



Auburn University at Montgomery
Office of Global Initiatives

PO Box 244023
Montgomery, AL 36124

STEM Extension

The 12-month limit on F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) will be extended by 17 months, for a total of 29 months, for bachelors, masters, or doctoral degrees in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) field that is on the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List. This list can be found at:

http://www.nafsa.org/Resource_Library_Assets/Regulatory_Information/DHS_STEM_Designated_Degree_Program_List_2012/

To be eligible for the 17 month extension you must:

- have successfully completed a bachelor's master's, or doctoral degree in a field on the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List, from a SEVIS-certified college or university.
- be currently participating in a period of standard OPT based on a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree on the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List, working for a U.S. employer in a job directly related to the student's major area of study.
- have a job offer from an employer registered with the E-Verify employment verification system.
- Have not previously received a 17-month OPT extension after earning a STEM degree.

APPLICATION PACKET

1. \$380.00 personal check or money order made payable to Department of Homeland Security (DO NOT abbreviate)
2. Form I-765 – typed is preferred, but legible printing is acceptable. The I-765 form can be found on the following website: www.uscis.gov . The Form I-765 should indicate code (c)(3)(C) at item 16, and item 17 must contain the requested information on the student's degree and the employer's E-Verify Company or Client Identification Number.
3. I-20 recommending the STEM extension.

Additional information:

- Students who timely file an application for the 17-month OPT extension will be able to continue employment while the extension application is pending, until a final decision on the I-765 or for 180 days, whichever comes first.

- The employer must agree to report the termination or departure of the student to Global Initiatives or through “any other means or process identified by DHS.”
- All students on 17-month OPT extension are required to report to the Global Initiatives any change of legal name, residential or mailing address, employer name, employer address, and/or loss of employment.