

Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) Application

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for Post-Completion OPT, a student must meet the requirements listed below. If you are unsure of any item, International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) can provide clarifications and additional information.

You are currently in Active status with no pending status corrections

Employment must be related to your field of study

You have not been employed in full time Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or pre-completion OPT for more than one year

- Please note that any time spent on full time CPT or Pre-Completion OPT takes away time eligible for Post-Completion OPT.
- Students who have engaged in more than 12 months of full-time CPT or Pre-Completion OPT are not eligible for Post-Completion OPT.

Your program will be completed before beginning your Post-Completion OPT.

- Exceptions can be made for students who only need to complete a master's thesis to fulfill graduation requirements

You are clear of any holds with SUU

You are clear of any financial obligation to SUU

You have been enrolled in courses at SUU for a minimum of 9 months

When to Apply

Applications for Post-Completion OPT can be made no sooner than 90 days before your anticipated graduation date, or no later than 60 days after your graduation date. Applications sent earlier or later than this will be denied by USCIS.

How to Apply

1. Become familiar with Post-Completion OPT rules and requirements
 - Information is included in this packet, you can also contact staff in ISSS with questions
2. Meet with your Academic Advisor to confirm your graduation date and/or any outstanding graduation requirements.
3. Submit a Post-Completion OPT employment request to ISSS
4. Make a digital copy of all required documents to upload to the online application
 - Complete the online Form I-765. For Post-Completion OPT applicants be sure to include (c)(3)(b) on item # 16 of the form.
 - USCIS Online Account Link: <https://myaccount.uscis.gov/>
 - Online Application Instructions: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>
 - \$470.00 (will pay with a debit or credit card online) and \$1685 for Premium Processing
 - A digital passport style ID photo no more than 30 days old
 - Travel and immigration documents
 - I-20 endorsed for OPT, passport, I-94, and visa (Except for Canadians)(digital scan)
 - <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>
5. **Submit your complete application to USCIS within 30 days of the OPT Employment Requested**
6. USCIS will provide you with a receipt for your application within 1-2 days, and a paper copy within 7-10 days. Once you have your receipt, you can use your receipt number to track your application status online at the following website: <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/Dashboard.do>. You may also apply to receive email alerts informing you of your application status.
7. USCIS will approve or deny your application for OPT within 2-3 months (Estimates will vary).

After Applying

When to Begin Work

Before beginning your Post-Completion OPT employment, you will need the following:

- Social security number (SSN)

- Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card in hand

- The date listed on your EAD card has passed

If you filed for OPT before an employment offer, be sure to notify ISSS of your employer information once you have received a job offer. This information will be added to your SEVIS record, and a new I-20 will be printed that includes the employer information.

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I start OPT?

Start date for OPT can be no later than 61 days after the completion of your program

Can I travel internationally while my OPT request is pending?

To travel while your OPT request is pending is possible, be sure to travel with the following documents:

- o Immigration documents: I-20, I-94, valid passport, valid visa
- o I-765 receipt notice (Form I-797)

Can I travel internationally while on OPT?

