

Starting May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 F-1 students who receive science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees, and who meet other specified requirements, will be allowed to apply for a 24-month extension of their post-completion OPT. The 24-month extension will replace the 17-month STEM OPT extension previously available to STEM students. Eligible students may now apply for a 24-month STEM OPT extension.

<b>If You...</b>	<b>And...</b>	<b>Then...</b>
Currently have a 17-month STEM OPT extension	You do NOT want to add any additional time to your STEM OPT extension	You do not need to file any new forms or pay any new fees. You are authorized to keep working until your 17-month STEM OPT period expires, or is terminated or revoked.
	You want to request to add 7 months to your STEM OPT extension	<p>You may submit a Form I-765, with fee, on or after May 10, 2016. If you do so, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properly file on or before August 8, 2016;</li> <li>• File your Form I-765 within 60 days of your DSO's recommendation;</li> <li>• Have at least 150 days of valid work authorization remaining on the date you properly file your new Form I-765;</li> <li>• Include a Form I-20, endorsed by your DSO on or after May 10, 2016; and</li> <li>• Show that you, your DSO, and your employer meet all the 24-month STEM OPT extension requirements, including submitting the Training Plan for STEM OPT Students.</li> </ul>

- If USCIS has not yet adjudicated a student's application for a 17-month STEM OPT extension and the application was submitted before May 10, 2016, the student will receive a request for evidence (RFE). The RFE allows students to effectively amend their application to demonstrate eligibility for a 24-month extension without incurring an additional fee or having to refile their EAD application.
- RFEs will generally ask that students submit a new Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," that was endorsed on or after May 10, 2016. This endorsement indicates that the DSO recommends the student for a 24-month STEM OPT extension and that the student has returned a completed and signed [Form I-983](#) to the DSO.
- If USCIS has not yet adjudicated a student's application for a 17-month STEM OPT extension and the application was submitted before May 10, 2016, the student will receive a request for evidence (RFE). The RFE allows students to effectively amend their application to demonstrate eligibility for a 24-month extension without incurring an additional fee or having to refile their EAD application.
- The STEM OPT student must properly file a Form I-765 with USCIS, along with applicable fees and supporting documentation, on or before August 8, 2016, (i.e., 90 days after May 10, 2016) and within 60 days of the date the DSO enters the recommendation for the 24-month STEM OPT extension into the student's SEVIS record.