



STEM OPT EXTENSION: STEP 2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER FILING WITH USCIS

While you are in an approved period of STEM OPT, you must report all changes to your employment, address or immigration status within 10 days of occurrence. Failure to report in a timely manner may result in the termination of your SEVIS record. Learn more about maintaining your status on STEM OPT and your reporting responsibility at global.arizona.edu/international-students/f-1-student-employment.

- ▶ **You must file the I-765 while in the United States.**
- ▶ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) must receive your application:
 - No later than the day before your OPT periods ends
 - No earlier than 90 days before your OPT period ends
 - Within 30 days of when your STEM OPT I-20 is issued by ISS
- ▶ To apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card), submit the documents below to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the following order (*front to back*).
 - Form G-1145** (uscis.gov/g-1145)
 - Application Fee** (uscis.gov/i-765)
 - Check or money order should be made payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
 - If you prefer to pay by credit card, include Form G-1450 (uscis.gov/g-1450)
 - Form I-765** (uscis.gov/i-765)
 - Review the form instructions, then type or print your answers in black ink (*your signature must be hand-written*)
 - Enter code (c)(3)(C) at item #27
 - You are responsible for the completion and accuracy of the I-765
 - Form I-94**
 - If you entered by air, access your electronic form at <https://www.cbp.gov/i94>.
 - If you entered the U.S. by land, you may have received a paper I-94 stapled in your passport or an electronic form.
 - Government-Issued Identity Document**
 - Copy of your last EAD (front and back)
 - 2 Passport-Style Photos**
 - For photo requirements, review the I-765 instructions (page 20, item C)
 - Photos must have been taken within 30 days of when you submit your application to USCIS



STEM OPT Recommendation I-20

- Print, sign and date 2 copies of the I-20 you receive by email
- Send one to USCIS and keep the other for your own use

Proof of STEM Degree

- Copy of diploma and transcript showing STEM degree

If your STEM eligibility is based on a degree earned before the degree for your current I-20, institutional accreditation is required.

- Submit evidence that the institution you earned the STEM degree from is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.

- ▶ Make a photocopy of your completed application before sending it to USCIS, for your records.
- ▶ Find the USCIS address for mailing your application at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses>.
- ▶ eShipGlobal (UEMS) offers an option for students to send OPT applications to USCIS offices. You can choose the carrier (UPS, FedEx, or USPS), what type of delivery (next day, 2-day, etc.), and ship at discounted rates (study.eshipglobal.com).

Instructions:

1. Go to study.eshipglobal.com to log in or create a free account.
 2. Select "OPT Application" or "Send Documents to USCIS."
 3. Enter your mailing information and select the correct USCIS location.
 4. Select the carrier you want to use, pay for shipping and print the label. Drop off your application at the nearest carrier location.
- ▶ Your application for STEM OPT extension does not have to be approved before your EAD expires. Based on a timely filed application, your OPT employment authorization will be automatically extended up to 180 days while your application is pending with USCIS. Your I-20 from ISS recommending the STEM OPT extension and the I-797 receipt notice from USCIS showing that your application was received prior to the expiration of your EAD are your documentation of your extended OPT employment authorization while your application is pending.