



Online filing Instructions for Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

- *Pre-Completion OPT (c)(3)(A)
- *Post-Completion OPT (c)(3)(B)
- *STEM OPT Extension (c)(3)(C)

Disclaimer

This document is a general guide to help you submit the online Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization. It is your responsibility to ensure that your application is completed correctly and all of the required evidence and supporting documents are submitted to USCIS.

The directions for completing the application listed in this document are meant to be examples only. You will need to enter your information (please do not copy word for word). Upon reading the directions, you may determine a different method for completing the application. Following our guidelines does not guarantee approval of your OPT.

Key Terms as Defined by Immigration

Pre-Completion OPT (c)(3)(A)

Current students to start work **before** degree completion.

Post-Completion OPT (c)(3)(B)

Current students about to graduate, to start work **after** their degree completion OR graduate students who have completed all course requirements and are only left with project, thesis or comprehensive final exam.

STEM Extension (c)(3)(C)

Students who have graduated from SJSU with a STEM degree and are currently in a period of valid Post-Completion OPT.

Filing I-765 (OPT) with USCIS

As of April 2021, USCIS offers 2 different ways to file an I-765 (OPT) application with USCIS.

*You must choose one option. You cannot choose both options.

1. Mail application to [USCIS lockbox](#).
2. Online filing of [I-765](#).

Please keep in mind the following:

You will need an I-20 with OPT recommendation from ISSS before you submit your I-765 (OPT) application to USCIS.

*See next slide for Comparison

I-765 File Online

To get started, you will need to do the following:

1. Go to [I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#)
 - a. Click 'File Online'
2. Create USCIS Online Account
 - a. If you already have a USCIS online account, check your account details and update your address BEFORE filing your application with USCIS.
 - b. Review USCIS '[How to Create a USCIS Online Account](#)' information.
3. Click 'myUSCIS'
4. Select 'I am an applicant'
 - a. Click 'Submit'
5. Choose 'File a form online'
- 6.

Getting Started

Basis of Eligibility

This is where you will state which OPT you are filing:

(c)(3)(A) Student Pre-Completion OPT (Review slide 17 for list of documents).

Current students, to start work **before** degree completion.

(c)(3)(B) Student Post-Completion OPT (Review slide 18 for list of documents).

Current students about to graduate, to start work **after** their degree completion OR graduate students who have completed all course requirements and are only left with project, thesis or comprehensive final exam.

(c)(3)(C) STEM Extension (Review slide 19 for list of documents).

Students who have graduated from SJSU with a STEM degree and are currently in a period of valid Post-Completion OPT.

If you select (STEM Extension), then you must also include the following:

What is your degree?

Enter degree name as it appears on your diploma or SJSU final transcript. Example:
Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Master's degree in Engineering.

What is your employer's name as listed in E-verify?

What is your employer's E-Verify company identification number or a valid E-Verify client company identification number?

(This is not the same number as the Employment Identification Number (EIN) that you indicated on your I-983 training plan.)

Getting Started

Would you like to request Premium Processing Service?

Premium Processing Service guarantees that USCIS will take one of several possible actions (issue an approval notice, a denial notice, a notice of intent to deny, or a request for evidence) on your Form I-765 within 30 days.

Getting Started (Continued)

Reason for Applying

What is your reason for applying?

Initial permission to accept employment.

Select this reason when:

It is your first time applying for Pre-Completion OPT.

It is your first time applying for Post-Completion OPT, even if you previously applied for Pre-Completion OPT OR

If you previously applied for Post-Completion OPT at a different degree level.

Replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged employment authorization document or correction of my employment authorization document NOT DUE to US Citizenship and Immigration Services error.

Select this reason when you have been authorized for any time of OPT, but your EAD card was lost, stolen, damaged or needs to be corrected and is not due to a USCIS error.

Renewal of permission to accept employment.

Select this reason **ONLY** when you are applying for the 24-month STEM OPT extension.

Have you previously filed Form I-765?

About You

Your Name

What is your current legal name?

Your current legal name is the name on your birth certificate, unless it changed after birth by a legal action such as marriage or court order. Do not provide any nicknames here.

Given name (first name)

Middle name

Family name (last name)

Have you used any other names since birth?

Other names used may include nicknames, aliases and maiden names.

Yes or No

If you select Yes, then you will need to provide the names.

About You (Continued)

Your Contact Information

How may we contact you?

Daytime telephone number

Mobile telephone number (if any)

Email address

Use a non-SJSU email that you check regularly.

What is your current U.S. mailing address?

This is where your receipt notice, approval notice, and EAD card will be mailed. This address should be valid for at least 2-3 months from the date you submit your application to USCIS. This may be a friend or family member's address. Do not use the attorney's or other legal representative's address. Do not use the ISSS office address.

Is your current mailing address the same as your physical address?

Yes or No

If you select no, then you will need to enter the address of where you currently live.

About You (Continued)

Describe Yourself

What is your gender?

Male

Female

What is your marital status?

Single

Married

Divorced

Widowed

About You (Continued)

When and where were you born

Enter the exact place of birth as it is printed on your birth certificate, even if the name has changed. If the place where you were born does not have a state or province then leave it blank.

What is your city, town or village of birth?

What is your state or province of birth?

What is your country of birth?

What is your date of birth?

Date format: MM/DD/YYYY

About You (Continued)

What is your country of citizenship or nationality?

List all the countries where you are currently a citizen or national.

What is your Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record Number (if any)?

When did you last arrive in the United States?

Date of arrival. MM/DD/YYYY

Place of Arrival. (City and State)

Status at last arrival. (Most likely F1 - Student, Academic or Language Program.)

What is the passport number of your most recently issued passport?

What is your travel document number (if any)?

If you entered the US using your passport, then do not enter a travel document number.

What is the expiration date of your passport or travel document?

What country issued your passport or travel document?

What is your current immigration status or category?

F1 - Student, Academic or Language Program.

What is your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Number (if any)?

About You (Continued)

What is your A-Number?

Evidence (Post-Completion OPT)

2 x 2 Photo of You

You will need to get a new passport style color photograph taken.
Review the [Department of State photo guidelines](#).

Form I-94

Retrieve I-94 at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>

If you have a paper I-94, include a copy both sides of the card

If you changed your status to F-1 and have not left the US since getting F-1 status, you will need to submit a copy of

Evidence (STEM OPT)

Required documentation for filing the online [I-765 STEM OPT Application](#) to USCIS

2 x 2 Photo of You

You will need to get a new passport style color photograph taken.

Review the [Department of State photo guidelines](#).

Form I-94

Retrieve I-94 at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>

If you have a paper I-94, include a copy both sides of the card

If you changed your status to F-1 and have not left the US since getting F-1 status, you will need to submit a copy of your I-797A approval notice.

Employment Authorization Document (EAD)

Copy of post-completion OPT EAD (front and back sides)

Form I-20

I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation from ISSS.

College degree

Official transcript from SJSU or diploma showing degree completion.

Institutional accreditation

This is not required. This is ONLY required if your STEM application is based on a STEM degree that was not awarded from SJSU.

Additional Information (Continued)

For filing the online I-765 OPT Application to USCIS

If you had current or previous CPT or OPT authorization:

Section: Select “Evidence”

Question: “Previously authorized CPT or OPT”

Additional Information: Enter the type of employment authorization, indicate if part-time or full-time, degree level, authorization dates, and any receipt numbers (YSC, IOE) associated with the authorization.

Example for CPT: CPT; Full-time; Master’s; Authorized (05/31/2020 - 08/15/2020).

Example for OPT: Post-Completion OPT; Full-time; Master’s; Authorized (01/21/2021 - 01/20/2022); IOE or YSC...123456789.

Review and Submit to USCIS

Review your application

This is where you can check your application before you submit.

Your application summary

This is a summary of all the information that you provided in your application.

Your statement

You must read and agree to the statements that are listed in this section.

Your signature

Type in your full legal name, for the digital signature.

Pay and submit

The final step to submit the Form I-765 is to pay the required application fee.

The filing fee is non-refundable and subject to change. Please go to <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765> for the current filing fee.

After Submitting to USCIS

1. Within 2-3 weeks of USCIS receiving your OPT application, a paper receipt (Form I-797c) will be mailed to the mailing address that you provided as your mailing address in your application (Form I-765).
 - a. Review the receipt for any errors in your name or date of birth. If there are errors, please contact ISSS.
2. Processing of your OPT application can take up to 3 months, sometimes longer.
 - a. You cannot change your requested Pre or Post-Completion, once you have filed your OPT application with USCIS.
 - b. If you receive a RFE 'Request for Evidence' or RFI 'Request for Information' from USCIS, please contact ISSS.
 - c. As of April 3, 2023 USCIS offers premium processing. *Review the ISSS [Post-Completion OPT](#) webpage regarding this. ISSS does not recommend the premium processing option, as long as you have built in sufficient time (e.g. 2-3 months) to apply for OPT.

*If you feel as though your application is taking too long to process, you have the option to submit the Form I-907 for premium processing at later date prior to approval.

THANK YOU!

international-office@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am to
4:30pm

