

International OPT

Optional Practice Training

Three types:

- Pre (Before degree is completed)
- Post (After graduation)
- STEM extension

Authorized for 12 months total after graduation

- 12 months after Bachelors
- 12 months after Masters. But if you get two Masters degree you only get one period of OPT
- Has to be related to major like CPT
 - You do not need a job offer at the time of OPT application
 - International Advisor at OIE approves
 - Gives you authorization and new I-20
 - Sends to USCIS - Customs and Immigration
 - Takes about 5-10 days for OIE to process. They print out I-20 and instructions to mail that and the package to USCIS WITHIN 30 DAYS
 - USCIS takes 90 DAYS TO PROCESS
 - They issue your EAD

Application process:

- Complete OPT e-form in iStart
- Complete I-765 paper
- Scan visa, passport, old I-20s, pictures, etc. list on i-start.
- Mail I-20, I-765 and

Travel and Visa issues:

If you don't have your EAD you can't get back into the country
YOU CAN ONLY RE-ENTER THE US IF YOU HAVE YOUR EAD CARD

You need:

- Valid passport
- Valid Visa Stamp
- Valid Travel Signature
- Unexpired EAD
- Proof you are returning to continue employment (Offer letter, EAD card, H-1B visa)

If the application is pending when you want to go home, if it's denied you cannot get back in without the EAD CARD

OPT TIMELINE:

1. Apply on i-Start 90 days before graduation (December 14, 2019).
Submit application September 10, 2019. They start processing on September 16
2. Start date has to be within the 60 day grace period after graduation.
(between December 15, 2019 and February 13, 2020 for fall graduates)
3. If you don't find a job within 90 days after the start date of your EAD you get deported. You can get your EAD without having a job, but you have to start within 90 days of receiving your EAD.
4. OIE needs to be updated on change of address, employment stuff.