

Applying for the 17-month STEM OPT Extension

- The applicant should file the I-765 with the USCIS Service Center with jurisdiction over the address where the applicant currently resides, not where the first I-765 for regular OPT was filed.
- Applicants may apply for the 17-month STEM OPT extension *anytime* during the regular period of post-completion OPT. USCIS *must receive* the application no later than the expiration date of the applicant's current OPT employment authorization. Applicants are encouraged to file early so they receive the new EAD before the end of the regular period of post-completion OPT.
- The new I-765 instructions state that a "copy of the degree" must be submitted for applications filed under (c)(3)(C). USCIS clarified that this could include:
 - Official transcripts
 - Unofficial transcripts
 - Copy of the diploma as long as it states the program of study
- Applicants must provide ISSS with:
 - Applicant's current address, email, phone number
 - Employer's name, address, phone number
 - Supervisor's name, phone number or email address
 - Applicant's position/ title
- Applicants in the Miami area must call the Office of International Student & Scholar Services to schedule an appointment. Applicants must bring two sets of copies of the items listed below.
- If applicant is working out of state:
 - Contact FIU ISSS advisor via email to make arrangements to apply
 - Mail ISSS two complete copies of application materials listed below
 - Provide self addressed prepaid envelope or prepaid FedEx account and envelope
- **CHECKLIST:**
 - I-765 (include employer's E-Verify number in item 17)
 - Check for \$340.00 (pay to the order of: Department of Homeland Security)
 - Copy of current OPT card
 - (2) passport photos
 - Copies of:
 - Passport identification page
 - F-1 visa
 - I-94 (front and back)
 - Copy of diploma or transcript

Advisor will recommend the 17-month extension if all documents are in order and issue a new I-20. Applicant will keep new, original I-20 and send a copy to the Service Center with application.