

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

International Enrollment & Services

STEM OPT 24-month Extension Application Guide

Important Note

International Enrollment & Services (**IES**) provides general guidance on the STEM OPT application process. While we make every attempt to ensure we provide students with the most up-to-date information available, USCIS may change its interpretation of these policies, procedures, regulations, and eligibility requirements at any time. IES **is not** responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from USCIS.

A STEM OPT application to USCIS is **your** own personal application. **You alone** are responsible for timely filing with full documentation, understanding F-1 rules regarding <u>STEM OPT</u>, and properly maintaining F-1 status.

Please note that this tutorial provides guided recommendations, and all images used are samples. Information contained within should not be considered legal advice.

Application Guidance

- STEM Requirements
- Required Documents
- Document Formatting Requirements
- Degree Completion Requirements
- Quick Tips
- Online Application Overview
- Online Filing Reminders

Understanding the STEM Requirements

- STEM eligible degree list can be found <u>here</u> under 'Current STEM list'
- Meets STEM eligibility requirements (details on our <u>STEM OPT webpage</u>)
- Employer must meet USCIS <u>E-verify</u> and other <u>employment</u> requirements

It is your responsibility to understand the eligibility requirements for STEM by reviewing our website and the information provided by <u>USCIS</u>

e-File Application Documentation

- Form I-983 (completed together with your employer) this is NOT uploaded to the online application
- Form I-765 (this is obtained from the online application)
- One passport-style color photograph of you taken recently and not used before
- Digital copy of your passport picture page
- Digital copy of your most recent F-1 visa (or I-797C approval notice if status was changed in US)
- Digital copy of your electronic Form I-94 OR digital copy of your paper Form I-94 (front and back)
- Digital copy of your unofficial full transcript that shows your name
- Digital copy of all previous EAD cards (front and back) that have been issued to you, if applicable
- Evidence of all previous CPT & OPT authorizations (needed for the "Additional Information" section)
- Digital copy of your STEM diploma
- Digital copy of NEW I-20 with STEM OPT Recommendation
- Credit card or ACH payment for the filing fee

Document Format

The online form requires several document uploads.

Format requirements for uploads:

- Photos: JPEG or PNG
- Documents: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- Max file size: 6 MB per file
- English translations required for any foreign language documents
- No encrypted or password-protected files

Special Note About Degree Completion

- USCIS expects you to be able to show your current diploma in your STEM OPT application.
- It is our interpretation that students must finish their most recent degree to be eligible to apply for the STEM extension. This is true even for students applying based on a previous degree at another level.
- If you applied for OPT based on coursework completion, you are expected to complete all of your degree requirements (defense, revisions, paperwork, etc.) prior to your OPT expiring.
- Failing to finish all degree requirements <u>prior</u> to the end of your OPTauthorized employment period could result in your losing the STEM opportunity.

Quick Tips

- Online form is designed to work with all browsers, but Chrome is the preferred browser.
- Your answers are automatically saved as you work.
- You can begin the form and return to it later.
- Drafts are saved for 30 days from the last time you worked on the form.
- **DO NOT** enter "N/A", simply leave fields that don't apply to you blank
- Have all your STEM OPT documents, including your STEM OPT I-20, readily available in digital format
- Changes to the online form cannot be made after payment and submission.
- Technical support for the online form is available through a USCIS account or by sending a message through the <u>USCIS online help form</u>.

e-File Application Process Overview

- Review and understand the STEM requirements and expectations on the <u>USCIS website</u> and our <u>STEM OPT webpage</u>
- 2. Prepare all application materials (using this step-by-step tutorial)
- 3. Create or Login to your <u>USCIS Online Account</u>. If you applied for post-completion OPT online in the past, you will already have an account
- 4. Submit the STEM OPT Extension Request e-form (see <u>STEM OPT</u> webpage for details).

e-File Application Process Overview

- 6. Receive your new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation (you will receive this via email). Print and **sign** the STEM OPT I-20
 - Digital student signatures are not accepted
- 7. Begin to fill out the online application through your USCIS account. Choose the c(3)(C) STEM Extension category.
- 8. Upload the ***NEW*** STEM OPT I-20 (signed by you—ink signature), along with any supporting documents to the online application
- 9. Submit the application and pay the filing fee

Filing Reminders

- Pick <u>ONE</u> method to apply for STEM OPT. Either apply online OR through mail <u>DO NOT</u> apply both ways
- Your STEM OPT application <u>SHOULD NOT</u> be submitted to USCIS more than 90 days prior to the end date on the postcompletion OPT EAD card
- Your STEM OPT application <u>MUST</u> reach the USCIS within <u>60 days</u> of the date your new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation was issued and before the expiration of your current post-completion OPT EAD
- If approved, the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card will be sent directly to you at the address you provided to USCIS. USPS <u>will not</u> forward the EAD to another address once shipped. Once you receive the EAD card, you are authorized to work on STEM OPT between the start and end dates listed on the card
- As long as you file timely (i.e. prior to the expiration of the current EAD card) for a STEM OPT Extension, you may continue employment while the application is pending (up to 180 days) until a final decision from USCIS is made
- You <u>MUST</u> have proof that you completed all of your degree requirements <u>BEFORE</u> your STEM OPT period begins. You will
 need to provide this proof within your STEM OPT application
- Understand the fees for the I-765 filing. Premium processing is now available for OPT applications, if needed.

1-983 Guide

This section will provide you with guidance for completing the I-983

We recommend reviewing the Studyin-the-States Form I-983 Overview

NOTE: You <u>and</u> your current employer will complete the form (details in the following slides)

Form I-983 Overview

STEP 1 - Download fillable PDF Form I-983 here: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub/additional-resources/form-i-983-overview

STEP 2 - For detailed instructions regarding how each field should be completed, please review the Form I-983 instructions on the Study in the States Form I-983 Overview and the sample I-983 on our STEM OPT webpage.

STEP 3 - Note who is responsible for completing each section of the Form I-983:

- Sections 1 and 2: Completed by Student
- Sections 3 and 4: Completed by Employer
- Section 5: Completed by Student and Employer
- Section 6: Completed by Employer

Leave the Evaluation of Student Progress and Final Evaluation of Student Progress on page 5 blank at this time

Submit the complete I-983 via the <u>STEM</u> <u>OPT Extension Request</u> <u>Form</u>

Visit the <u>STEM OPT</u> <u>webpage</u> for the STEM Request tutorial

	TRAINING PLAN FO	OR STEM OPT ST	UDENTS
Science, T	echnology, Engineering & Math	ematics (STEM) Option	nal Practical Training (OPT)
	SECTION 1: STUDENT INFO	ORMATION (Complete	d by Student)
Student Name (Sumame/Primary N	lame, Given Name):	Student Email Addr	966
Name of School Recommending STEM OPT	Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned	SEVIS School Code digit suffici	of School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3
Designated School Official (DSO) h	Name and Contact Information	Student SEVIS ID No.	STEM OPT Requested Period (mm-8d-yyyy): From: To
Qualifying Major and Classification	of Instructional Programs (CIP) Co	de:	
Level'Type of Qualifying Degree:		1900	
Date Awarded (mm-dd-yyyy):			
Based on Prior Degree? Ye	s [] No		
Employment Authorization Number	1		
2.5			
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Form I-983: Student Section 1

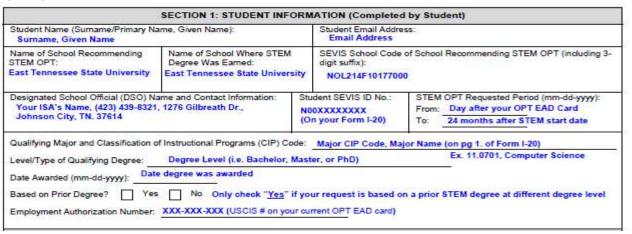
Your Designated School Official (DSO) is your International Student Advisor (ISA)

• ISA contact information can be found here

Sample I-983 is on the STEM OPT website

Before signing Section 2: Student Certification, you need to ensure **all** the information you provided in Section 1 is accurate.

Your name should match your passport



Form I-983: Employer Section

Your employer will complete Section 3 and will sign Section4

Note: The start date of employment is during the STEM period. This is the date the STEM OPT training will begin with the employer. **IT IS NOT THE ORIGINAL DATE YOU BEGAN WORKING AT THE COMPANY DURING THE POST-OPT PERIOD.** In other words, this should not be a past date.

If your employment start date at the company will begin after the STEM period already started, enter the future date.

Example for this scenario:

STEM period start date: 05/05/2024

Start date at employer during the STEM period: 05/16/2024

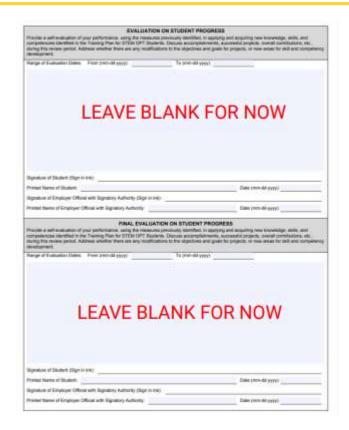
Date to write here: 05/16/2024

Employer Name: Employer/Company Name		Street Address: Employer/Company Address	Su	te:
Employer Website URL: Employer/Company Website		City:	State:	ZIP Code
Employer ID Number (EIN): EIN Number (9 digits)	Number of Full-Time Employees in U.S.: # of FT Employees in the U.S.	North American Industry Class NAICS Code https://www.census.gov/naid		S) Code:
OPT Hours Per Week (must be at least 20 hours/week): Working Hours per Week	Compensation: A. Salary Amount and Fr	equency: Enter information		
Start Date of Employment (mm-dd-yyyy): STEM OPT Start Date	B. Other Compensation 1.	Type and Estimated Amount or Va	alue):	
	2			
	4.			

Form I-983:

Note: If working for a staffing firm or 3rd party, review the "<u>STEM OPT Employer</u> Requirements and Responsibilities" page to learn about bona fide employment.

Page 5 is **meant to be left blank** at this time. It is only filled out during the 12 month and 24 month evaluation, or when ending work with an employer



I-765 Online Application

This section will guide you through the I-765 online application process

Before you begin this process, be sure that you have <u>all</u> the required documentation on hand (i.e., <u>STEM OPT I-20</u> & <u>I-983</u> completed by you & your employer)

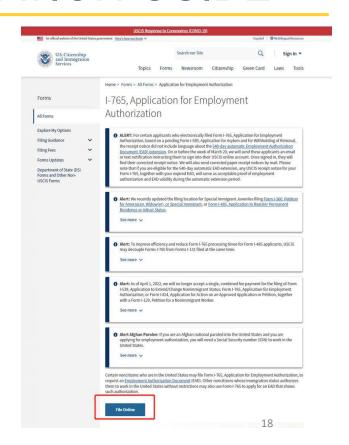
FORM I-765: ONLINE APPLICATION GUIDE

Go to USCIS https://wwww.uscis.gov/I-765 and read the provided instructions.

 Following this guide <u>does not</u> guarantee approval of your OPT by USCIS & <u>should</u> <u>not</u> be construed as legal advice

USCIS recommends using the latest version of Google Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Firefox, or Internet Explorer 11

Click "File Online"



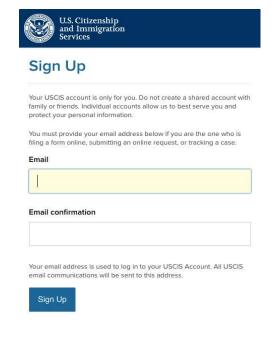
Create Account

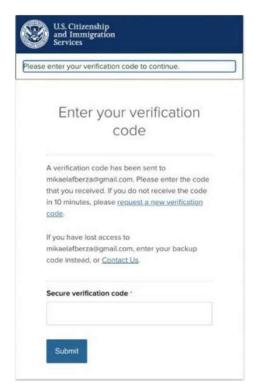
Visit https://myaccount.uscis.gov/

Create your account

A USCIS Account confirmation email will be sent to you. Follow the instructions in the email to confirm your account.

It is important that you timely check your Inbox and/or other folders for the email with instructions on confirming your account.





Your Account

Click on myUSCIS, then File a form online

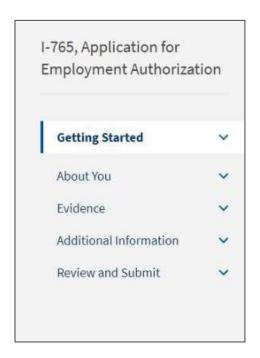




I-765 Application

The online application has multiple sessions to complete. These sections are:

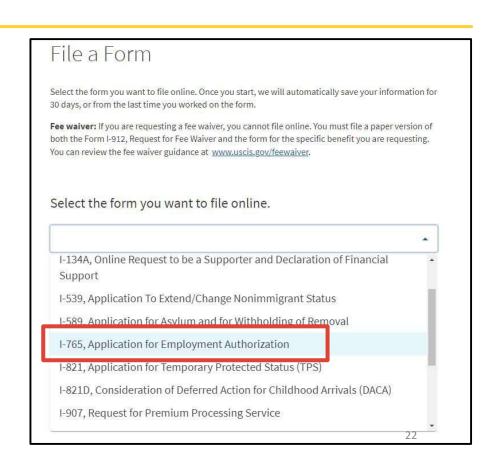
- Getting Started section
- About You section
- Evidence section
- Additional Information section
- Review and Submit section
 - Form Filing Fee section



Getting Started

Select the "Application for Employment Authorization (I-765)" as the form you want to file online

Carefully review <u>all</u> of the information provided on the screen about the Form I-765

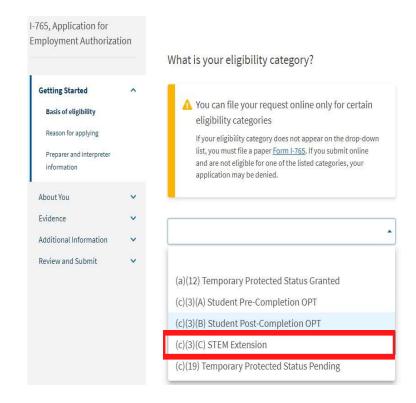


Getting Started: Eligibility Category

STEP 4 - Review the form overview and privacy notice information

STEP 5 - Select the correct employment eligibility category

STEM Extension is c(3)(C)



Getting Started: Degree & Employer

STEP 6 - Type the degree level and CIP code for the STEM degree (CIP code is listed on page 1 of your I-20) in "What is your degree?"

Type in the name of your employer's company name, **EXACTLY**, as it is shown in E-Verify.

Type the company's E-Verify number

NOTE: The E-Verify number is <u>different</u> from the EIN number required on the form I-983; E-Verify numbers are generally four to seven digits long

What is your de	agree?
What is your er Verify?	mployer's name as listed in E-
identification r	mployer's E-Verify company number or a valid E-Verify clied ification number?
0	Next

OPTIONAL: Premium Processing

STEP 7: USCIS provides the option for you to have your OPT application adjudicated within 30 calendar days from the date of request.

Adjudication could be an approval, request for evidence, rejection, or denial - it **DOES NOT** guarantee you approval.

Premium processing IS NOT mandatory. This is a personal decision you need to make based on your situation. You should carefully review all information the USCIS Premium Processing webpage and the normal USCIS Processing Times page before making your decision.

IF YOU CHOOSE YES, NOTE THE IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT THE PAYMENT AFTER APPLICATION SUBMISSION!

Would you like to request Premium Processing Service? Premium Processing Service guarantees that USCIS will take one of several possible actions (issue an approval notice, a denial notice, a notice of intent to deny, or a request for evidence) on your Form I-765 within 30 days. The fee for Premium Processing Service for Form I-765 is \$1,500. If you request premium processing, you will be asked to complete Form I-907 after you sign your Form I-765. You will then be able to pay for and submit both forms at the same time. Yes

	uld you like to request Premium Processing vice?
poss	nium Processing Service guarantees that USCIS will take one of several ible actions (issue an approval notice, a denial notice, a notice of intent eny, or a request for evidence) on your Form I-765 within 30 days.
The	fee for Premium Processing Service for Form I-765 is \$1,500.
907	u request premium processing, you will be asked to complete Form lafter you sign your Form I-765. You will then be able to pay for and nit both forms at the same time.
0	Yes
0	No
	Form I-765 and Form I-907 will be submitted together. After you sign Form I-765, the form will be locked. You will not be able to make any changes to the form once it is locked. You will immediately be directed to Form I-907 and will be able to pay for and submit both forms after you provide your signatures.

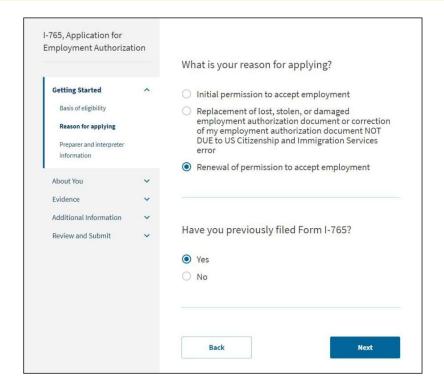
Getting Started: Reason for Applying

STEP 8: Select the reason you are applying

Select "Renewal of permission to accept employment"

STEP 9: Select "Yes" for "Have you previously filed Form I-765?".

Use the **Additional Information** section of the online I-765 to provide details of your post-completion OPT and any other previous I-765 submissions if applicable.

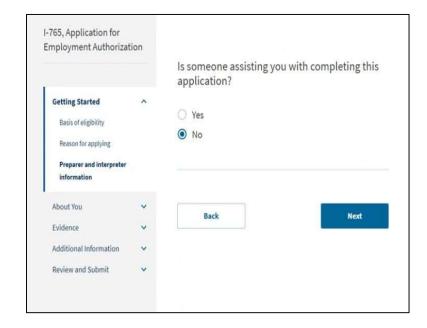


Getting Started: Preparer

STEP 10: Answer "No" to "Is someone assisting you with completing this application?" unless an attorney, preparer, or interpreter is helping you file this application.

If you select **Yes**, the form will prompt you to provide information about the interpreter or preparer who is assisting you.

Note: Your ISA or other ETSU personnel are not considered an attorney, preparer, or interpreter

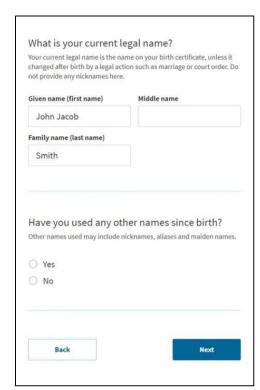


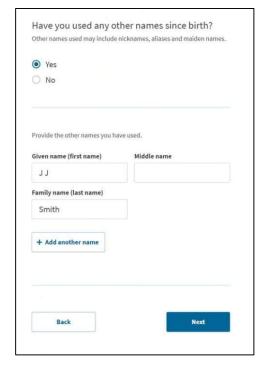
About You: Name

STEP 11: Enter your name as shown on your most recent passport

 If you have a middle name, we suggest writing both your first and middle name in the in the "Given Name" box

If you have used other names, either formally or informally, please say "Yes" and enter them on the application. This includes maiden names or nicknames

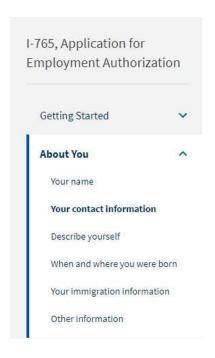




About You: Contact Information

Provide your US phone number and personal email address

We recommend using your personal email address, as you will lose access to your ETSU email after graduation



Daytime telep	one number	
Mobile telepho	ne number (if any)	
This is the	same as my daytime tele <mark>p</mark> hor	ne number.
Email address		

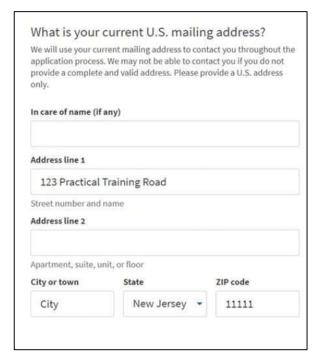
Mailing Recommendations

- EADs are considered government documents that cannot be forwarded by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).
- Your U.S. Mailing Address This is the address where you will receive your application receipt, approval notice, and STEM OPT EAD.
- If you will move from your current residence in <u>less than 5 months</u>, you should use the U.S. address of a reliable friend or relative who can receive the card for you.
- <u>DO NOT USE</u> campus or University mailing addresses, as it will become inactive after graduation.
- Attempting to change the address midway through the STEM OPT application process can cause delays and be extremely disruptive, resulting in lost, or returned STEM OPT EADs.
- Alternatively, you may wish to consider using a U.S. Post Office address (known as a P.O. Box) if that is how you would
 prefer to receive your mail.
- Prior to completing your U.S. mailing address, verify your address with USPS: https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction_input
- Your U.S. Physical Address should be the address where you reside at the time of application. This address should match
 the address listed in your SEVIS record.

About You: Mailing Address

STEP 12: Write a U.S. mailing address where you will be able to receive documents for the next 3 to 4 months. This should **NOT** be the IES office address or other ETSU department address.

This does not necessarily need to be your current address; if it is <u>not</u> your current address, you can write the full name of the person whose address you are using in the "In care of name" box



About You: Physical Address

Select "No" if your physical/residential address is different than the mailing address you listed in the prior section

 Your current physical address should match the address listed in your SEVIS record.



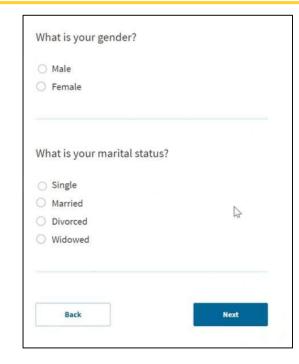
About You: Biographical Information

STEP 13: Fill out your biographical information throughout the next section of the application

IMPORTANT

Be sure to enter your date of birth in **month/day/year** format. Incorrect date of birth formatting is one of the most common EAD card errors.

NOTE: errors caused by incorrect information provided on Form I-765 will require an additional filing fee.





About You: Citizenship & Immigration Information

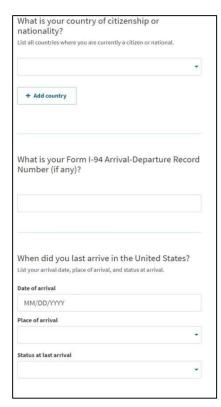
STEP 14: Continue to fill out your immigration information, using your I-94 and passport(s)

 To view and print your I-94 go to: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/

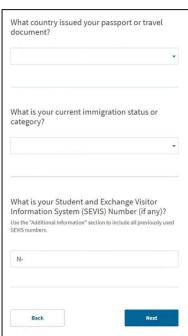
If you entered the U.S. on another status other than F-1 and completed a change of status with USCIS, write your last entered status for "Status at last arrival."

Your current immigration status should be "F-1 student"

Enter your current SEVIS ID number. Your SEVIS ID is located at the top left corner of your I-20. Use the "Additional Information" section of the application to provide any previously used SEVIS ID numbers, if applicable







About You: Other Information

STEP 15 - Enter the USCIS # from your EAD card into the "What is your A-Number?" question

Your USCIS Online Account Number will prepopulate if you have already used your USCIS Online Account before.

Check "I do not have or know my USCIS
 Online Account Number" if this is the first time you are using your USCIS Online Account.

Id	o not have or know my A-Number.
A-	
What	is your USCIS Online Account Number?
Providir manage filed ce	ng your unique USCIS Online Account Number (OAN) helps us e your account. You may already have an OAN if you previously crtain paper forms and received an Account Access Notice in the ou can find the OAN at the top of the notice; it is not the same as

About You: Social Security Number

STEP 16: Select "**Yes**" and enter your Social Security number.

 If you do not have an SSN, see the next slide before selecting a response.

Select "No" to "Do You want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card?"



About You: Social Security Number

If you **do not** have an SSN, answer **No**.

You may choose to allow the SSA to issue you an SSN. Note, SSNs are required for employment in the US. If you choose not to allow the SSA to issue you an SSN now, you will need to apply for one later.

Indicating **Yes** requires agreement to Consent for Disclosure and the birth names of your father and mother.

Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to you?
○ Yes
No
Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card?
Yes
○ No
⚠ You must agree to the Consent for Disclosure If you answer "Yes", you must also answer "Yes" to the Consent for Disclosure.
Consent for Disclosure: I authorize disclosure of information from this application to the SSA as required for the purpose of assigning me an SSN and issuing me a Social Security card.
Yes
○ No

Evidence

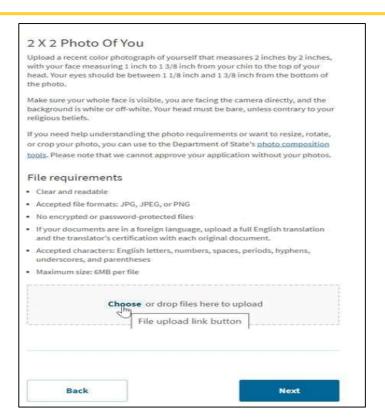
- Scan and upload clear and legible copies of required documents.
- Refer to the Document Formatting slide in this deck for upload requirements, including file size and file naming.
- List of required documents:
 - Recent US passport-style photo
 - Current I-94
 - Current EAD card (front and back)
 - Official transcript for eligible STEM degree
 - Institution accreditation, if applicable
 - Previously authorized CPT or OPT I-20s, if applicable
 - New I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation on page 2

Evidence: Photos

STEP 17: Upload a recent color passportsized photo that meets the <u>US passport</u> <u>specifications</u>

Example of Acceptable Passport Photos

Caution: **Do not** use the same photo used with other applications or other documents such as your visa, passport renewal, or previous OPT/EAD application.



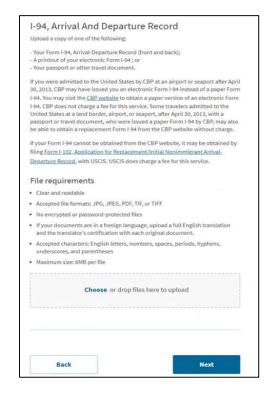
Evidence: I-94

STEP 18: To view and print your digital I-94 go to: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/

If you have a paper I-94, you must obtain a clear image of it and upload it to the application

DO NOT upload the Travel History

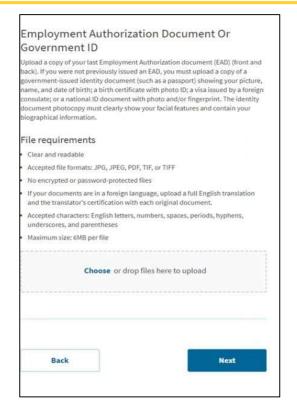
NOTE: if you changed your status to F-1 while inside the United States (through a USCIS I-539 form), then your I-94 will be located on the bottom of your I-797 F-1 approval notice



Evidence: EAD Card or Government ID

STEP 19: Upload the following:

- 1) Upload your last EAD card (front and back)
- 2) Image of your most recent passport. You only need to upload the 1 page showing your biographical information and picture of yourself. The bottom numbers (Machine Readable Zone) must be visible.
- 3) Image of your F-1 visa. If you do not have a F-1 visa, upload your I-797 F-1 approval notice.
 Canadian students will not have F-1 visas.
- 4) ALL previous EAD cards, front and back, regardless of degree level



Evidence: Previous I-20s

STEP 20: Upload a copy of all **PREVIOUSLY** issued CPT or OPT I-20s.

 If you are not sure or think you are missing an old I-20, contact your international advisor.

If you **did not** have CPT or other OPT authorization in the past, skip this step.

Post-Completion CPT Or OPT

Upload evidence of any previously authorized CPT or OPT and the academic level at which it was authorized.

File requirements

- · Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF, or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Accepted characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- · Maximum size: 6MB per file

Choose or drop files here to upload

Evidence: STEM OPT I-20

STEP 20: PAUSE! Do you have the STEM OPT I-20?

 If you <u>did not</u> receive the STEM OPT I-20, contact your international advisor.

Upload your new STEM OPT I-20 with the STEM OPT recommendation on page 2.

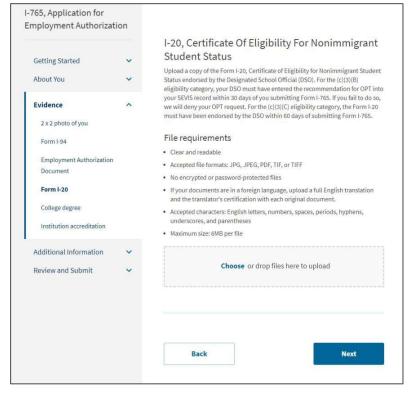
DO NOT upload any other I-20 here—only upload the new STEM

Ensure you have **printed and signed** the STEM OPT I-20 on the correct line on page 1.

• Digital or electronic student signatures <u>are not</u> accepted.

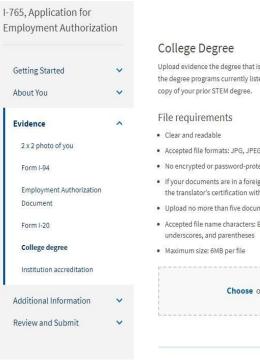
DO NOT submit the I-765 without your new STEM OPT I-20!

Submit the I-765 <u>within 60 days</u> of IES recommending STEM OPT in your SEVIS record.



Evidence: Degree & Transcripts

STEP 21: Upload the images of your diploma and recent transcripts (that notates your earned degree) on this page



Upload evidence the degree that is the basis for the STEM OPT extension is in one of the degree programs currently listed on the STEM Designated Degree Program List or a

- · Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- · No encrypted or password-protected files
- · If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- · Upload no more than five documents at a time
- · Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens,

Choose or drop files here to upload

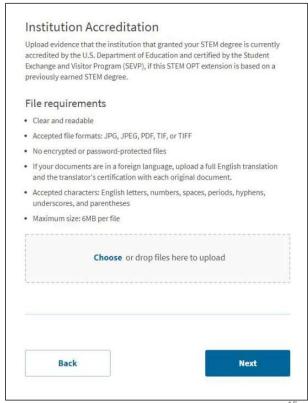
Evidence: Institutional Accreditation

STEP 22 - Institution Accreditation

If you are applying for STEM based on a prior degree (i.e. a degree that is <u>different</u> from the one you used to apply for your most recent post-completion OPT), you will need to provide 1) proof of the institutional educational accreditation and 2) proof of the institutional SEVP accreditation of the school that awarded you that diploma. This is very rare.

If this does NOT apply to you, there is nothing to upload here.

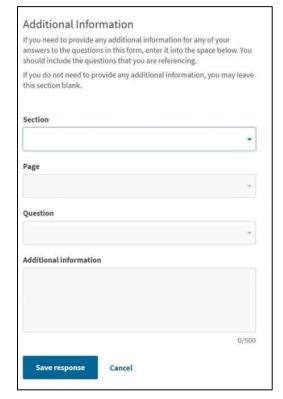
If this applies to you, please contact your International Student Advisor



STEP 23 - If you need to provide any additional information for any of your answers to the questions on the application, enter it into the "Additional Information" section. You should include the questions that you are referencing (Section, Page, Question, etc).

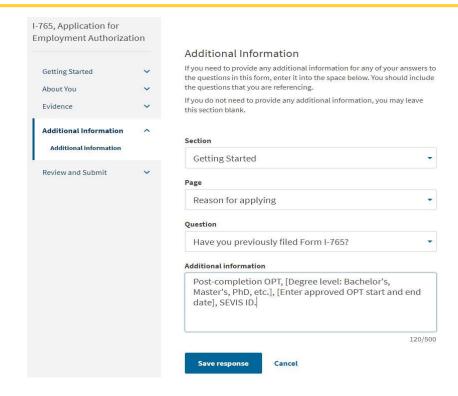
If you do not need to provide any additional information, you may leave this section blank.

Examples shown on the next slides



Example 1: Previous OPT authorization

- Section: Select Getting Started
- Page: Select Reason for applying
- Question: Select Have you previously filed Form I-765?
- Additional information: Enter OPT authorization, degree level, dates of authorization, and SEVIS ID.
- Add additional information for any additional submissions of the I-765 application.



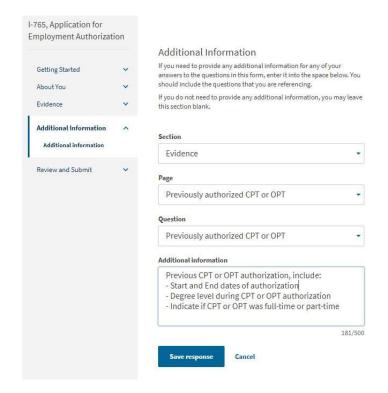
Example 2: Details of eligible STEM degree

Section: Select Getting Started

• Page: Select Basis of Eligibility

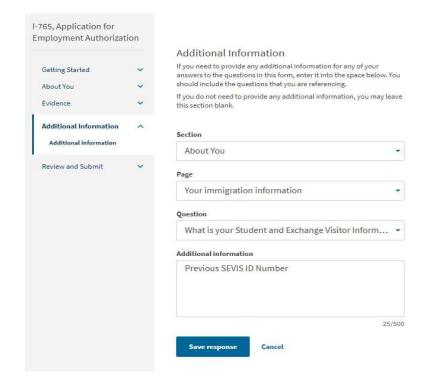
Question: Select Degree

 Additional information: You may wish to provide the name of your major or degree as it is listed on your official transcript if you feel it is helpful.



Example 3: Previous SEVIS ID number(s)

- Section: Select About You
- Page: Select Your immigration information
- Question: Select What is your Student and Exchange Visitor Information (SEVIS) Number (if any)?
- Additional information: Enter previous SEVIS ID number, name of associated institution, degree level, and program dates.



Review Application

Review any system alerts or warnings and make any needed corrections.

Changes <u>cannot</u> be made after the form is submitted.

Check your application before you submit

We will review your application to check for accuracy and completeness before you submit it.

We encourage you to provide as many responses as you can throughout the application, to the best of your knowledge. Missing information can slow down the review process after you submit your application.

You can return to this page to review your application as many times as you want before you submit it.

Your fee



Refund Policy: USCIS does not refund fees, regardless of any action we take on your application, petition or request, or how long USCIS takes to reach a decision. By continuing this transaction, you acknowledge that you must submit fees in the exact amount and that you are paying the fees for a government service.

Alerts and warnings



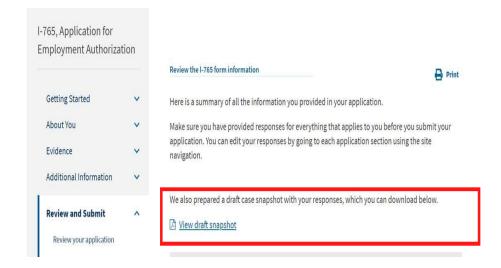
Review Application: Summary

Your application summary

Review responses and ensure all required fields are completed.

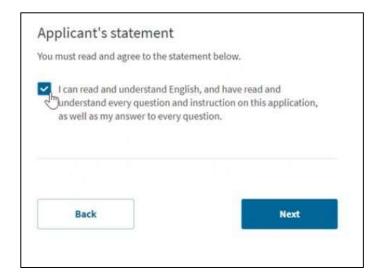
A form summary can be printed.

A PDF of the I-765 form completed with your responses and a summary of uploaded evidence can be generated by clicking **View draft snapshot**.



Statement

Confirm you understand English and all questions on the form.

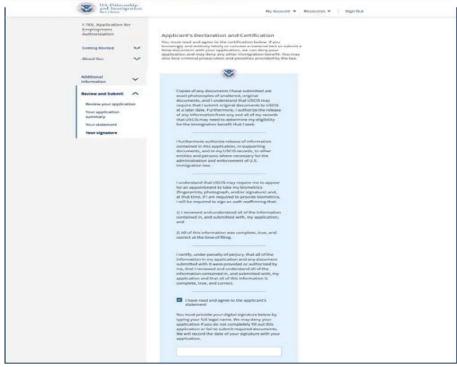


Signature

Read and confirm you have read and agree to the applicant's statement.

Provide your digital signature by typing your **full legal name**.

You will not be able to make any changes once signed!



Payment

IMPORTANT: Once your payment has been successfully received, your application will be filed!!

 You <u>cannot</u> change or edit your I-765 application responses after payment has been submitted. The USCIS fee is non-refundable.

Once you are ready, the system will direct you to pay.gov, a US government payment site.

 You will be able to pay the application fee using a US credit / debit card or through an ACH transfer (direct withdrawal) from your US checking account.

Make sure to double-check that you have entered your debit/credit card number correctly.



Payment: Without Premium Processing

After you agree to the applicant statement, you will be directed to <u>pay.gov</u>, a secure government portal

Check the fee amount: https://www.uscis.gov/i-765

Pay by ACH withdrawal, or debit/credit card

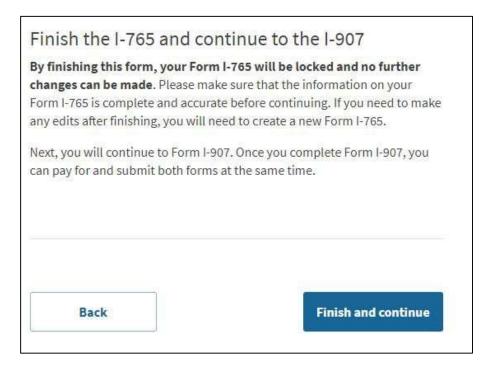
- ACH withdrawals require bank and routing information, and must be from a US financial institution
- Call your credit card company to alert them of this upcoming charge, to prevent blocked payment processing

Enter payment information

When you hit continue, the payment for your application will be submitted and the "I-765 Application for Employment Authorization" is considered filed immediately

Payment: With Premium Processing

If you selected "**YES**" to premium processing, review the message about your application and additional I-907 fee



After Submission

You will receive your USCIS receipt number shortly after paying and submitting your case.

Click Go to my cases to see case information including status, history, and documents.

USCIS processing times vary but expect about 90-100 days.

You may continue working in the US for up to 180 days while your I-765 is pending with USCIS as long as you submitted your application no later than your post- completion OPT end date.



After Submission

Helpful features of USCIS online account

Your receipt notice is available to print. A hardcopy will be mailed to the mailing address entered in the I-765.

Additional notices available through account:

- Biometrics notice if applicable
- Request for Evidence (RFE)
- PDF of submitted I-765 form
- Decision notice

Track the status and history of your application. Upload additional evidence not requested by USCIS such as copies of all previously issued I-20s.

Sign up through account profile to receive case updates via email or text.

