

RINKER CENTER for INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

F-1 students who are currently authorized for OPT authorization based on completion of a Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) field, as defined by DHS, may be eligible for a **one-time only** 17 month extension of OPT.

In order to be eligible for this extension, students applying for this benefit must:

- already be on OPT based on a STEM-eligible degree
- have fewer than 90 days of unemployment
- be employed by, or have a job offer from, an employer who is registered in the E- Verify employment verification system
- hold an appropriate degree in one of the DHS-approved STEM fields
- not have previously been approved for a 17 month extension of OPT
- submit the OPT application to USCIS prior to the expiration date of the current post-completion OPT (USCIS must receive the application before the expiration date on the current EAD)

Materials required for the OPT STEM extension application:

\square Completed and signed "application for 17 month extension of OPT (DHS designated STEM fields only)
□Completed and signed Form I-765 (see "Hints" below)
□Two, color, passport-style photographs (see "Guidelines" below)
□Copy of the front and back of your current I-94 card
□Copy of your passport identity page
□Copy of the front and back of your current OPT card
□Check or money order for \$380, payable to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security"
□ Copy of new I-20 from RCIP, with recommendation for OPT extension (see application on page 2)
□ Evidence that your degree meets the STEM degree/major requirements

ONLY ONE of the following must be submitted with your application:

- Official transcript
- Copy of the diploma that shows your degree level and program of study

You are required to send the I-765 and supporting materials yourself to the appropriate USCIS address. Please be sure to keep a copy of everything that you submit. The application should be filed with the USCIS Service Center that has geographic jurisdiction over the address you list on the I-765. See the I-765 instructions for the appropriate address.

Hints for filling out Form I-765 – download form here download instructions here

Item #3	We advise that you use the address where you will be 4 months from the date you apply.	
Item #9	Use your U.S. Social Security Number.	
Item #10	This is the 11 digit number on your most recent I-94 card.	
Item #11	Include your current OPT information.	
Item #14	UCIS wants to know what your status was the last time you entered the U.S. For most	
	students applying for OPT, it is "F-1 Student".	
Item #15	This must be "F-1 Student".	
Item #16	(c)(3)(C)	
Item #17	Degree = your degree level and major; Employer's name as listed in E-Verify; Employer's	
	E-Verify Identification Number	

Guidelines for the "Two Passport Style" photos

- Photos should be taken within the last 30 days prior to the extension application.
 - Photographs used for U.S. passport applications meet all photo requirements for USCIS



Application to Receive a new I-20 for a STEM extension

Complete and email this form to a BSU Foreign Student Advisor to receive an I-20 for your STEM Extension application. Ball State will mail the new I-20 to your current U.S. address.

Last name:	First name:	
University ID #:	Email address:	
Current address:		
Degree and major that you completed at BSU:	·	
Current OPT end date (from your EAD):		
Employer's name as listed in E-Verify:		
Employer's E-Verify Company Identification N	umber:	
Employer's address:		
By signing below, you verify that you unde regulatory requirements:	erstand and agree to adhere to the following DHS	
employment for practical training in your m 2. Your current or future employer is enrolled i 3. You have not been unemployed for more th 4. You will report: any change in your address by emailing moving, each time that you move; any change in the name OR the employer must also be enrolled the loss of your job at any time 5. You will "check in" with Mrs. Peggy Dixon with during the OPT extension from the start date 6. Your employer agrees to notify the Rinker Concept Designated School Official at 765-285-371 your departure from the job. 7. You will be required to provide information a form (Form I-765). 8. Your OPT will end if you accrue a total of 12 you transfer to another school or change yell affirm that I understand the information provide.	in E-Verify. In an 90 days. Ing to Mrs. Dixon at pmdixon@bsu.edu within 10 days of the address of your employer (be advised that any new end in E-Verify!); e during your OPT authorization. In an email titled "STEM OPT validation" every six months the listed on your new OPT card; Center for International Programs (fax to the attention of the 10) in the event of the termination of your employment or about your employer's E-Verify status on the application 20 days of unemployment (beginning from April 8, 2008), if	