



INTERNATIONAL

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

24- Month STEM OPT Application

Use this application if you are currently in an authorized regular post-completion OPT which was earned under a STEM designated degree.

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 \(effective on May 10, 2016\)](#)
- Current approved OPT has not yet expired
- 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

Previous STEM degree: If you are currently active in the 12-month post-completion OPT based on a non-STEM degree, you may be eligible to use a prior STEM degree from a U.S. institution of higher education to apply for a STEM OPT extension, if

1. Both degrees are from currently [accredited and SEVP-certified institutions](#);
2. You have not already received a STEM OPT extension based on this prior degree; and
3. The employment is directly related to the previous STEM degree

When should you apply?

Earliest time to apply is 90 days before current OPT end date. Your application will be denied if you do not file with USCIS within 60 days of the date that your STEM OPT I-20 is issued.

Step 1

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

- Completed International Office’s [24-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 and download the [I-983 instructions](#):

Name of School Recommending STEM OPT: California State University, LA	Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned: California State University, LA	SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3-digit suffix): LOS21400179000
Designated School Official (DSO) Name and Contact Information: Nancy Lam nlam27@calstatela.edu	Student SEVIS ID No.: YOUR SEVIS ID	STEM OPT Requested Period (mm-dd-yyyy): From: <u>02/01/2020</u> To: <u>01/31/2022</u>

- Copy of your STEM degree (i.e. copy of diploma or final official transcript)
- Copy of your OPT EAD card
- Copy of current post-completion OPT I-20
- Copy of I-94 (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



INTERNATIONAL

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

- Two U.S. passport style photos taken in the last 30 days
- \$410 Check or Money Order make payable to “**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**”. (Write SEVIS ID on the Check/Money Order. Check www.uscis.gov for updated fee.)

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 international@calstatela.edu. Documents must be submitted in a PDF format.

Step 3

- Allow 7 business days (minimum) for processing after all corrections has been made.
- You will receive an email when your application has been reviewed and new I-20 is ready for 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 \(FERPA Waiver\)](#)
- If you wish the documents to be mailed back to you, you should settle the mailing fee via Courier Service (<https://study.eshipglobal.com>)
- International Programs Office will return your STEM Extension Packet to you with a new I-20 showing STEM Extension recommend and receive specific mailing instructions
- You must submit the completed application to the USCIS within 60 days from the date that your STEM extension I-20 was issued. Otherwise, your OPT extension application may be rejected/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 the International Programs Office at international@calstatela.edu
- Report any changes of residential US address and personal email contact to international@calstatela.edu or log into your SEVP Student Portal with the update.
- Report any changes of employment information to the International Programs Office within 10 days using the [OPT Employment Information Reporting Form](http://www.calstatela.edu/international/opt-24-month-reporting-form) (<http://www.calstatela.edu/international/opt-24-month-reporting-form>)

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](#)
- [Form G-1145 – e-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance](#)
- [Form I-983 – Training Plan for STEM OPT Students](#)
- [Instruction on how to complete Form I-983](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security STEM OPT Hub](#)
- [U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services \(USCIS\) on 24-month STEM OPT extension](#)



INTERNATIONAL

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

Continuation of employment

USCIS generally takes around 3 to 5 months 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

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

Unemployment period

Students cannot accumulate 150 days of unemployment during the entire OPT period (initial 12-months plus 24-month STEM OPT extension—3 years).

Evaluation requirements on Form I-983

Students must complete the evaluation requirements with their employer and submit 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

Changing employment

When changing your employer you must:

- Submit an updated I-983 (pages 1-4) for your new employer.
- Submit a final self-evaluation (I-983 page 5) for your employer that you are ending your employment with.