

Illinois Institute of Technology

International Center
3300 S. Federal Street
Main Building, Room 405
Chicago, IL 60616
Phone: (312) 567-3680
Fax: (312) 567-3687

OPT 17-month Extension Appointment Required

04/08

Eligibility:

- Currently participating in a 12-month period of approved post-completion OPT and must apply in advance of the current OPT's expiration.
- Completion of a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree from IIT* in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) as identified by the Department of Homeland Security (listed below)
- Work for a U.S. employer in a job directly related to the student's major area of study
- Work for, or accepted employment with, an employer enrolled in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' E-Verify program. Please check with your employer's HR department.
- Properly maintain F-1 status
 - a) Have not been unemployed more than 90 days during current OPT period **after April 8, 2008**. Violating this rule may affect eligibility for further benefits.
 - b) Have kept the International Center informed of your correct name, address, place of employment and interruptions of such employment

* The following IIT majors should fall within the STEM fields: Aerospace Engineering, Applied Mathematics, Architectural Engineering, Biochemistry, Biological Engineering, Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Imaging and Signal Processing, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Construction Engineering and Management, Computer Engineering, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Industrial Technology and Management, Industrial Technology and Operations, Information Architecture, Information Technology Management, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Network Engineering, Physics, Power Engineering, Structural Engineering, Telecommunications and Software Engineering, Transportation Engineering, VLSI and Microelectronics

Required Documentation and Procedures:

1. [Completed form I-765](#), eligibility code: Item #16:(c)(3)(c) for a 17-month extension, list the degree in item #17 that **appeared in SEVIS and on the I-20**, not the name used by the institution
2. I-Center OPT extension request form; completed by student and employer
3. Photocopies of previous I-20(s)
4. Photocopy of current EAD card
5. Photocopy of IIT transcript or diploma stating STEM degree
6. Photocopy of I-94 card (front and back) and copies of your passport (biographic and U.S. visa pages)
7. A check for \$340 payable to CIS
8. 2 passport style photographs. Write your name and I-94 number on the back of your photographs
9. Employment letter including job description including how the employment relates to the STEM field
10. Credit card information for out of town students

Please schedule an appointment and bring the above documents to the International Center. If you are out of town, make sure to mail the above documents to the I-center by your appointment date. It takes approximately 5 days for our office to process your application internally and you will then receive a new I-20. Mail the above documents in addition to a copy of your new I-20 to the appropriate USCIS service center based on your address. It is your responsibility to make sure that USCIS receives the documents listed above (except #2) within 30 days of the creation of your new I-20.

You will receive a letter of receipt from US CIS within 10 to 30 days. It usually takes 90 days to obtain the EAD (Employment Authorization) card. Please keep in mind that the processing might take longer depending on US CIS and the time of application. Late spring and summer months are usually very busy.

Important Issues to Note:

- If a STEM student receives a 17-month extension, the limit on unemployment is no more than 120 days, applied to the entire 29-month period of post-completion OPT.
- Employment authorization is automatically extended while a timely-filed 17-month OPT EAD extension is pending until the new EAD is received or for 180 days, whichever is earlier.
- The employment authorization period for the 17-month OPT extension begins on the day after the expiration of the initial post-completion OPT employment authorization and ends 17 months thereafter, regardless of the date the actual extension is approved.
- This 17-month extension is allowed one time per lifetime.
- This extension is only for those in **Post-completion** OPT employment.
- A student may change employer during the 17-month extension; however, USCIS advise against changing employers while the I-765 is pending, since the I-765 names a specific employer.

Illinois Institute of Technology

Int'l.Center
Approved _____
Date _____
Signature _____
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Optional Practical Training 17-Month Extension Request

05/08

I. TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Local Address _____

IIT Student ID _____ SEVIS ID# N _____

E-mail _____ Degree received _____

OPT Expiration Date _____

**Your extension request will automatically be for 17 months immediately following your current OPT*

Please list all periods of unemployment during current OPT period (Start and End dates)

Do you have dependents currently in the US on F-2 status? Yes No

- I am aware that I am required to report any changes in my name, address, name/location of employer and any periods of unemployment within 10 days of the change to the International Center.
- I understand that I must make a validation report to the International Center **every 6 months** beginning with the start date of my OPT extension even if nothing has changed. Validation report dates: (), ()
- I will limit unemployment to no more than 120 days, applied to the entire 29-month period of post-completion OPT.
- I agree to these terms and understand that if I do not comply, I will be failing to maintain my F-1 status.

Signature _____ Date _____

II. TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EMPLOYER

The student named above is/will be working at my company in a position directly related to his/her major area of study. My company has enrolled in E-Verify electronic work verification program and is in good standing.

Employer's Name _____

Address (Employee's work site)

Name of Supervisor _____ Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Position of above Named Student _____

E-Verify Identification Number _____

I, the employer, agree that I will notify the International Center at IIT within 48 hours of the termination or departure of this student from my company. I understand that if this student does not report to our company for 5 consecutive days without our authorization that is considered departure from our company.

Signature _____ Date _____

**Please see the reverse side of this form for information explaining the terms and conditions of optional practical training.*

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING 17-month STEM extensions

Code of Federal Regulations [8CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)]

(C) 17-month extension of post-completion OPT for students with a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree. Consistent with paragraph (f)(11)(i)(C) of this section, a qualified student may apply for an extension of OPT while in a valid period of post-completion OPT. The extension will be for an additional 17 months, for a maximum of 29 months of OPT, if all of the following requirements are met.

- (1) The student has not previously received a 17-month OPT extension after earning a STEM degree.
- (2) The degree that was the basis for the student's current period of OPT is a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in one of the degree programs on the current STEM Designated Degree Program List, published on the SEVP Web site at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis>.
- (3) The student's employer is registered in the E-Verify program, as evidenced by either a valid E-Verify company identification number or, if the employer is using a designated agent to perform the E-Verify queries, a valid E-Verify client company identification number, and the employer is a participant in good standing in the E-Verify program, as determined by USCIS.
- (4) The employer agrees to report the termination or departure of an OPT employee to the DSO at the student's school or through any other means or process identified by DHS if the termination or departure is prior to end of the authorized period of OPT. Such reporting must be made within 48 hours of the event. An employer shall consider a worker to have departed when the employer knows the student has left the employment or if the student has not reported for work for a period of 5 consecutive business days without the consent of the employer, whichever occurs earlier.

Credit Card Information

Name:

Credit Card Number:

Credit Card Type (Visa/Mastercard/Etc):

Verification Code:

Date of Expiry (Month / Year):

Billing Address:

Shipping Address:

Document to be shipped:

Weight:

Document Value:

Mode of Shipment (next day air? Next day 1st delivery? 2-day?):

Email ID:

Contact Phone Number:

Additional Information (If any):