24 MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION

SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS
GLOBAL AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
Applying the 24-Month STEM OPT Extension: Key Issues

Eligibility

- On approved OPT
- Have a paid job offer or paid job
- Have less than 90 unemployment days when applying
- Evidence that job is related to your STEM field
Applying the 24-Month STEM OPT Extension: Key Issues

**Timing**

- Request STEM Extension I-20 from SISS 100 days (or less) before end of your OPT
- Apply no more than 90 days before the end of your OPT
- Apply before the end of your OPT (application must arrive before last day of your OPT)
- Apply within 60 days of your advisor’s signature on the STEM Extension I-20
Applying the 24-Month STEM OPT Extension: Key Issues

Required Documents

- I-983 Training Plan
- I-765 Application
- I-94
- Post Completion OPT I-20s (copies)
- Passport Face Page
- Evidence of degree completion
- Signed STEM I-20
Company Requirements

- Must be e-Verified
- Must sign training plan (I-983)
Completing the I-983 form

The best way to learn about how to fill out the I-983 is to follow the tutorial

Direct Link: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/assets/stem-opt-hub/story.html

See next page for UC Davis-specific information
Completing the I-983 form

Helpful Hints for UC Davis Information

- Name of School Recommending STEM OPT: University of California, Davis.
- Designated School Official (DSO) is your official SISS immigration advisor. Find your advisor here
- STEM OPT Requested Period: Use the 24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator to find your customized dates.
- To find your CIP code, look on your I-20.

Food Science and Technology, Other 01.1099
SISS STEM Extension I-20 Request Process

Step 1: Log in to iGlobal using “Limited Services”
SISS STEM Extension I-20 Request Process

Step 2a: Update your CURRENT OPT employment if necessary

[Image of iGlobal portal]

OPT Report Employment

Use this form to update employer information while on the first year of OPT. All I-20s printed with updated information will be signed for travel.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Report your EAD card and any changes to your non-UC Davis email address and current residential street address using the links below:

- **U.S. Address** -- required within 10 days of move
- **EAD Card** -- one time only
- **Email Address** -- permanent, non-UCD

REPORT A NEW EMPLOYER

Select OPT Approval Period *
- 01/30/2017 - 01/29/2018 Approved Post-Completion

Do you have a new employer to report? *
- YES
- NO

OTHER REPORTING
SISS STEM Extension I-20 Request Process

Step 2b: Submit Your 24-month STEM OPT Extension request

STEM OPT Extension Request

Use this form to request a STEM OPT extension of your first year of OPT.

Eligibility:

1. Must have completed a STEM eligible degree (bachelor’s or higher)
2. Maximum 2 STEM OPT extensions per student
3. Must be a paid employee working at least 20 hours per week
4. Must work for an E-verified company
5. Must complete an I-903 training plan
6. Must not exceed 150 days of unemployment (60 additional days granted for STEM)
7. Must report regularly

UPDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Report all changes to your non-UC Davis email address and current residential street address using the links below. These links will take you to other forms. Once you have finished them, please move on with this form.

U.S. Address Update

Email Address Update (non-UC Davis, permanent)

CHECK CURRENT I-20 FOR ACCURACY

Your current I-20 must accurately reflect your employment during the first year of OPT.

Do you need to make any changes to the employment currently showing on your I-20? *

STEM EXTENSION DATES

- Secure Online Session
- Jamaal Davis
- Campus: UC Davis
- Network ID: jmdavis

- iGlobal Home Page
- F-1 Student Services
- First Year OPT Reporting
- J-1 Scholar Services
- Shipping
- STEM OPT Extension and Reporting
- STEM OPT Extension Request
  - STEM OPT Extension Request
  - STEM OPT Extension Request
  - STEM OPT Extension Request
- Student Letter Request
- Update Personal Information
- Logout of iGlobal
Step 2b: Submission via iGlobal includes uploading:

1. Completed 24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator

- Eligibility for the 24-month STEM OPT Extension
  - Must be based on a STEM eligible degree (Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral)
  - Must be eligible to complete an I-983 with an E-verify employer
  - Must submit application to USCIS within 90 days of OPT ending
  - Must have maintained status during OPT
  - Limited to two total STEM Extensions per student regardless of degrees earned

*1. Enter the CIP code listed on your I-20 (i.e. 01.1103) Code Drop Down
   - Any CIP code starting with 14, 26, 27 or 40 is eligible and will be found with .xxx

*2. Enter the OPT end date as listed on the EAD card mm/dd/yyyy

3. Submit a STEM OPT request to SISS as early as
   - Instructions
   - OPT STEM Request period (for I-983) to

4. USCIS will accept your application
   - USCIS must receive your new I-20 within 60 days of the recommendation
   - Continue to work while STEM is processed if filed within USCIS dates above
   - DMV license renewal delays possible if applying late
   - Items to mail to USCIS (Step 2)
   - More information about the STEM Rules

   - Mark your calendar now for your minimum required reporting dates.
     - 6 month reporting update due
     - 12 month reporting & Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) due
     - 18 month reporting update due
     - 24 month Final Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) due

   * Additional reporting required within 5-10 days of a change
     - Home address changes
     - Updated I-983 for material changes to employment
     - Final Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) upon ending any employment
     - New I-983 due for any new employer (E-verified, 20+ hours/week)
SISS STEM Extension I-20 Request Process

Step 2b: Submission via iGlobal includes uploading:

2. Completed form I-983.
Step 2b: Submission via iGlobal includes uploading:

3. Copy of completed I-765 with Eligibility Category (c)(3)(C) and your signature surrounded with white space.
Step 2b: Submission via iGlobal includes uploading:

4. Copy of current EAD.
5. I-94 record showing F-1 status.

Allow 2 weeks for SISS processing.
Step 3: Once you have received your 24-month STEM OPT extension I-20 you will need to submit the following to USCIS:

1. **I-765.**
2. Copy of most current EAD card.
3. Copy of your most recent **I-94** record showing F-1 status.
4. Optional: **G-1145** form to receive text messages regarding the status of your application.
5. Evidence of degree completion such as a copy of diploma or unofficial transcript (required if based on a prior degree, strongly recommended by USCIS otherwise).
6. Copy of your new I-20 with the additional 24-month STEM OPT recommendation.
7. Copy of the I-20 showing Post Completion OPT.
8. Copy of your passport biographical page (with photo and expiration date).
9. Check or money order for $410 made out to U.S. Department of Homeland Security.** You can also pay by credit card by using form G-1450 (see https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/files/form/g-1450.pdf)
10. Passport size photos taken in the last 30 days: Refer to Department of State Photo Tool to check that your photos meet the standard.

**Fees may change, check for the most updated before filing**
Maintaining Status on STEM

Once you are approved for the additional 24 months you will need to do the following to maintain your STEM OPT status:

a) Work at least 20 hours of paid employment directly related to your STEM major.

b) Not exceed 150 days of unemployment, which includes unemployment days used during post completion OPT.

You can check your unemployment by using the unemployment calculator.
Maintaining Status on STEM

You MUST:

Update SISS via iGlobal within 10 days of any the following changes:

i. Reduction in compensation for employment (only if is not a result of decrease in hours*).
ii. Employer name and address*.
iii. Change of status or transfer out of F-1 program.
iv. Termination of employment.
v. Change in residential address.

You must also

i. Complete required 6 month STEM validation report via STEM OPT Reporting at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months even if there have been no changes.
ii. Complete STEM final assessment self-evaluation and submit to SISS before STEM expiration.

*Requires you and your employer to complete a new I-983
Maintaining Status on STEM

Note:

The dates by which you must submit the 6, 12, 18 and 24 (end) month reports can be found on your **24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator**

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Material Changes and the Form I-983

If any of the following information changes you must complete a new Form I-983 with your employer and submit it to SISS:

a) Employer name and address.
b) Decrease in your compensation (not as a result in reduction of hours worked).
c) Reduction in hours worked to less than 20 hours a week.
d) Employer's EIN.

For more information on the Form I-983 and STEM policies refer to Study in the States STEM OPT Hub
If you have any questions about your STEM application/process, please feel free to contact your SISS International Student Advisor.

Or see more information about STEM on our website

Call SISS directly at 530-752-0864 ext. 0 to make an appointment.

Stop by during SISS drop-in hours
Mondays from 1:00-3:45PM
Thursdays from 1:00-3:45PM