



SJS

Optional Practical Training 24-

FAQ Topics:

- Employment Rules
- Unemployment Rules
- Changing Employers
- Travel

Check out the last slide for links to Helpful Resources!

EMPLOYMENT RULES

Can I continue to work while my 24-month STEM OPT extension application is pending?

Yes, if you timely filed your extension application with USCIS you are permitted to continue to work 180 days past

UNEMPLOYMENT RULES

How many days of unemployment am I allowed while on STEM OPT extension?

Students who receive a 24-month STEM OPT extension are given additional 60 days of unemployment for a total of 150 days throughout the entire post-completion OPT period (includes any days accrued while on post-completion OPT).

What counts as unemployment?

Each day during the authorized STEM OPT period in which there is no reported work or employment info is counted towards unemployment. Be aware that SEVIS may start counting days of unemployment without employer information.

CHANGING EMPLOYERS

Can I change employers while my STEM OPT application is pending?

We do not recommend that you change employers until after STEM OPT is approved. Contact ISSS for more information.

Can I change employers after my STEM OPT has been approved?

Yes. Visit [Study in the States STEM OPT Hub](#) for more information. The new employer must be enrolled in Everify before you begin to work for pay. You will need to submit a new Form I-983 training plan to ISSS within 10 day of starting the new job.

TRAVEL RELATED

Can I travel outside the U.S. during approved STEM OPT period?

Yes. Please refer to the ISSS website for the required documents, including a valid travel signature on the I-20, you will need to present to CBP at a U.S. port-of-entry.

Can I travel outside the U.S. while my 24-month STEM OPT application is pending?

Travel while the STEM OPT application is pending is not recommended; assume possible risks of not being all7beii1 (y)95



Contact Information

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