



AFTER FILING YOUR OPT APPLICATION

Your Responsibilities & Maintaining F-1 Status

After Filing

- Download and save a copy of your e-filed I-765 application for your records.
- You will receive a confirmation and receipt number from USCIS shortly after submitting your application online. You may track the status of your case via your USCIS account.
- Report your OPT Receipt Information to the HIO using **this form**.
 - There is a country-wide technical issue with U.S. government systems resulting in a delay of USCIS information showing up quickly in SEVIS. By reporting your OPT information to the HIO, we can help correct your record as needed. *Note this technical glitch does not indicate any issue or problem with your OPT case.*
- You should receive **three (3) pieces of mail** from USCIS to the mailing address listed on your I-765: an I-797 notice of receipt, an I-797 notice of approval, and the official Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card.
 - Review the information on all documents carefully for accuracy. Contact your HIO advisor if you notice errors on any of these documents.
- You may start working **AFTER** you receive the physical EAD and you are within the authorized dates on the EAD.
- You are not permitted to work on campus between your I-20 program end date and the start date of your EAD.

USCIS announced on March 6, 2023, that they will accept requests to “Premium Process” an OPT application, which will obligate USCIS to adjudicate an OPT request within 30 days.

- This requires filing an “I-907 Request for Premium Processing” form, along with a \$1685 fee, to USCIS. Instructions can be found [here](#).
- Please note “Premium Processing” does not mean USCIS will approve the application within 30 days or that you will receive your EAD in that timeframe. “Premium Processing” means USCIS will adjudicate the application within 30 days (i.e., approve, deny, or issue a Request for Evidence).

Contact your HIO advisor immediately if:

- You do not receive your USCIS receipt notice within 60 days of submitting your OPT application in the mail (even if you can view an electronic version of it through the USCIS portal);
- You receive a Request for Evidence (RFE) ;
- There is incorrect information any of the following: I-797 notice of receipt, I-797 notice of approval, EAD card.

More information about maintaining your F-1 Status while on OPT can be found on our website:

<https://www.hio.harvard.edu/optional-practical-training-opt>

Post-Completion OPT Reporting Requirements

OPT is an extension of your F-1 status and **you will remain under Harvard's F-1 visa sponsorship** throughout your OPT period. You must carefully review e-mails sent by the HIO after you graduate and are working on OPT.

You must report **all employment** undertaken while on OPT to the HIO via the [F-1 Post-Completion OPT Reporting Form](#)

Failure to report your employment information is a violation of your F-1 status and will have serious repercussions for your current and future U.S. immigration benefits and visa applications. The SEVIS system calculates the unemployment time accrued during OPT and may terminate your SEVIS record if the 90-day unemployment limit is exceeded.

Remember: You have a maximum period of 90 days of unemployment that you can accrue from the start date listed on your EAD card.



Report the following changes within 10 days via the F-1 Post-Completion OPT Reporting form: <https://www.hio.harvard.edu/opt-reporting-form>

- New OPT employment
- Ending OPT employment
- Changes to your OPT Employer's name or address
- Change of U.S residential address



If you choose to depart the U.S. permanently before the end date of your OPT EAD card **OR** you obtain another visa status or permanent residency you must notify the HIO using the [HIO's Post-Completion OPT Reporting Form](#).



Notify your HIO advisor directly via e-mail if:

- You decide after submitting your OPT application to USCIS that you no longer wish to pursue OPT.
- You change your name or country of citizenship (or there is a change in your dependent's names/citizenships)

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 (including information on this document) 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.