/create-sevpportal-account>. Contact us to print your updated I-20.

Change of address. You are required to update your MyAkron account your 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-specific cover letters and resumes, job 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 strongly advise you contact tip-insurance@uakron.edu to purchase a private health insurance plan or 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 for the STEM extension at <http://www.uakron.edu/international/forms/index.html> for additional 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 grace period, you may not work and you may not leave and re-enter the U.S. in F-1 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 subject 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 period would have otherwise expired before October 1.

You are eligible for the cap gap extension if:

- x Your employer files a cap subject H1B petition on your behalf and requests a change of status to H-1B begin October 1, and
- x The employer files the H1B petition on your behalf within your OPT authorization period or the 60-day 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 Advisor if you have questions or need to request a new I-20 listing your cap extension. Please note that 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 OPT.

Important Links

OPT Application:

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Guide for PostCompletion OPT (Managing your F\Ù\éÍej\ÙÍ e ô X Ù Í U U + ... 2 Ù : X Ù i, "ý á

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STEM Application

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