7-Month STEM OPT Application

Under the new STEM OPT rule, your STEM OPT is not automatically extended to 24 months if you currently have a 17-month EAD approved before May 10, 2016.

Option 1: Continue the 17-month OPT period until it ends without applying for an extension. The standard reporting guidelines for 17-month STEM OPT still applies.

Option 2: Use this application if you want to request the balance of the modified extension (extra 7 months). Not all students with approved 17-month STEM OPT will qualify. To be eligible, you must meet all of the following requirements.

Eligibility

- Current approved regular OPT is based on completion of a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree in a [STEM Designated Degree Program List (effective on May 10, 2016)]
- You have at least 150 days remaining in your approved STEM OPT when USCIS receives your additional 7-month OPT application. Current STEM EAD cannot expire before October 7, 2016.
- You have not receive STEM OPT extension before for the same degree level
- Have a job or job offer from an employer enrolled in the [E-Verify program]
- Employer must complete a training plan and sign agreement on Form I-983
- Has a valid passport

When should you apply?

USCIS starts to accept application starting from May 10, 2016 to August 8, 2016. The application must be filed within 60 days of the date that the Designated School Official (DSO, i.e. International Student Advisor) enters the recommendation for the 7-month STEM OPT extension in your SEVIS record or the application will be denied.

Step 1

Prepare your 24-month OPT STEM extension application packet which should include the following:

- Completed [International Office’s 7-Month STEM OPT Extension Request Form](#)
- Completed [Form I-765](#)
- Completed [Form G-1145](#)
- Completed [Form I-983](#)

Use the following information to help you fill out Form I-983:

1. Name of School Recommending STEM OPT: California State University, Los Angeles
2. SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT: LOS214F00179000
3. Designated School Official (DSO) Name and Contact Information:
   Wai Fun WONG
   323-343-3170
   wwong233@calstatela.edu
   5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032

- Copy of your STEM degree (i.e. copy of diploma or official transcript which shows that your degree has been conferred)
- Copy of your OPT EAD card (front & back)
- Copy of current post-completion OPT I-20
- Copy of I-94 (front & back or electronic version from [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94))
- Copy of passport page and passport renewal page, if any (valid for at least 6 months)
- Copy of F-1 visa
- Two [US passport style photo](#) taken in the last 30 days
- $380 Check or Money Order make payable to “Department of Homeland Security” (write SEVIS ID on the Check/Money Order)

Step 2

Option 1: Submit your STEM OPT extension packet to the International Office.
Option 2: Submit your scanned STEM OPT extension packet via email to Wai Fun (Christina) Wong at wwong233@calstatela.edu. Documents must be submitted in a PDF format.

Step 3
- Allow 10 business days (minimum) for processing.
- You will receive an email when your application has been reviewed and new I-20 is ready to pick up.
- If you wish to send your friend to pick up the STEM OPT extension packet on your behalf, s/he will be required to provide the signed [Release of Documents and Information (FERPA Waiver)](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu).
- If you wish the documents to be mailed back to you, you should settle the mailing fee via [UEMS](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu).
- International Office will return your STEM Extension Packet to you with a new I-20 showing STEM Extension recommend and receive specific mailing instructions.
- The application must be filed within 60 days of the date that the DSO enters the recommendation for the 7-month STEM OPT extension in your SEVIS record or the application will be denied.
- **DO NOT MAIL the original STEM OPT extension I-20 to the USCIS**

Step 4 (After received the new EAD)
- Send copy of I-797 Approval Notice and copy of STEM OPT EAD to Wai Fun (Christina) Wong at wwong233@calstatela.edu.
- Report any changes of residential US address and personal email contact on your GET account.
- Report any changes of employment information to the International Office within 10 days of the change using the [OPT Employment Information Reporting Form](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu).

Forms and resources on OPT STEM rule:
Detailed information for students and employers can also be found on the following sites:
- [Form I-765 – Application for Employment Authorization](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)
- [Form G-1145 – e-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)
- [Form I-983 – Training Plan for STEM OPT Students](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)
- [Instruction on how to complete Form I-983](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)
- [Training tutorial for the STEM OPT Form I-983](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)
- [US Department of Homeland Security STEM OPT Hub](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)
- [US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) on 24-month STEM OPT extension](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)
- [Continuation of employment](mailto:wwong233@calstatela.edu)

USCIS generally takes around 90 days to process your application. If you file your STEM OPT extension application in a timely manner, you will receive an extension of employment authorization while your application is pending for up to 180 days, or the date of the decision over your request, whichever date is earlier.

**International travel**
Student is not recommended to travel outside the US if your OPT STEM extension is pending AND your post-completion OPT has already expired.

**Unemployment period**
Student cannot accumulate 150 days of unemployment during the entire OPT period (initial 12 months plus 24-month STEM OPT extension).

**Evaluation requirements on Form I-983**
Student must complete the evaluation requirements with your employer and submit two self-evaluations during your STEM OPT period.
- First evaluation within 12 months of the STEM OPT extension start date.
- Second/final evaluation at the end of your STEM OPT period.