

# Preparing your 24-month STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT) Extension Application

Rutgers Global–International Student and Scholar Services

global.rutgers.edu

### STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS Notice

Please note that this tutorial provides guided recommendations. All images used are samples. Information contained within should not be considered legal advice. Please remember that it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure the application materials you submit to USCIS are completed correctly.

This tutorial may change over time; please do not download this document, and instead access it newly each time at our website here with a <u>cleared cache</u>: <u>global.rutgers.edu/OPT-Extensions</u>

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS

### Overview

- **STEP 1** Review and understand the STEM requirements and expectations on the <u>USCIS website</u> and <u>our STEM OPT page</u>
- STEP 2 Prepare all application materials (using this step-by-step tutorial)
- **STEP 3** Submit STEM OPT Extension e-form request via RGlobal Portal to request your new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation
  - **Note** you can request an optional review of your application materials using this e-form, as well
- STEP 4 Receive your new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation (you will receive an email saying it's ready)
- **STEP 5** Mail your completed application (including a copy of the new I-20 you just received) to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS

### **Important Reminders**

#### **BEFORE YOU APPLY, PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:**

- Pick ONE method to apply for STEM OPT. Either apply online OR through mail **DO NOT apply both ways**
- You MUST use the most updated I-765 form, which you can find at <a href="https://www.uscis.gov/i-765">https://www.uscis.gov/i-765</a>. Be sure the barcode appears on the bottom of each page after printing
- Your STEM OPT application should NOT be mailed to the USCIS more than 90 days prior to the end date on post-completion OPT EAD card
- Your STEM OPT application MUST reach the USCIS within 60 days of the date your new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation was issued and before the expiration of your current post-completion OPT EAD. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAIL YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION!
- If approved, the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card will be sent directly to you at the address you provided on the Form I-765 or AR-11. USPS
  will not forward the EAD to another address once shipped. Once you receive the EAD card, you are authorized to work on OPT between the start and end
  dates listed on the card
- Understand the fees for the I-765 filing and premium processing, if needed
- You must be inside the U.S. to apply for STEM OPT
- 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 MUST have proof that you completed all of your degree requirements BEFORE your STEM OPT period begins. You will need to provide this proof within your STEM OPT application

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 1**

Review and understand the STEM requirements

Some F-1 students may be eligible for an extension of their initial 12 months of OPT if they have received a degree in an eligible STEM field or have a pending or approved H-1B application. If you are unsure if your degree is STEM-eligible, please <u>contact an ISA</u>.

There are different reporting requirements for STEM OPT, and the job experience must meet specific criteria.

It is critical that you understand the eligibility requirements for STEM by reviewing our website and the information provided by DHS.

Rutgers STEM OPT page

STEM Extension Reporting Requirements and Important Reminders

Study in the States, STEM OPT

USCIS, Optional Practical Training for STEM Students (STEM OPT) - includes information on staffing agencies

International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials

For the STEM OPT recommendation on I-20, submit an e-form request along with form I-983 and a photocopy of your diploma via RGlobal portal in Step 2

For the STEM OPT application. Include 2-13 in your complete application to USCIS.

- 1. Form I-983 (completed together with your employer) this is NOT mailed to USCIS
- 2. Check, money order, or G-1450 (recommend to type)
- 3. Form G-1145 (recommend to type)
- 4. Form I-765 (recommend to type)
- 5. Two passport-style color photographs of you taken recently and not used before
- 6. Copy of your passport picture page
- 7. Copy of your most recent F-1 visa
- 8. Copy of your electronic Form I-94 <u>OR</u> photocopy of your paper Form I-94 (front & back)
- 9. Photocopy of all previous EAD card(s) (front and back)
- **10.** Unofficial full transcript that bears your name and shows your degree award date
- **11**. Photocopy of your STEM diploma
- 12. Evidence of previous CPT & OPT authorizations, if applicable (i.e. copies of previous I-20s with CPT authorization on pg. 2)
  - 13. \*Copy of your NEW I-20 with STEM OPT Recommendation

\* You will receive (13) new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation after submitting the e-form request along with form 6-983 and a copy of your diploma via RGlobal portal.

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Special Note about Premium Processing

You may choose to apply for Premium Processing of your application for an **additional fee**. If you wish to do this, please follow the additional steps outlined by USCIS on their website here: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/forms/all-forms/how-do-i-request-</u> <u>premiumprocessing</u>

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2**

Prepare all application materials: Form I-983

# **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 previously 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. This is especially important for students eligible for STEM OPT, as USCIS expects you to be able to show your current diploma in your STEM OPT applications.

Failing to finish all degree requirements prior to the end of your OPT authorized employment period could result in your losing the STEM opportunity.

Please make an appointment with an adviser if you have any questions about this option.

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-983

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

**STEP 2** - For detailed instructions regarding how each field should be completed, please review the ICE form instructions and the Study in the States Form I-983 Overview.

**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 (along with your completed Request form and a photocopy of your diploma) via RGlobal portal in Step 2 of this tutorial

	SECTION 1: STUDENT INF	ORMATION (Complete	d by Student)
Student Name (Sumame/Primary Na	ame, Given Name):	Student Email Addre	iss:
Name of School Recommending STEM OPT:	Name of School Where STEN Degree Was Earned:	SEVIS School Code digit suffix):	of School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3-
Designated School Official (DSO) Na	ame and Contact Information:	Student SEVIS ID No.:	STEM OPT Requested Period (mm-dd-yyyy): From: Ta:
Qualifying Major and Classification o	f Instructional Programs (CIP) C	ode:	
Date Awarded (mm-dd-yyyy):			
Based on Prior Degree? Yes	No		
Employment Authorization Number:			
	CECTION 2. C		
I have reviewed, understand,     I will notify the DBO at the ear delineated on this Plan.     Iunderstand that the Departm determines are not engaging not, complying with this Plan;     My practical training opportun     I will notify the DBO at the ear limited to, any change of Emp from the amount previously as that I engage in a STEM training the stress of Streteert.	and will adhere to this Training R lisest available opportunity II bet ent of Homeland Security (DHS n OPT in compliance with the law Ry is directly reliated to the STEM lisest available opportunity regar loyer identification Number reau loyer identification Number reau loyer definition on the Ban that is not is ng opportunity, and any decrease	Jan for STEM OPT Students ieve that my employer is not ave deny, revoke, or termi v, including the STEM OPT - I degree that qualifies me for ting non a corporate restru- ting non a corporate restru- do a reduction in hours we ie in hours below the 20-hou	("Plan"): providing me with appropriate training as nate the STEM OPT of students whom DHS of students who are not, or whose employers are the STEM OPT extension; and or deviations from this Plan, including but not chard, any applicant dicensase in hours per week rs-per-week minimum required under this rule.
I have reviewed, understand,     I will notly the DSO at the ear delineated on this Plan.     I understand that the Departm determines are not engaging not, complying with this Plan.     My practical training opportun     I will notly the DSO at the ear limited to, any change of Emp from the amount previously as that I engage in a STEM training signature of Student:	and will adhere to this Training B liest available opportunity (I I bel ent of Homeland Security (DHS n OPT in compliance with the law by is directly related to the STEM liest available opportunity regar loyer identification Number resu- limited on the Plan that is not it ng opportunity, and any decreas	Jan for STEM OPT Students leve that my employer is not any deny, revoke, or termi w, including the STEM OPT i I degree that qualifies me for sing any material changes to thing tion a corporate restru- d to a reduction in hours w le in hours below the 20-hou	("Plan"): providing me with appropriate training as nate the STEM OPT of students whom DHS of students who are not, or whose employers are the STEM OPT extension; and or deviations from this Plan, including but not sturing, any northrivial reduction in compensation reduct, any significant dicenses in hours per week rs-per-week minimum required under this rule.
I have reviewed, understand,     I will notify the DBO at the ear delineated on this Plan.     I understand that the Departm determines are not engaging in not, complying with this Plan.     My practical training opportun     I will notify the DBO at the ear limited to, any change of Emp from the amount previously as that I engage in a STEM traini Signature of Student:	and will adhere to this Training E liest available opportunity (F) bel ent of Homeland Security (DHS n OPT in compliance with the law by is directly related to the STEM fiest available opportunity regar liberitification Number result binitied on the Plan that is not bin ing opportunity, and any decrease	Jan for STEM OPT Students leve that my employer is not w, including the STEM OPT + i degree that qualifies me for Sing norn a corporate restru- dit to a reduction in hours w e in hours below the 20-hou	("Plan"): providing me with appropriate training as nate the STEM OPT of students whom DHS of students who are not, or whose employers are the STEM OPT extension; and or deviations from this Plan, including but not during, any northrival reduction in compensation orided, any significant decrease in hours per veek rs-per-week minimum required under this rule.

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2**

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-983

**STEP 4** - Complete the Form I-983, paying attention to these important reminders:

a. SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT:

Undergraduate: NEW214F00147002 Graduate: NEW214F00147000 RBHS-Piscataway: NEW214F00884001 RBHS-Newark: NEW214F00884000 RBHS-Scotch Plains: NEW214F00884003

b. Your Designated School Official (DSO) is your International Student Adviser (ISA). Please add all contact information below into this box (you may need to handwrite if it does not fit with typing):

Your ISA's name

- 848-932-7015
- isss-students@global.rutgers.edu 180 College Ave, New Brunswick NJ 08901

To confirm who is your ISA, review the "International Student Services Liaison List" on our website.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement OMB APPROVAL NO. 1653-0054 EXPIRATION DATE: 5/31/2025

#### TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Optional Practical Training (OPT)

SECTION 1: STUDENT INFORMATION (Completed by Student)					
Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name):			Student Email Address:		
SMITH, JOHN		EMAIL@EMAIL.COM			
Name of School Recommending STEM OPT:	Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned:		SEVIS School Code o digit suffix):	f School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3-	
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY		NEW214F001470	02	
Designated School Official (DSO) Nar	me and Contact Information:	Stu	dent SEVIS ID No .:	STEM OPT Requested Period (mm-dd-yyyy):	
	2015			From: 06/15/2020	
VISER NAME   848-932	-7015			To: 06/14/2022	
NSS-SIUDENISUGLUBAL.R	UIGERS.EDU	NU	5		
Qualifying Major and Classification of	Instructional Programs (CIP) Co	de:	CHEMISTRY 40.0	501	
Lovel/Type of Qualifying Degree: Ma	CMED LC				
Level/ type of Qualitying Degree. MA	SIER'S				
Date Awarded (mm-dd-yyyy): 05/17/2019					
Pased on this begice?					
Employment Authorization Number:	123-456-789				
	SECTION 2: ST	JDE	NT CERTIFICATION		
I declare and affirm under penalty of p information and belief. I understand th any false document in the submission	I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.				
I certify that:					
1. I have reviewed,understand,an	d will adhere to this Training Pla	n for	STEM OPT Students ("	Plan");	
2 Juvill potify the DSO at the parti	ost available opportunity if I belig	wo th	at my amployar is not r	rouiding mo with appropriate training on	

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# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-983

#### (CONTINUED)

c. The STEM OPT Requested Period begins the day after your current EAD card ends and continues up to 24 months later, one day before.

d. Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code is found on page 1 your I-20, next to your major/program of study. Write it exactly as it appears on the I-20.

e. The date your degree was awarded is physically written out on your diploma. See slide 31 for more information.

f. "Based on Prior Degree" is asking whether you are applying for this 24 Month Extension based on a previously earned STEM degree. If you are applying for this 24 Month Extension based on your most recent Rutgers degree, check "No". If you write "Yes", please alert your ISA.

g. Employment Authorization Number is the 9-digit 'A' (Alien) number/USCIS # on your Employment Authorization Document (EAD card).

h. Sign the form. Information on acceptable signatures is <u>found</u> <u>here (click)</u>.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement OMB APPROVAL NO. 1653-0054 EXPIRATION DATE: 5/31/2025

#### TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Optional Practical Training (OPT)

	SECTION 1: STUDENT INF	ORN	IATION (Completed	by Student)
Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name):			Student Email Address:	
SMITH, JOHN		EMAIL@EMAIL.C	COM	
Name of School Recommending STEM OPT: RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned:		SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT (includ digit suffix):	
Designated School Official (DSO) Name and Contact Information: Stu [ADVISER NAME] 848-932-7015 ISSS-STUDENTS@GLOBAL.RUTGERS.EDU N(			0	STEM OPT Requested Period (mm-dd-yyyy):           From:         06/15/2020           To:         06/14/2022
Qualifying Major and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code:       CHEMISTRY 40.0501         Level/Type of Qualifying Degree:       MASTER 'S         Date Awarded (mm-dd-yyyy):       05/17/2019         Based on Prior Degree?       Yes         X       No         Employment Authorization Number:       123-456-789				
SECTION 2: STUDENT CERTIFICATION I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form. I certify that:				
2. Livill potify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity if Lealieve that my employer is not providing me with appropriate training as				

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: Form I-983

#### (CONTINUED)

#### Continue with the rest of the form. A few reminders:

i. Start date of employment during the <u>STEM period</u>. This is the date the STEM OPT training will begin at 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 start date of work at the company will begin **<u>after</u>** 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** 

SECTION 3: EMPLOYER INFORMATION (Completed by Employer)					
Employer Name:		Street Address: Street Address:		Suite:	
Employer Website URL:		City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Employer ID Number (EIN):	Number of Full-Time Employees in U.S.:	e North American Industry Classification System (NAIC			
OPT Hours Per Week (must be at least 20 hours/week): Start Date of Employmen/mm-dd-yyyy):	Compensation: A. Salary Amount and Fre B. Other Compensation (1 1. 2. 3. 4.	Lequency:			

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-983

#### (CONTINUED)

j. Page 3 - note that a fellow F-1 student cannot be your supervisor while on STEM OPT. See here for more details.

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

k. 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.

SECTION 5: TRAINING	PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS (Completed by Student and Employer)
Student Name (Sumame/Primary Name, Giv	en Name):
Employer Nama:	
	EMPLOYER SITE INFORMATION
Site Name:	Site Address (Street, City, State, ZIP):
Name of Official:	Official's Tife:
Official's Email:	Official's Phone Number:

during this review period. Add development.	<ul> <li>Training Plan for STEM OPT Students dress whether there are any modification</li> </ul>	Discuss accomplishments, is to the objectives and goal	successful projects, overall contributions, etc., is for projects, or new areas for skill and competence
Range of Evaluation Dates:	From (mm-dd-yyyy):	Te (mm-dd-yyyy):	
	LEAVE BL	ANK FO	R NOW
Signature of Student (Sign in	ina):		
Formed Name of Student	d with Cinemians Authority (Cine in Inte		Date (mm-oo-yyyy);
argnature or Employer Officia	with algorithmy Authority (sign in ink):		
Printed Name of Employer O	ncial with Signatory Authority:		Date (mm-dd-yyyy);
Provide a self-available competencies (identified in the curing this review period. Ad- development. Range of Doskorion Dales:	Internet Print the Steph OPP Students areas whether there are any modification from (mm-dd-yyyy):	To (mm-dd-yyyy):	ng and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and successful projects, overall contributions, witc., is for projects, or new areas for skill and competence OR NOW

International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: check, money order or G-1450

#### FEE USING A CHECK, G-1450 FORM, OR MONEY ORDER

#### **CHECK**

The check must be drawn from a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency

Make the check payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security.** Spell this name out; DO NOT use USDHS or DHS or other abbreviations

Add your SEVIS ID number, phone number and the phrase "Fee for I-765" in the memo area

Include the date and be sure to sign your name with a pen

DO NOT write on the back of the check. If your check is a "starter check" and does not show any name/address in the top left corner, we instead suggest using a money order (see next slide)

John Smith 1025
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
ORDER OF U.S. Department of Homeland Security \$ XXX.00
Four hundred Ten and 00/100 Dollars 🔂
SEVIS ID: NOO
Phone #: 123-456-7890
MEMO Fee for I-765 John Smith
-::00000000: :::00000000: 1025

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2**

Prepare all application materials: check, money order or G-1450

#### **OR MONEY ORDER**

Each money order is different. Follow the instructions provided at the time of purchase or ask the institution providing the money order to explain how to fill in the necessary information. Money orders are sold at United States Post Offices and sometimes drugstores, like Walgreens. They cost a small fee.

The money order must be drawn on a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency

Make the money order payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security.** Spell this name out; DO NOT use USDHS or DHS or other abbreviations

If a recipient address is needed, write the address where your application will be mailed - <u>https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses</u>

If your address is needed, write the mailing address you wrote for #5a-c on page 2 of the I-765

Add your SEVIS ID number, phone number and the phrase "Fee for I-765" in the memo area

DO NOT write on the back of the money order

Keep the money order receipt for tracking purposes



International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: check, money order or G-1450

#### OR G-1450

If you prefer to pay the filing fee by credit card, follow the instructions to complete form **G-1450** : <u>https://www.uscis.gov/g-1450</u>

Be sure to write out the full expiration date of your credit card i.e. "04/2024", not just "4/24"

### You MUST sign the G-1450 with **black pen ink** after printing, not digitally/on the computer

If your credit card becomes unusable before USCIS can charge it, you may experience delays or a rejection. This includes the card being stolen or lost

Please alert your credit card company that you are expecting this charge to be made to your card – USCIS will only try to process the credit card ONCE. If it does not work the first time, **your application will be rejected** 

Check that all of your card information is typed correctly (i.e. numbers are in right order, the dates are correct)

Applicant's/Petitioner's/Requester's Information (Full Legal Name)						
Given Name (First Name)	Middle Nar	ne (if any)	Family	Family Name (Last Name)		
John			Smith	Smith		
Credit Card Billing Information (Cr	edit Card H	Iolder's Name as it Aj	ppears or	the Card)		
Given Name (First Name)	Middle Nar	ne (if any)	Family	Family Name (Last Name)		
John			Smith			
Credit Card Holder's Billing Address:						
Street Number and Name 123 Training Ave				Apt. Ste. Flr.	Number 2G	
City or Town				State	ZIP Code	
New Brunswick			NJ 🗾	08901		
Credit Card Holder's Signature and Co	ntact Inform	nation:				
Credit Card Holder's Signature	n Smith	ļ				
Credit Card Holder's Daytime Telephone	Number	nber Credit Card Holder's Email Address				
1234567890		john.smith@rutgers.edu				
Credit Card Information		•		1		
Credit Card Number           1234         1234         1234	rd Type: 🗙 Visa MasterCard		Authorized Payment Amount			
Credit Card Expiration Date (mm/yyyy) 08/2020		America     Discove:	n Express r			

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: Form G-1145

**STEP 1** - Download fillable PDF Form G-1145 here: <u>http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/g-1145.pdf</u>

**STEP 2** - Complete form providing your name, email address and phone number

Complete this form and clip it on top of the first page of your immigration form(s).				
Applicant/Petitioner Full Last Name	Applicant/Petitioner Full Firs	t Name	Applicant/Petitioner Full Middle Name	
Smith	John James			
Email Address		Mobile Phon	ne Number (Text Message)	
johnsmith.rutgers@gmail.com	541	011555010	01	

Use this form to request an email/text notification from USCIS when your application is accepted by the lockbox facility

This notification <u>does not</u>replace the paper I-797C receipt you will receive in the mail

You must have the paper receipt in order to travel

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

**STEP 1** - Read official instructions for completing Form I-765: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/i-765</u>

**STEP 2** - Download fillable PDF Form I-765 here: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/i-765</u>. Answers should be typed. When unable to type, please write answers very neatly with a black pen

Do not fill out the top portion of page 1. Please leave this blank

Note the instructions printed on page 1, explaining to write "N/A" or "None" for questions that do not apply to you for the entire I-765



International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

STEP 3 - Be sure to check off "I am applying for: 1.c. Renewal of my permission to accept employment in Part 1

**STEP 4** – If you have used other names on other documents, either formally or informally, please write them on questions 2 – 4, as needed. This includes maiden names or nicknames. If not, write N/A for each box

Part 1. Reason for Applying	Other Names Used
<ul> <li>I am applying for (select only one box):</li> <li>1.a. Initial permission to accept employment.</li> <li>1.b. Replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged employment authorization document, or correction of my employment authorization document NOT DUE to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) error.</li> <li>NOTE: Replacement (correction) of an employment authorization document due to USCIS error does not require a new Form I-765 and filing fee. Refer to Replacement for Card Error in the What is the</li> </ul>	Provide all other names you have ever used, including aliases, maiden name, and nicknames. If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in Part 6.         Additional Information.         2.a. Family Name (Last Name)         SMITH         2.b. Given Name (First Name)         J. R         2.c. Middle Name (Last Name)         N/A
<ul> <li>Filing Fee section of the Form I-765 Instructions for further details.</li> <li>1.c. X Renewal of my permission to accept employment. (Attach a copy of your previous employment authorization document.)</li> </ul>	3.b. Given Name (First Name)       N/A         3.c. Middle Name       N/A         4.a. Family Name       N/A
Part 2. Information About You         Your Full Legal Name         1.a. Family Name (Last Name)         SMITH         1.b. Given Name (First Name)         JOHN JAMES         1.c. Middle Name N/A	4.b. Given Name (First Name)       N/A         4.c. Middle Name       N/A
Form I-765 Edition 10/31/22	Page 1 of 7

International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

**STEP 5** - Complete the rest of Part 2 of the form, paying attention to these important reminders:

a. Write in a U.S. mailing address in Part 2, question 5.b-e. where you will be able to receive documents for the next three or four months. **This should NOT be the ISSS office address or department address** 

This does not necessarily need to be your current address; if it is not your current address, write the full name of person whose address you are using in 5.a., answer "No" to question 6, and provide your current address in question 7.a-d.

We do not recommend using to your on-campus address. You may instead choose to purchase a P.O. box.

If you are unable to type in these boxes, please write neatly in black ink instead, or try a different browser/after downloading and saving to desktop

Par	t 2. Information About You (continued)	
You	r U.S. Mailing Address	
5.a.	In Care Of Name (if any)	
	JANE JONES (if none, write N/A in this box)	
5.Ъ.	Street Number and Name 456 PRACTICAL STREET	
5.c.	Apt. Ste. Fir. NONE	
5.d.	City or Town NEW BRUNSWICK	
5.e.	State NJ V 5.f. ZIP Code 08901	
6.	Is your current mailing address the same as your physical address?	
	NOTE: If you answered "No" to Item Number 6., provide your physical address below.	If you ansv
U.S	Physical Address	question 6
7.a.	Street Number N/A	7.c., and 7
7.b.	Apt. Ste. I'Ir. NONE	for 7.b. an
7.ç.	City or Town N/A	
7. <b>d</b> .	State NJ 🔽 7.e. ZIP Code NONE	

f you answered "Yes" to question 6, please write 'N/A" for questions 7.a., 7.c., and 7.d.; write "NONE" for 7.b. and 7.e.

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

**STEP 5** - Complete the rest of Part 2 of the form, paying attention to these important reminders:

b. Enter your 9-digit 'A' number for question 8, found on your Employment Authorization Document (EAD card)

c. Answer "Yes" to question 12 and attach a copy of your previous EAD card

d. If you applied online before, write your USCIS Online Account Number. Otherwise, write "NONE"

e. Write in your SSN information

Oth	her Information		13.b. Provide your Social Security number (SSN) (if known).
8.	Alien Registration Number	r (A-Number) (if any) 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	14. Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card? (You must also answer "Yes" to Item Number 15 Consent for Disclosure, to receive a card.)
9.	USCIS Online Account N	umber (if any) E	NOTE: If you answered "No" to Item Number 14., skip to Part 2., Item Number 18.a. If you answered "Yes" to Item Number 14., you must also answer 'Yes" to Item Number 15.
10. 11.	Gender Marital Status 🔀 Single 🗌 Married	Male Female	15. Consent for Disclosure: Furtherize circlesure of information from this application to the SSA as required for the purpose of assigning net in SSN and issuing me a Social Security set: Yes No NOTE: If you answered "Yes" to Hem Numbers 14, -15, provide the information requested in Hem
12. 13.a	Have you previously filed Has the Social Security A officially issued a Social S	Form J-765? X Yes No dministration (SSA) ever Security card to you? X Yes No	Numbers 16.a 17.b.       Father's Name       Provide your father's birth name.       16.a 17.b.       16.b. Givee Name (First Name)       16.b. Givee Name (First Name)
	NOTE: If you answered skip to Item Number 14. Number 13.a., provide th	"No" to Item Number 13.a., If you answered "Yes" to Item	Mother's Name Provide your mother's birth name.
	Number 13.b.	Your Country or Countries of Citizer Nationality	ane M/A
		List all countries where you are currently a ci If you need extra space to complete this item, provided in Part 6. Additional Information.	tizen or national. use the space
		18.a. Country FAKELAND	
		18.b. Country	
bau	ated Sept 2022		21

International Student and Scholar Services

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2**

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

d. Obtain your I-94 number and write in guestion 21.a.; to view and print your I-94 go to: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/

e. Write in the airport code, city, and state for question 23

f. 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 type for question 24

f. Enter your current SEVIS ID number in guestion 26. Your SEVIS ID is located at the top left corner of your I-20. Use Part 6. "Additional Information" to provide any previously used SEVIS ID numbers, if applicable

g. Fill in (c)(3)(C) in question 27 for STEM extension optional practical training (1<sup>st</sup> c is lower case, 2<sup>nd</sup> C is upper case)

h. In question 28.a-c., provide your degree level and major (for example, Bachelor's English) and the requested information about your current employer. If it does not fit, abbreviate and add it as additional information on page 7

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

21.b. 21.e.	Passport Number of J123456	1 of Y	2 Your	<b>3</b> Мо	4 st R	5 6	7	9	0	•				
21.b.	Passport Number J123456	of Y	Your	Mo	st R	econt		_	•	0	0	L		
21.e.	J123456 Travel Document					eceni	ily J	ssue	d Pa	isspe	ort	L		
21.e.	Travel Document											h		
	TTO ACT TO CARDINETH	Nu	mber	(if	ацу	)							Inf	formation About Your Eligibility Category
	NONE												27.	Eligibility Category. Refer to the Who May File For
21.d.	Country That Issu	ed '	Your	Pas	spo	ort or	Tra	vel D	Doer	mer	nt			1-765 section of the Form 1-765 Instructions to determine the appropriate eligibility category for this application.
	FAKELAND											JI.		Enter the appropriate letter and number for your eligibil category below (for example (a)(8), (c)(17)(iii))
11.0	Expiration Data fo	T D		ent o	T.	enval	Da		uni d		2			(c)(3)(c
21.e.	(mm/dd/yyyy)	nr	asspo	ert o	NE I.		17	/20	32			1	28.	(c)(3)(C) STEM OPT Eligibility Category. If you
						01/		120						entered the eligibility category (c)(3)(C) in Item Numl
22.	Date of Your Last	Ar	rival	Into	o the	e Uni	ted	State	15, C	)n o				27., provide the information requested in item (vumber 28.a - 28.c.
	About (Introdu yy	, ,				01/	17	/20	22	_			28.a.	a. Degree MS CHEMICAL ENG
23.	Place of Your Las	t A	rrival	Int	o th	ne Un	ited	Stat	es				28.b.	b. Employer's Name as Listed in E-Verify
	EWR, NEWARK,	N	J											MAGICAL COMPANY
24.	Immigration Statu	s at	You	r I.	ast /	Arriva	al (i	or ex	am	ple,			28.c.	e. Employer's E-Verify Company Identification Number
i	B-2 visitor, F-1 st	lde	nt, or	no	stat	tus)					_			Valid E-Verify Client Company Identification Number
	F-1 STUDENT													125450
25.	Your Current Imm	igra	ation	Stat	tus (	or Cat	lego	ry (f	òr e	xam	ple,	L		
	B-2 visitor, F-1 str status or category)	ude	nt, pa	rol	ee, (	deferi	red	actio	n, 0	ť no		L		
Í	F-1 STUDENT											L		
~	5. 1 1 T 1		11		7. (			6				L		
26.	(SEVIS) Number	ang (if :	evis anv)	tor	Int	orma	tion	Sys	tem			L		
	(	•	N-C	01	23	4567	89					L		
		·	-											

Services

### STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

2

I. For questions 29 and 31.a. write NONE

k. Do NOT check the boxes for questions 30. or 31.b.

**STEP 6** - Complete Part 3 of the form, paying attention to these important reminders:

- a. Check response 1.a. "I can read and understand English, and I have read and understand every question and instruction on this application and my answer to every question."
- b. Fill out the rest of the contact information on page 4

c. Sign and date in question 7.a.-7b. Signature must be in **black pen ink** and **fit within box provided**. USCIS will not accept a stamped or digital name in place of a signature. For question 7.b., write the date out completely as mm/dd/yyyy, such as 03/17/2021

### d. You must be located inside of the U.S. to apply for an EAD card

Part 3. Applicant's Statement, Contact Information, Declaration, Certification, and Signature

**NOTE:** Read the **Penalties** section of the Form I-765 Instructions before completing this section. You must file Form I-765 while in the United States.

#### Applicant's Statement

NOTE: Select the box for either Item Number 1.a. or 1.b. If applicable select the box for Item Number 2

- 1.a. X I can read and understand English, and I have read and understand every question and instruction on the application and my answer to every question.
- 1.b. The interpreter named in Part 4. read to me every question and instruction on this application and my answer to every question in N/A

a language in which I am fluent, and I understood everything.

At my request, the preparer named in Part 5.
 N/A
 prepared this application for me based only upon

information I provided or authorized.

#### **Applicant's Contact Information**

- 3. Applicant's Daytime Telephone Number 123456789
- 4. Applicant's Mobile Telephone Number (if any)
- 5. Applicant's Email Address (if any) EMAIL@EMAIL.COM
- Select this box if you are a Salvadoran or Guatemalan national eligible for benefits under the ABC settlement agreement.

PI	olicant's Signature	
a.	Applicant's Signature	
٠	John Smith	
).	Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)	01/15/2022
) 1 Ih	TE TO ALL APPLICANTS: If you his application or fail to submit requi e Instructions, USCIS may deny you	do not completely fill red documents listed r application.
5		
er	4. Interpreter's Contact In tification, and Signature	formation,
er	4. Interpreter's Contact In rtification, and Signature ide the following information about the erpreter's Full Name	formation, te interpreter.
ar er	14. Interpreter's Contact In rtification, and Signature ide the following information about the erpreter's Full Name Interpreter's Family Name (Last Na	formation, te interpreter. me)
ar er	14. Interpreter's Contact In rtification, and Signature ide the following information about the expreter's Full Name Interpreter's Family Name (Last National N/A	formation, te interpreter. me)
ar er	<ul> <li>A. Interpreter's Contact In rtification, and Signature</li> <li>ide the following information about the prpreter's Full Name</li> <li>Interpreter's Family Name (Last National N/A</li> <li>Interpreter's Given Name (First National)</li> </ul>	formation, te interpreter. me) ne)
ar er	<ul> <li>14. Interpreter's Contact In rtification, and Signature</li> <li>ide the following information about the erpreter's Full Name</li> <li>Interpreter's Family Name (Last Name N/A</li> <li>Interpreter's Given Name (First Name N/A</li> </ul>	formation, ne interpreter. me) ne)
ar er	<ul> <li>Interpreter's Contact In rtification, and Signature</li> <li>ide the following information about the prpreter's Full Name</li> <li>Interpreter's Family Name (Last Name N/A</li> <li>Interpreter's Given Name (First Name N/A</li> <li>Interpreter's Business or Organization</li> </ul>	formation, te interpreter. me) ne) on Name (if any)

International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

**STEP 7** - Complete Parts 4 and 5 of the form, paying attention to these important reminders:

a. If a question does not apply to you in Part 4 and Part 5, type "N/A". If a question asks for a numerical response and does not apply to you, write "NONE"

Inte	reneator's Mailina Address	A	plication, if Other Than the Applicant		Р	art 5. Contact Information, Declaration, and
11110	Street Number	Pro	vide the following information about the preparer.		s	ignature of the Person Preparing this
5.a.	and Name NONE	Pr	eparer's Full Name		A (0	continued)
3.b.	Apt. Ste. Fir. NONE	1.a	Preparer's Family Name (Last Name)		P	Preparer's Statement
3.e.	City or Town N/A		N/A		7.	Lam not an attorney or accredited representative
3.d.	State 3.e. ZIP Code NONE	1.b	Preparer's Given Name (First Name) N/A			but have prepared this application on behalf of the applicant and with the applicant's consent.
3.f.	Province N/A	2.	Preparer's Business or Organization Name (if any)		7.1	b. I am an attorney or accredited representative and
i.g.	Postal Code NONE		N/A			my representation of the applicant in this case  extends  does not extend beyond the
3.h.	Country	Pr	eparer's Mailing Address			preparation of this application.
	N/A	3.a	Street Number and Name	Y		representative, you may need to submit a completed Form G-28. Notice of Entry of
Inte	rpreter's Contact Information	3.b	Apt. Ste. Flr. NONE			Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, with this application
4.	Interpreter's Daytime Telephone Number	3.e.	City or Town N/A			representation, and any opportunity
	interneter's Mobile Telephone Number (if and)	3.d	State 3.e. ZIP Code NONE		P	reparer's Certification
	NONE				By	y my signature, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I enared this application at the request of the applicant. The
б.	Interpreter's Email Address (if any)	5.1.	Province S/A		ap	plicant then reviewed this completed application and
	N/A	3.g.	Postal Code NONE		co	internet ine that he of she understands all of the information intained in, and submitted with, his or her application,
Into	reneator's Cortification	3.h	Country		ine the	cluding the Applicant's Declaration and Certification, a at all of this information is complete, true, and correct. I
Lorrti	ify under penalty of periuty, that:		87A		00	empleted this application based only on information that the
I am i	fluent in English and N/A	Pr	eparer's Contact Information			presin provided to the or eathorized the to contail or use.
which	h is the same language specified in Part 3., Item Number	4.	Preparer's Daytime Telephone Number		P	reparer's Signature
1.b., s everv	and I have read to this applicant in the identified language or question and instruction on this application and his or her		NONE		8.:	<ul> <li>Preparer's Signature</li> </ul>
answ	er to every question. The applicant informed me that he or	5.	Preparer's Mobile Telephone Number (if any)			N/A
she u applis	nderstands every instruction, question, and answer on the estion, including the Apolicant's Declaration and		NONE		8.	b. Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy) NONE
Certi	ification, and has verified the accuracy of every answer.	6.	Preparer's Email Address (if any)			
Inte	rpreter's Signature		N/A			
7.a.	Interpreter's Signature					
	NIA					

International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

STEP 8 - Complete Part 6:

- a. Add any past approved CPT information
- **b**. Add any past approved OPT information
- **c**. You have used a different SEVIS ID in F-1 status in the US
  - For example, if you attended school for a while, left the US to take a break from school, and returned with a new I-20, you would have a SEVIS ID from your first period of attendance that is different than your current SEVIS ID).

For each of the items listed above, complete **one box** in Part 6. We suggest using the following to complete the Page number, Part Number, and Item number, as this information is required specific to Category (c)(3)(C) (per the <u>I-765 instructions</u>). **Please see next page for a sample** 

Write your name for questions 1.a.-1.b, and your A-Number for question 2



International Student and Scholar Services

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

### Prepare all application materials: Form I-765

#### Page 3, Part 2, Item 27

- a. CPT: List all previous CPT authorizations
  - Employer's name, start& end date, PT/FT, degree level
  - Attach copies of previous I-20(s) with your previous CPT authorization(s)
- **b. OPT:** Please list your past OPT approvals
  - OPT Authorizations (as a title to the section)
  - Start date-End date; Degree Level (Bachelor, Master's, or PhD)

#### Page 3, Part 2, Item 26

c. Previous SEVIS ID's: Please list your other SEVIS ID's you have

used in the past.

- Previous SEVIS ID's (as a title to the section)
- SEVIS ID: N00.... Program start date- Program end date; Degree Level (Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD)
- **STEP 9** Remember to include all 7 pages of Form I-765 in your application to USCIS Last updated August 2022

Part 6. Additional Information	5.a.	Page Number 5.b. Part Number 5.c. Item Number
If you need extra space to provide any additional information within this application, use the space below. If you need more space than what is provided, you may make copies of this page to complete and file with this application or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print your name and A-Number (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the Page Number, Part Number, and Item Number to which your answer refers; and sime and date coach sheet.	5.d.	3 2 20 Previous SEVIS ID .N0000001234 .09/01/2011-05/15/2012 Bachelors
1.a. Family Name Smith	1	
(Last Name) I.b. Given Name (First Name)	]	
1.c. Middle Name N/A	6.a.	Page Number 6.b. Part Number 6.c. Item Number
2. A-Number (if any) ► A- 123456789		NONE NONE NONE
3.a. Page Number 3.b. Part Number 3.c. Item Number 3.c. 2	6.d.	N/A
3.d. CPT Authorization		
Apple, 1/5/2019 - 4/5/2019,		
FT, Master's		
5	7.a.	Page Number         7.b.         Part Number         7.c.         Item Number           NONE         NONE         NONE         NONE
	7.d.	N/A
4.a. Page Number 4.b. Part Number 4.c. Item Number		
4.d.		
OPT Authorizations		
_U5/15/2014-05/14/2015 Bachelors		

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: Two passport style photographs

#### **2 COLOR PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATIONS**

The color photographs must have a white to off-white background and be printed on thin paper with a glossy finish— do not mount or retouch

The photograph must be sized at 2 inches by 2 inches and must be in full color with a frontal view of your full face

The head height in the photograph should measure 1 inch to 1 3/8 inches from top of hair to bottom of chin

Eye height in the photograph should be between 1 1/8 inch to 1 3/8 inches from top of eyes to bottom of photo

Your head must be bare unless you are wearing headwear as required by a religious denomination of which you are a member

#### **Resources:**

Dept of State Photo Requirements <u>https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-</u> information-resources/photos.html



BACK

*John Smith A-Number: 123-456-789*  Photographs must be taken recently (within 6 months of the application date) and not been used before on another application (i.e. your visa or passport)

Using a pencil or felt pen, lightly print your name and Alien (A) Number on the back of the photo

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: Copies of other immigration documents

Include the following in your packet:

1) Image of your most recent passport. You only need to show 1 page showing your biographical information and picture of yourself. The bottom numbers (<u>Machine</u> <u>Readable Zone</u>) must be visible

**2) Image of your F-1 visa.** If you do not have a F-1 visa, include a copy of your I-797 F-1 approval notice. Canadian and Bermudian students will not have F-1 visas

**3) ALL previous EAD cards, front and back.** If you ever worked on OPT (pre or post), H-4 EAD, and/or J-1 Academic Training at any degree level







# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: Copies of other immigration documents

Include the following in your application packet:

**4) I-94 number.** To view and print your digital I-94 go to: <u>https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/</u>

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

**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

Make sure the images are clear and readable



09/17/200

Birth Date (Day Mo

STAPLE HERE

Services

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2**

Prepare all application materials: Unofficial Full Transcript

Visit my.rutgers.edu and click "Get My Grades" under the Academics tab.

NOTE - you must upload a recent transcript that notates your earned diploma!

- Use your NetID to log in and receive your unofficial transcript.
- **3** Print your unofficial transcript
- 4 RBHS students can get their transcripts at my.rutgers.edu under the banner "self-service" tab

Grades						□ ×
Fall 2020	NT	8. I ABC	D PEI	ΑΤΙΟ		D)
Major(s): HUMAN RESOL	JRCI	E MANA	GEME	NT		<i>()</i>
Course Title S	choo	ol Dept (	Course	Sect	Credits	Grade
Mng Rewards Systems	38	533	635	02	3	
Mng Global Workforce	38	533	665	02	3	
Degree Credits	Те	rm Avg			Cum A	vg
The Grades channel provides	offici m gr	al term g ades, p	irades. Diease	enter	the follo	owing
Semes	ster:	Fall		~		
4-digit Y	ear:	2020				
Your <u>Full Transcript</u> is also online.		Get My	Grades	]		

# STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: STEM Diploma



Take a picture/scan of your diploma to submit via the RGlobal portal in Step 3

Make a copy of your STEM diploma to submit with your application to USCIS

You may wish to upload both a copy of your paper diploma AND the official digital copy <u>offered by the</u> <u>Registrar</u>

Note the date your degree was awarded is written out on the diploma itself

### STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 2

Prepare all application materials: CPT authorizations



If you received CPT authorization at any degree level, you should include copies of pages 1 & 2 of the (previous) I-20s on which CPT authorization was shown

Add these copies to your application before mailing to USCIS

# Submitting STEM OPT I-20 Request

**STEP 1** - Login to the <u>RGlobal portal</u> with your NetID and password, you will find the STEM OPT Extension e-form request under 'F-1 Practical Training' menu. If you wish, you can have your STEM OPT application materials reviewed using this e-form. You may also <u>schedule an optional appointment with an ISA here</u>.

**STEP 2** - Complete the necessary fields in the e-form and upload the following documents to request a new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation via the RGlobal Portal:

a. completed I-983

b. copy of your diploma

\*\* Documents will not be accepted by email. All requests must be submitted via RGlobal portal.

RBHS Newark students: for next steps, please contact 973-972-6138 or isss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu

It can take up to <u>7 business days</u> to process a new I-20 which notes the STEM OPT recommendation on page 2 of the document

Missing or incomplete documents can delay your receipt of your new I-20. Please make sure you've prepared all required documents listed on this slide before submitting request for new I-20 via the RGlobal portal

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 4**

### Receiving your OPT recommended I-20

**STEP 1** - Look for an email confirming that your new I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation is ready. **The I-20 will be attached to the email** 

**STEP 2** - Review the STEM OPT I-20 and make sure all information on it is accurate. You will be given 24 months of STEM OPT. **Print and sign this I-20** with a pen and make a copy to mail with the STEM OPT application. Keep the original I-20

**STEP 3** – Carefully read the email for important guidelines and reminders

Department of Homeland U.S. Immigration and Cust	Security oms Enforcement	I-20, Certificate of Eligibility f OMB-NO. 1653-0038	or Nonimmigrant Student Status
SEVIS ID: EMPLOYMENT AUTHO	ORIZATIONS	NAME:	
SEVIS ID: EMPLOYMENT AUTHO TYPE	DRIZATIONS FULPART-TIME	STATUS START DATE	END DATE

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 5**

### Mail your completed application to USCIS

**STEP 1** – Review your application materials for correctness and completeness. Make a photocopy/take pictures of your entire application to keep for your own records. We suggest paperclipping your documents together instead of using any staples. Review USCIS's optional application checklist here: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/forms/optional-checklist-for-form-i-765-c3b-filings</u>

**STEP 2** - Select a carrier and request a tracking number so you know the application was received. Do NOT throw away your tracking information after delivery. **USICS does not receipt packages on weekends. Please be sure your package arrives on a weekday BEFORE your post-completion OPT period ends** 

Please review the <u>Direct Filing Addresses for Form I-765</u> page to see where you should file your application.

**STEP 3** – After mailing you should receive the official receipt notice at your mailing address. **If you do not get your receipt**, please view this USCIS webpage: <u>https://egov.uscis.gov/e-request/displayNDNForm.do</u>

# **STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS STEP 5**

Mail your completed application to USCIS

Please note that USCIS announced the ability to apply for OPT online

You can **EITHER** mail your application to USCIS **OR** apply online

### Do NOT submit an application both ways! You can only submit your OPT application through 1 method

Please decide if you will mail your application, **OR** if you will submit it online

### STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS Track your USCIS deliveries

You can track the status of your application through the Case Status Tracker: <u>https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/mycasestatus.do</u>

Closely review the "How to Track Delivery of Employment Authorization Document (EAD)" page from USCIS for important delivery information: <a href="https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/how-to-track-delivery-of-your-green-card-employment-authorization-document-ead-and-travel-document-https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/how-to-track-delivery-of-your-green-card-employment-authorization-document-ead-and-travel-document-ead-a

The United States Postal Service (USPS) offers a free service to help you digitally track your daily mail called **Informed Delivery.** This may be helpful in tracking your receipt notices and EAD card.

You can sign up for this service on their website here: <u>https://tem-informeddelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action</u>

Preview Incoming Mail Track Packages Secure Access Interact with your incoming mail iew gravscale images of the Check the delivery status of and packages on the secure. exterior, address side of letterpackages and when they're online dashboard. sized mailpieces scheduled to scheduled to arrive. arrive soon." Delivery Instructions Schedule Redelivery Manage Notifications Leave delivery instructions if you Missed a delivery? Set up email and/or text won't be home to accept a Schedule a package to be notifications to track the delivery status of your package(s) package. redelivered.

STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS

Rejections, Denials, and RFEs

### **REJECTED, DENIED, OR RFE APPLICATIONS**

If your application is rejected or denied by USCIS for any reason, or if you receive a Request for Evidence (RFE), please contact our office BEFORE you submit your RFE reply/new application, if time allows. You may need an updated I-20 from our staff.

Please let us know if you wish to have a second review of your application materials.

### IF YOU DO NOT GRADUATE AS EXPECTED

This will impact your OPT application! Please contact our office right away if you have already applied for OPT but then find out you did not meet the degree completion deadline as originally planned. You may be directed to withdraw your application. Our advisers will help you review your options.

### STEM OPT APPLICATION PROCESS Contact Us

### Email us:

New Brunswick - isss-students@global.rutgers.edu

RBHS - isss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu

### Join our QQA or make an appointment:

https://global.rutgers.edu/advising

### Call us:

- New Brunswick 848-932-7015
- RBHS 973-972-6138

### Join us for an OPT Chat Session:

•https://global.rutgers.edu/opt