STOCKTON
U N I V E R S I T Y

Office of Global Engagement

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101 Vera King Farris Drive | Galloway NJ 08205
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OPT STEM Extension Requirements

17 Months OPT STEM Extension is available to government-designated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degree holders for a total of 29 months of OPT. To view a full list of qualifying STEM Designated Degree Programs please visit the Immigration and Customs Enforcement website.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Students must have a STEM Designated Degree Program Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree
2. Students must be currently enrolled in an approved 12-months OPT period, working for the US employer in a job directly related to their major area of study
3. Students must have a job offer from an employer registered with E-Verify. It is the student's responsibility to ensure their employer is registered with E-Verify employment verification system.
4. Student must not have previously received a 17-month OPT STEM Extension
5. Student's DSO must recommend the 17-moth OPT STEM Extension after the review of the application has been completed
6. Student must file Form I-765, including a check or money order for $380 payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

When to Apply

Students may apply up to 120 days prior to their current OPT expiration date.
Please note: the USCIS must receive the OPT STEM Extension application within 30 days of the issuance of the new I-20.

How to Apply

Please submit the following documentation to the Office of Global Engagement:

1. OPT Extension Request Form
2. Copies of all previous and current I-20 forms (page 1 and 3)
3. Photocopy of passport

4. Photocopy of current I-94 (front and back)
5. Photocopy of current OPT/EAD card

Please submit the following to the USCIS Service Center:

1. Completed Form I-765 and the $380 application fee payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mail to:

U.S. Postal Service deliveries:
USCIS
PO Box 805373
Chicago, IL 60680

Express mail and courier deliveries:
USCIS
Attn: I-765 C03
131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60603-5517

Your EAD card will be sent to the address you have listed on the Form I-765. Please make sure that the address you are indicating on your Application for Employment is serviced by the USCIS Northeastern Regional Service Center.

Student Responsibility:

Students **must** report to their Designated School Official (DSO) within 10 day of any changes in:

– Legal name
– Residential/mailing address
– E-mail address
– Employer name
– Employer address

Note: The student **must** report to his/her DSO every 6 months to confirm all information listed above, even if there has been no change.

Remember: Student's legal F-1 status is conditional and depends upon student's employment during the OPT periods. Due to the conditions of the OPT students may not accumulate more that 120 of unemployment during the total 29 months of OPT time.

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OPT STEM Extension Request Form

Student's Name: _____

                              (last)   *(first)*

Z Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Major: _____ Degree Level: _____

Degree Completion Date: Month _____ Date _____ Year _____

Current OPT End Date: Month _____ Date _____ Year _____

Current U.S. Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Employer Name: _____

Employer E-Mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Employer Address: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____

Statement of Compliance

– I have maintained a lawful F-1 status throughout my studies at Stockton University
– My employment is directly related to my major STEM degree/field of study
– I have not previously received a 17-month OPT extension after earning a STEM Degree
– I understand that while I am on a 17-month STEM extension my employer MUST be registered with E-Verify
– I have read and understood the OPT STEM Extension application requirements and related information
– I understand that I am to consult with an attorney regarding the effects of changing to an employer who is not named on my Employment Authorization Document Form I-765

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____