

F-1 OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

What is OPT?

OPT is a practical work experience in your field of study after completion of a degree. OPT is limited to the 12 months (within 14) that you request. (Extensions of 17 more months with a new application and a \$380 fee can be requested for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields before original 12 month period ends.)

OPT Eligibility

- ✓ F1 students who have been enrolled on a full-time basis for at least one academic year (9 months)
- ✓ Will be completing a course of study this semester, apply 90 days before the end of the semester.
- ✓ Proposed OPT employment will be directly related to course of study.

OPT Application Procedure

- ✓ Complete the I-765 Form
- ✓ Print a copy of your I-94 found at www.cbp.gov/I94
- ✓ Sign and photocopy all pages of your **new I-20 endorsed for OPT**
- ✓ Photocopy passport and visa picture pages
- ✓ 2 passport photos (2 in. X 2in.) with name and SEVIS number printed on the back
- ✓ *Check for \$380 to USCIS*
- ✓ Send form G-1145 if you would like to receive email or text message confirmation of receipt.
- ✓ Mail to: **USCIS**
PO Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

Request *Return Receipt* to track mailing.

- ✓ Expect up to 3 months to receive EAD card.
- ✓ You must be employed within 90 days
- ✓ Report employer name and address to OIP
- ✓ Report any change in your address to OIP
- ✓ Use insurance request form if you would like to continue with your policy.