

HARVARD
International Office

HIO STEM OPT USCIS E-Filing Guide

e-Filing Guide

The HIO provides general guidance on your OPT/STEM OPT application based on information obtained from reliable sources and reflecting our years of experience in working with students. We make every attempt to ensure that we provide you with the most up to date information available. Any advice provided to you by our office (as well as the information in this packet) does not constitute legal advice, however. The OPT application is a personal application for which you are responsible; the application preparation and USCIS case decision will vary depending on the facts at issue in your particular case. The HIO does its best to provide you with the most current guidance, but please be mindful that USCIS may change its interpretation of these policies, procedures, regulations, and eligibility requirements at any time. The HIO is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from USCIS.



- Students **MUST** first request their I-20 with a STEM OPT recommendation from the HIO.
- **DO NOT** proceed with USCIS OPT e-Filing without the STEM OPT Form I-20!
- You **MUST** be physically present in the U.S. to file your STEM OPT application!
- If you e-File your STEM OPT application **DO NOT** mail an application to USCIS!
- Instructions on how to request an I-20 with a STEM OPT recommendation and general OPT Instructions can be found here:
<https://www.hio.harvard.edu/stem-opt>

- Go to USCIS <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>
- USCIS recommends using the latest version of Google Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Firefox, or Internet Explorer 11
- Click "**File Online**"

USCIS Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) Español Multilingual Resources

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Search our Site Sign In

Topics Forms Newsroom Citizenship Green Card Laws Tools

Home > Forms > All Forms > Application for Employment Authorization

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Forms

- All Forms
- Explore My Options
- Filing Guidance
- Filing Fees
- Forms Updates
- Department of State (DS) Forms and Other Non-USCIS Forms

Alert: For certain applicants who electronically filed Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, based on a pending Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, the receipt notice did not include language about the [540-day automatic Employment Authorization Document \(EAD\) extension](#). On or before the week of March 20, we will send these applicants an email or text notification instructing them to sign into their USCIS online account. Once signed in, they will find their corrected receipt notice. We will also send corrected paper receipt notices by mail. Please note that if you are eligible for the 540-day automatic EAD extension, any USCIS receipt notice for your Form I-765, together with your expired EAD, will serve as acceptable proof of employment authorization and EAD validity during the automatic extension period.

Alert: We recently updated the filing location for Special Immigrant Juveniles filing [Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow\(er\), or Special Immigrant](#), or [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#).

[See more](#)

Alert: To improve efficiency and reduce Form I-765 processing times for Form I-485 applicants, USCIS may decouple Forms I-765 from Forms I-131 filed at the same time.

[See more](#)

Alert: As of April 1, 2022, we will no longer accept a single, combined fee payment for the filing of Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status; Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization; or Form I-824, Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition, together with a Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker.

[See more](#)

Alert Afghan Parolee: If you are an Afghan national paroled into the United States and you are applying for employment authorization, you will need a Social Security number (SSN) to work in the United States.

[See more](#)

Certain noncitizens who are in the United States may file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, to request an [Employment Authorization Document \(EAD\)](#). Other noncitizens whose immigration status authorizes them to work in the United States without restrictions may also use Form I-765 to apply for an EAD that shows such authorization.

File Online

- Create a USCIS Account if you do not already have one.
- The USCIS system will ask for two-step verification for security purposes upon **every sign-in**. Security code messages may go into your spam/junk folder!
- Keep your account information secure as you will need to return to your account to finish the application and to view updates once you have submitted your application.



The image shows the USCIS Sign In page. At the top left is the USCIS logo and the text "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services". Below this is the heading "Sign In". There are two input fields: "Email" and "Password". Below the "Password" field are two links: "Forgot your Password?" and "Show Password". A blue "Sign In" button is positioned below the input fields. At the bottom of the page, it says "One account for all of your USCIS needs. Create an account."

From: MyAccount@uscis.dhs.gov <MyAccount@uscis.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 2:50 PM

To:

Subject: Secure two-step verification notification

You have requested a secure verification code to log into your USCIS Account.

Please enter this secure verification code: XXXXXXXX

If you are not attempting to log into USCIS, please go to <https://myaccount.uscis.gov>

Please be aware that this update might require your immediate attention.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE

Enter your verification code

A verification code has been sent to jessica_heffernan@harvard.edu. Please enter the code that you received. If you do not receive the code in 10 minutes, please [request a new verification code](#).

If you have lost access to jessica_heffernan@harvard.edu, enter your backup code instead, or [Contact Us](#).

Secure verification code *

When you log into your USCIS Account, click
"File a Form Online"

Welcome To Your USCIS Account

Select What You Want To Do



Add a paper-filed case
View your case status and
case history by adding
your case to your account



File a form online
Start a new form, upload
evidence, and pay and
submit online



Enter a representative
passcode
Review and sign forms
prepared for you by your
attorney or representative



Verify your identity
Answer questions about
your immigration history
to verify your personal
identity



- E-file option is only available for OPT and STEM OPT applications.
- **DO NOT USE** the e-File option for **F-1 Work permission with International Organizations** OR for F-1 Work Authorization for **Economic Hardship**. You must file these applications via standard mail. Contact your [HIO advisor](#) for more information.

Select "**I-765, Application for Employment Authorization**" from the drop down menu.

File a Form

Select the form you want to file online. Once you start, we will automatically save your information for 30 days, or from the last time you worked on the form.

Select the form you want to file online.

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

I-765, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings

N-400, Application for Naturalization

Topics Citizen

U.S. Citizenship

GETTING STARTED SECTION - *Basis of Eligibility*

- Select the type of OPT you are applying for:
 - (c)(3)(C) STEM OPT Extension

I-765, Application for
Employment Authorization

Getting Started

Basis of eligibility

Reason for applying

Preparer and interpreter
information

About You 

Evidence 

Additional Information 

Review and Submit 

What is your eligibility category?

 You can file your request online only for certain eligibility categories

If your eligibility category does not appear on the drop-down list, you must file a paper [Form I-765](#). If you submit online and are not eligible for one of the listed categories, your application may be denied.

(a)(12) Temporary Protected Status Granted

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

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

(c)(3)(C) STEM Extension

(c)(19) Temporary Protected Status Pending

- Review the information on the next page that you are routed to.
- When you are ready to proceed, click **“next”**

I-765, Application For Employment Authorization

Certain foreign nationals who are in the United States may file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, to request employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Other foreign nationals whose immigration status authorizes them to work in the United States without restrictions may also use Form I-765 to apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an EAD that shows such authorization.

If you are a lawful permanent resident, a conditional permanent resident, or a nonimmigrant only authorized for employment with a specific employer under 8 CFR 274a.12(b), do **not** use Form I-765.

Learn more about [employment authorization](#).

✓ Before You Start Your Application

📄 Eligibility

👤 Biometric services appointment

USCIS may require that you appear for an interview or provide biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) at any time to verify your identity, obtain additional information, and conduct background and security checks, including a check of criminal history records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), before making a decision on your application, petition, or request. After USCIS receives your application and ensures it is complete, we will inform you in writing if you need to attend a biometric services appointment. If an appointment is necessary, the notice will provide you the location of your local or designated USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) and the date and time of your appointment.

If you are required to provide biometrics, at your appointment you must sign an oath reaffirming that:

1. You provided or authorized all information in the application;
2. You reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, your application; and
3. All of the declared information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing.

If you fail to attend your biometric services appointment, USCIS may deny your application.

➔ After You Submit Your Application

📍 Track your case online

After you submit your form, you can track its status through your USCIS account. Sign into your account often to check your case status and read any important messages from USCIS.

📧 Respond to requests for information

If we need more information from you, we will send you a Request for Evidence (RFE) or Request for Information (RFI). You can respond to our request and upload your documents through your USCIS account.

✉ Receive your decision

The decision on Form I-765 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking. USCIS will notify you of the decision in writing. If your application is approved, we will either mail your EAD to you or we may require you to visit your local USCIS office to pick it up. If USCIS cannot approve your application, you will receive a written notice explaining the basis of your denial.

Next

Completing Your Form Online

Filing online

Submitting your form online is the same as mailing in a completed paper form. They both gather the same information.

Complete the Getting Started section first

You should answer all questions in the Getting Started section first so we can best customize the rest of your online form experience.

Provide as many responses as you can

You should provide as many responses as you can. Incomplete fields or sections and missing information can slow down processing of your case after you submit your form.

We will automatically save your responses

We will automatically save your information when you select next to go to a new page or navigate to another section of the form. We will save your information for 30 days from today, or from the last time you worked on the form.

- Read through the information on the following page.
- When you are ready to begin the form, click **“Start”**



Security Reminder

If you do not work on your application for more than 30 days, we will delete your data in order to prevent storing personal information indefinitely.

Back

Start

GETTING STARTED SECTION - *Basis of Eligibility*

- Enter your **CIP Code for your STEM Major** in "What is your degree?"
- Enter your employer's **name** listed in E-Verify.
- Enter your employer's **E-Verify number**.
 - **Please ensure that you check with your employer for the correct employer name and E-Verify number.**
 - **Your employer's E-Verify number is 5-7 digits. This number is NOT an EIN.**

What is your eligibility category?

⚠ You can file your request online only for certain eligibility categories
If your eligibility category does not appear on the drop-down list, you must file a paper [Form I-765](#). If you submit online and are not eligible for one of the listed categories, your application may be denied.

(c)(3)(C) STEM Extension

What is your degree?

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?

Back

Next

GETTING STARTED - *Reason for Applying*

- Select **“Renewal of permission to accept employment”**
- Select **"Yes"** to the question "Have you previously filed Form I-765".

What is your reason for applying?

- Initial permission to accept employment
- 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
- Renewal of permission to accept employment

Have you previously filed Form I-765?

- Yes
- No

GETTING STARTED - *Preparer and interpreter information*

- Select **"No"**
- This is a personal application; even though the HIO is involved, you are filing your own case. The first option, "Yes" is not applicable for Harvard STEM OPT applications.

The screenshot shows a web application interface. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: 'Getting Started' (expanded), 'Basis of eligibility', 'Reason for applying', 'Preparer and interpreter information' (highlighted), 'About You', and 'Evidence'. The main content area displays the question 'Is someone assisting you with completing this application?' with two radio button options: 'Yes' and 'No'. The 'No' option is selected. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Back' and 'Next'.

ABOUT YOU - *Your Name*

- Enter your legal name per your biographical passport page and Form I-20.
- If your name on your passport does not match your current I-20, please contact your [HIO advisor](#).

Getting Started ▼

About You ▲

- Your name
- Your contact information
- Describe yourself
- When and where you were born
- Your immigration information
- Other information

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)

ABOUT YOU - *Your Name*

- Select "Yes" if applicable and enter other names

Have you used any other names since birth?
Other names used may include nicknames, aliases and maiden names.

Yes
 No

Provide the other names you have used.

Given name (first name)

Middle name

Family name (last name)

[+ Add another name](#)

ABOUT YOU - *Your contact information*

- Enter your personal U.S. telephone number and primary email address

How may we contact you?

Daytime telephone number

Mobile telephone number (if any)

This is the same as my daytime telephone number.

Email address

ABOUT YOU - *Your contact information*

- Enter a U.S. Mailing Address. Must be valid for at least 5 months from date you submit your application.

What is your current U.S. mailing address?

We will use your current mailing address to contact you throughout the application process. We may not be able to contact you if you do not provide a complete and valid address. Please provide a U.S. address only.

In care of name (if any)

Address line 1

Street number and name

Address line 2

Apartment, suite, unit, or floor

City or town

State

 ▼

ZIP code



MAILING RECOMMENDATIONS

- EADs are considered government documents that cannot be forwarded by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).
- Your U.S. Mailing Address – This is the address where you will receive your application receipt, approval notice, and STEM OPT EAD.
- If you will move from your current residence in less than 5 months, you should use the U.S. address of a reliable friend or relative who can receive the card for you.
- **DO NOT USE** campus or University mailing addresses, as it will become inactive after graduation.
- Attempting to change the address midway through the STEM OPT application process can cause delays and be extremely disruptive, resulting in lost, or returned STEM OPT EADs.
- Alternatively, you may wish to consider using a U.S. Post Office address (known as a P.O. Box) if that is how you would prefer to receive your mail.
- Prior to completing your U.S. mailing address, verify your address with USPS:
https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction_input
- Your U.S. Physical Address should be the address where you reside at time of application.

ABOUT YOU - *Your contact information*

- Select the accurate answer for you.
- Select "No" if your physical/residential address is different than the mailing address you listed in the prior section.
- Enter your residential address at time of application, if applicable (*does not need to be valid for 5 months after submission date*).

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

Yes

No

Where in the United States do you live?

Address line 1

Street number and name

Address line 2

Apartment, suite, unit, or floor

City or town

State

ZIP code

ABOUT YOU - *Describe Yourself*

- Select your gender and marital status.

The screenshot shows a web form with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar has a menu with the following items: 'Getting Started' (with a downward arrow), 'About You' (with an upward arrow), 'Your name', 'Your contact information', 'Describe yourself' (bolded), 'When and where you were born', 'Your immigration information', and 'Other information'. Below these are 'Evidence' (with a downward arrow), 'Additional Information' (with a downward arrow), and 'Review and Submit' (with a downward arrow). The main content area contains two questions: 'What is your gender?' with radio buttons for 'Male' and 'Female', and 'What is your marital status?' with radio buttons for 'Single', 'Married', 'Divorced', and 'Widowed'. There are horizontal lines below the radio buttons, suggesting a scrollable area or a continuation of the form.

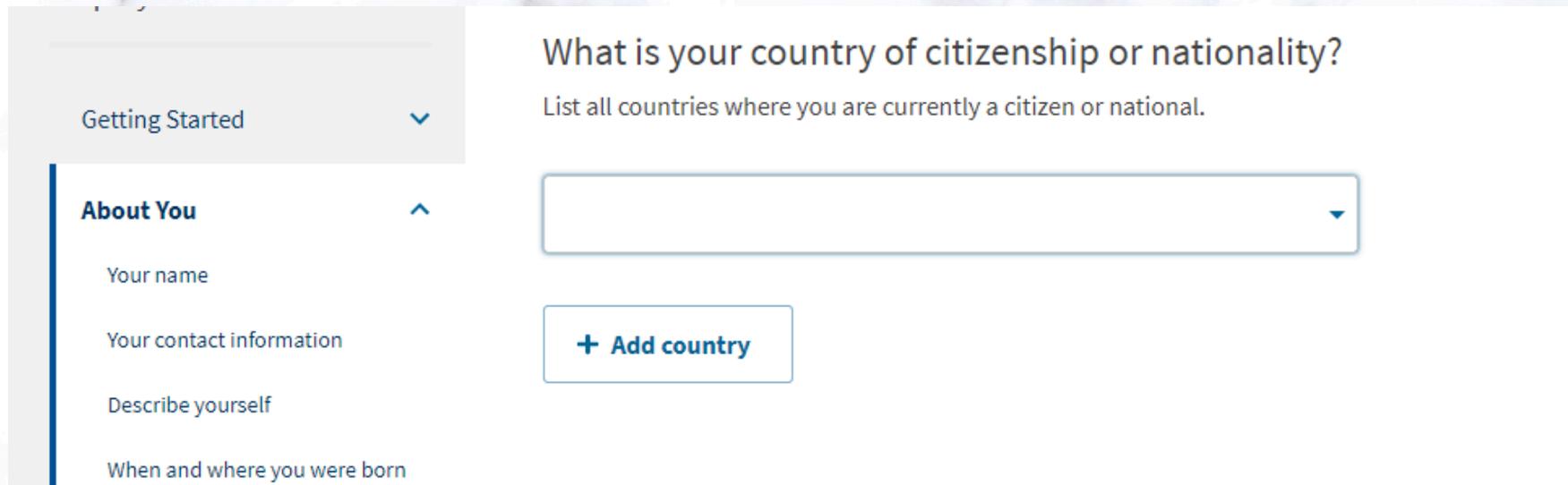
ABOUT YOU - *When and where you were born*

- Enter your information.

The screenshot shows a web form with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar has a menu with the following items: 'Getting Started' (with a downward arrow), 'About You' (with an upward arrow), 'Your name', 'Your contact information', 'Describe yourself', 'When and where you were born' (bolded), 'Your immigration information', and 'Other information'. Below these are 'Evidence' (with a downward arrow), 'Additional Information' (with a downward arrow), and 'Review and Submit' (with a downward arrow). The main content area contains three questions: 'What is your city, town, or village of birth?' with a text input field, 'What is your state or province of birth?' with a text input field, and 'What is your country of birth?' with a dropdown menu. There are horizontal lines below the input fields. At the bottom, there is a question 'What is your date of birth?' with a text input field containing the placeholder 'MM/DD/YYYY'.

ABOUT YOU - *Your immigration information*

- Enter the information per your passport and Form I-20.
- Click "Add country" if you have a second country of citizenship.



The screenshot shows a web interface with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar has a menu with the following items: "Getting Started" (with a downward arrow), "About You" (with an upward arrow and a blue vertical bar to its left), "Your name", "Your contact information", "Describe yourself", and "When and where you were born". The main content area has the heading "What is your country of citizenship or nationality?" followed by the instruction "List all countries where you are currently a citizen or national." Below this is a large, empty rectangular input field with a downward arrow on its right side. At the bottom of the main content area is a button labeled "+ Add country".

ABOUT YOU - *Your immigration information*

- Go to <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/> to access and download your I-94 Arrival Record.
- Enter the eleven (11) digit number from your most recent I-94 record.
- Please verify that the Date of Entry reflects your most recent entry to the U.S. If it is NOT correct, STOP and please contact your [HIO Advisor](#).

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

123456789AA

ABOUT YOU - *Your immigration information*

- Enter the date of your most recent arrival per your I-94 record.
- Select place of arrival from drop-down menu.
- Select Status from Last Arrival.
 - Unless you had a change of status, you should select ***F-1 Student, Academic, or Language Program***

When did you last arrive in the United States?

List your arrival date, place of arrival, and status at arrival.

Date of arrival

01/01/2021

Place of arrival

BOSTON, MA

Status at last arrival

F1 - Student, Academic Or Language Program.

ABOUT YOU - *Your immigration information*

- Enter your passport number.
- Leave "What is your travel document number (if any)?" blank.
- Enter the expiration date of your passport, and the country which issued your passport (country of citizenship).
- Select **F-1 Student, Academic, or Language Program** for current immigration status.

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

What country issued your passport or travel document?

What is your travel document number (if any)?

What is your current immigration status or category?

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

ABOUT YOU - *Your immigration information*

- Enter SEVIS Number from top left-hand corner of your current Form I-20.

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

Use the "Additional Information" section to include all previously used SEVIS numbers.

N- 00100224512

ABOUT YOU - Other information

- Enter your A-Number. This can be found on your post-completion OPT card and is listed as the "USCIS Number".
- Your USCIS Online Account Number will pre-populate if you have already used your USCIS Online Account before.
 - Check "I do not have or know my USCIS Online Account Number" if this is the first time you are using your USCIS Online Account.

The screenshot shows a web interface for a USCIS application. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: 'Getting Started' (with a downward arrow), 'About You' (with an upward arrow and a blue vertical bar to its left), 'Your name', 'Your contact information', 'Describe yourself', 'When and where you were born', 'Your immigration information', 'Other information', 'Evidence' (with a downward arrow), 'Additional Information' (with a downward arrow), and 'Review and Submit' (with a downward arrow). The main content area is titled 'What is your A-Number?' and contains a checkbox labeled 'I do not have or know my A-Number.' Below this is a text input field containing 'A-'. A horizontal line separates this section from the next, titled 'What is your USCIS Online Account Number?'. Below this title is a paragraph of text: 'Providing your unique USCIS Online Account Number (OAN) helps us manage your account. You may already have an OAN if you previously filed [certain paper forms](#) and received an Account Access Notice in the mail. You can find the OAN at the top of the notice; it is not the same as an A-Number.' Below the text is another checkbox labeled 'I do not have or know my USCIS Online Account Number.' At the bottom is a text input field containing the number '026104150151'.

Getting Started ▾

About You ▲

Your name

Your contact information

Describe yourself

When and where you were born

Your immigration information

Other information

Evidence ▾

Additional Information ▾

Review and Submit ▾

What is your A-Number?

I do not have or know my A-Number.

A-

What is your USCIS Online Account Number?

Providing your unique USCIS Online Account Number (OAN) helps us manage your account. You may already have an OAN if you previously filed [certain paper forms](#) and received an Account Access Notice in the mail. You can find the OAN at the top of the notice; it is not the same as an A-Number.

I do not have or know my USCIS Online Account Number.

026104150151

ABOUT YOU - *Other information*

- If you have **ever** been issued an SSN (Social Security Number), select "Yes" and enter your SSN. If you have never been issued an SSN, select "No."

What is your U.S. Social Security number (SSN)?

I do not have or know my U.S. Social Security number.

Provide a 9-digit Social Security number.

[Back](#)

[Next](#)

EVIDENCE - 2 X 2 Photo of You

- Upload a new U.S. passport style photo taken within the last 30 days
- **DO NOT USE** photos taken from a recent passport renewal, U.S. visa application, or prior OPT/EAD application
- Photos must meet [these requirements](#) and **CANNOT** be enhanced or retouched
- You should have your photos professionally taken and upload a digital file to your OPT application (ex. CVS Photo Center)
- You can test your photo's compliance using the Department of State's [photo composition tool](#)

Getting Started

About You

Evidence

2 x 2 photo of you

Form I-94

Employment Authorization
Document

Previously authorized CPT or
OPT

Form I-20



2 X 2 Photo Of You

Upload a recent color photograph of yourself that measures 2 inches by 2 inches, with your face measuring 1 inch to 1 3/8 inch from your chin to the top of your head. Your eyes should be between 1 1/8 inch and 1 3/8 inch from the bottom of the photo.



Make sure your whole face is visible, you are facing the camera directly, and the background is white or off-white. Your head must be bare, unless contrary to your religious beliefs.



If you need help understanding the photo requirements or want to resize, rotate, or crop your photo, you can use the Department of State's [photo composition tools](#). Please note that we cannot approve your application without your photo.

File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, or PNG
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 6MB per file

EVIDENCE - Form I-94

- Go to I-94 website to access and download your most recent entry record.



Evidence

2 x 2 photo of you

Form I-94

Employment Authorization
Document

Form I-20

College degree

Institution accreditation

Form I-94, Arrival And Departure Record Or Passport

Upload a copy of one of the following:

- Your Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record (front and back);
- A printout of your electronic Form I-94 ; or
- Your passport or other travel document.

If you were admitted to the United States by CBP at an airport or seaport after April 30, 2013, CBP may have issued you an electronic Form I-94 instead of a paper Form I-94. You may visit the [CBP website](#) to obtain a paper version of an electronic Form I-94. CBP does not charge a fee for this service. Some travelers admitted to the United States at a land border, airport, or seaport, after April 30, 2013, with a passport or travel document, who were issued a paper Form I-94 by CBP, may also be able to obtain a replacement Form I-94 from the CBP website without charge.

If your Form I-94 cannot be obtained from the CBP website, it may be obtained by filing [Form I-102, Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Record](#), with USCIS. USCIS does charge a fee for this service.

If you do not have and cannot get a required document, you must demonstrate this and provide secondary evidence. If secondary evidence does not exist or is unavailable, you must demonstrate both the unavailability of the required document and the relevant secondary evidence and submit two or more sworn affidavits by people not named on this application who have direct knowledge of the event and circumstances.

[Learn more about Primary and Secondary evidences.](#)

File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 12MB per file

EVIDENCE - *Passport Biographical Page*

- **All applicants** must upload a copy of their **CURRENT POST-OPT EAD Card**
- Additionally, we recommend that you upload a clear picture of your biographical page of your current passport



Employment Authorization Document Or Government ID

Upload a copy of your last Employment Authorization document (EAD) (front and back). If you were not previously issued an EAD, you must upload a copy of a government-issued identity document (such as a passport) showing your picture, name, and date of birth; a birth certificate with photo ID; a visa issued by a foreign consulate; or a national ID document with photo and/or fingerprint. The identity document photocopy must clearly show your facial features and contain your biographical information.

Evidence

2 x 2 photo of you

Form I-94

Employment Authorization Document

Form I-20

College degree

Institution accreditation

File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 6MB per file

Choose or drop files here to upload

DO NOT FILE WITHOUT THE STEM OPT I-20 FROM THE HIO

EVIDENCE - Form I-20

- Upload a **SIGNED** copy of the most recently issued STEM OPT I-20 from the HIO.
- You should print, sign, and upload signed STEM OPT I-20 you received from HIO.



I-20, Certificate Of Eligibility For Nonimmigrant Student Status



Important information regarding your Form I-20

Do **NOT** submit this form until you receive a Form I-20 recommendation from your DSO. We will deny your application if you do not include your Form I-20 recommendation when you submit Form I-765. If you need to provide Form I-765 to your DSO, print or download this draft before you submit.

Upload a copy of the Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status endorsed by the Designated School Official (DSO). For the (c)(3)(B) eligibility category, your DSO must have entered the recommendation for OPT into your SEVIS record within 30 days of you submitting Form I-765. If you fail to do so, we will deny your OPT request. For the (c)(3)(C) eligibility category, the Form I-20 must have been endorsed by the DSO within 60 days of submitting Form I-765.

File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 12MB per file

Evidence



2 x 2 photo of you

Form I-94

Employment Authorization

Document

Form I-20

College degree

Institution accreditation

EVIDENCE - *College Degree*

- Upload a picture of your diploma and **official** University transcripts from your STEM degree program.



Evidence

2 x 2 photo of you

Form I-94

Employment Authorization

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College Degree

Upload evidence the degree that is the basis for the STEM OPT extension is in one of the degree programs currently listed on the [STEM Designated Degree Program List](#) or a copy of your prior STEM degree.

File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 6MB per file

Harvard Business School, MBA students: Merge [this support letter](#) from the Registrar's Office with your transcript and diploma. You will upload them in this section.

EVIDENCE - *Institution Accreditation*

- **ONLY REQUIRED IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR STEM OPT BASED ON PRIOR DEGREE**
- **PROGRAM** Upload HIO Cover letter provided to you as applicant applying for STEM OPT based on prior degree
- Upload evidence your prior degree was issued by an **accredited institution**
 - 1. Search and confirm Prior School's Accreditation Info here: <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>
 - 2. Upload PDF of confirmation page.
- Upload evidence your prior degree program in the U.S. is **certified by SEVP**
 - Search and confirm your school's information in SEVP here: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search>
 - Upload PDF of confirmation page

Evidence

2 x 2 photo of you

Form I-94

Employment Authorization

Document

Form I-20

College degree

Institution accreditation



Institution Accreditation

Upload evidence that the institution that granted your STEM degree is currently accredited by the U.S. Department of Education and certified by the Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP), if this STEM OPT extension is based on a previously earned STEM degree.

File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 6MB per file

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - *Previously issued SEVIS ID Numbers*

- Click **"Add Response."**
- Select option from drop-down menu.
- **TYPE** Answer/Explanation - you will **NOT** be uploading any documents in this section.
- **For example:** Some students may have been issued more than one SEVIS ID during their time in the U.S. Many students who took a leave of absence will have 2 or more SEVIS IDs.
 - See example below:

Getting Started ▼

About You ▼

Evidence ▼

Additional Information ▲

Additional information

Review and Submit ▲

Review your application

Additional Information

If you need to provide any additional information for any of your answers to the questions in this form, enter it into the space below. You should include the questions that you are referencing.

If you do not need to provide any additional information, you may leave this section blank.

Section

About You ▼

Page

Your immigration information ▼

Question

What is your Student and Exchange Visitor Informati... ▲

issued passport?

What is your travel document number (if any)?

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?

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

Additional Information

If you need to provide any additional information for any of your answers to the questions in this form, enter it into the space below. You should include the questions that you are referencing.

If you do not need to provide any additional information, you may leave this section blank.

Section

About You ▼

Page

Your immigration information ▼

Question

What is your Student and Exchange Visitor Informati... ▼

Additional information

Previous SEVIS ID: .
SEVIS ID:NXXXXXXXXXXXX
Program Start Date - Program End Date
Degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, etc.)

! You must provide a response. 0/500

Save response **Cancel**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - Prior STEM OPT Degree Applicants

- Click "**Add Response.**"
- Select option from drop-down menu.
- **TYPE** Answer/Explanation - you will **NOT** be uploading any documents in this section.
- **For example:** Some students may be applying based on prior degree. Use this function to alert USCIS about HIO cover letter and additional information attached to application evidence section.

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Getting Started

About You

Evidence

Additional Information

Additional information

Review and Submit

Additional Information

If you need to provide any additional information for any of your answers to the questions in this form, enter it into the space below. You should include the questions that you are referencing.

If you do not need to provide any additional information, you may leave this section blank.

Section
Evidence

Page
College degree

Question
College Degree

Additional information

0/500

Save response Cancel

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Getting Started

About You

Evidence

Additional Information

Additional information

Review and Submit

Additional Information

If you need to provide any additional information for any of your answers to the questions in this form, enter it into the space below. You should include the questions that you are referencing.

If you do not need to provide any additional information, you may leave this section blank.

Section
Evidence

Page
College degree

Question
College Degree

Additional information

STEM OPT Application based on prior degree. See attached cover letter confirming STEM CIP Code, School Accreditation, SEVP School information, and date degree earned.

0/500

Save response Cancel

REVIEW AND SUBMIT - *Review your application*

Getting Started



About You



Evidence



Additional Information



Review and Submit



Review your application

Your application summary

Your statement

Check your application before you submit

We will review your application to check for accuracy and completeness before you submit it.

We encourage you to provide as many responses as you can throughout the application, to the best of your knowledge. Missing information can slow down the review process after you submit your application.

You can return to this page to review your application as many times as you want before you submit it.

Your fee

 Your form filing fee is:

Refund Policy: USCIS does not refund fees, regardless of any action we take on your application, petition or request, or how long USCIS takes to reach a decision. By continuing this transaction, you acknowledge that you must submit fees in the exact amount and that you are paying the fees for a government service.

Alerts and warnings

 We found no alerts or warnings in your application



DO NOT FILE WITHOUT THE STEM OPT I-20 FROM THE HIO



REVIEW AND SUBMIT - *Review your application*

- Select "View draft snapshot" to download and review for accuracy.
- HIO recommends saving I-765 PDF for your records.

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Getting Started ∨

About You ∨

Evidence ∨

Additional Information ∨

Review and Submit ∧

Review your application

Review the I-765 form information

 Print

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

Make sure you have provided responses for everything that applies to you before you submit your application. You can edit your responses by going to each application section using the site navigation.

We also prepared a draft case snapshot with your responses, which you can download below.

 [View draft snapshot](#)



SUBMITTING PAYMENT = FILING YOUR CASE WITH USCIS



Submit Payment

IMPORTANT: Once your payment has been successfully received, your application will be filed!!

- You cannot change or edit your I-765 application responses after payment has been submitted.
- The USCIS fee is non-refundable.
- Once you are ready, the system will direct you to Pay.gov, a US government payment site.
 - You will be able to pay the application fee using a US credit / debit card or through an ACH transfer (direct withdrawal) from your US checking account.
 - Make sure to double check that you have entered your debit/credit card number correctly.

Finish and continue to pay and submit

By finishing this form, your Form I-765 will be locked and no further changes can be made. Please make sure that the information on your Form I-765 is complete and accurate before continuing. If you need to make any edits after finishing, you will need to create both a new Form I-821 and a new Form I-765.

Next, you will continue to the pay and submit page where you can pay for and submit both your Form I-821 and Form I-765 at the same time.

Back

Continue



We will send you to Pay.gov — our safe and secure payment website — to pay your fees and submit your form online.

Here are the steps in the payment and submission process:

1. Provide your billing information on Pay.gov
2. Provide your credit card or U.S. bank account information
3. Submit your payment

When you have paid your fee, your form will be submitted.

Pay.gov will redirect you to a uscis.gov confirmation screen, which will include your receipt number. Please keep a copy of your receipt number for your records. You can track the status of your application through your USCIS online account.

Pay and submit

TRACK CASE & STATUS UPDATES

- You will receive your USCIS receipt number shortly after paying and submitting your case.
- Log-in to your USCIS account for all case updates.
 - You will also receive the official USCIS receipt notices via the USPS mail service.
 - Contact your HIO advisor if you do not receive your physical receipt notice within 60 days.

I-765 Application for Employment Authorization
Submitted on April 13, 2021 | Receipt # [redacted]
View PDF

Case status Case history Documents

USCIS Notices

File	Date Sent
Receipt Notice.pdf	April 13, 2021

Your uploads

You may upload additional evidence that you believe may assist USCIS in adjudicating your requested. USCIS will consider the timeliness and relevance of unrequested evidence when making a decision.

File	Document
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Unsolicited evidence

Unsolicited evidence is any additional information or evidence that we did not request from you. USCIS will consider the timeliness and relevance of this information when making a decision.

[Upload evidence](#)

Case status Case history Documents

Case history

Status	Date
Card Was Produced	January 19, 2021
We are producing your new card for your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization.	January 14, 2021
We received your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, and sent you a receipt notice.	December 17, 2020

The HIO provides general guidance on your OPT/STEM OPT application based on information obtained from reliable sources and reflecting our years of experience in working with students. We make every attempt to ensure that we provide you with the most up to date information available. Any advice provided to you by our office (as well as the information in this packet) does not constitute legal advice, however. The OPT application is a personal application for which you are responsible; the application preparation and USCIS case decision will vary depending on the facts at issue in your particular case. The HIO does its best to provide you with the most current guidance, but please be mindful that USCIS may change its interpretation of these policies, procedures, regulations, and eligibility requirements at any time. The HIO is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from USCIS. a subheading