

OPT Filing: How to Fill in the I-765

You can access the paper I-765 Form at <u>https://www.uscis.gov/i-765</u>. The link takes you to the page for both downloading the form and the government's instructions on how to complete the I-765. **Do not submit your I-765 to USCIS until you receive the OPT recommendation I-20 and instructions from ISA**.

This resource is meant to provide you with best practices in preparing an OPT application. Please note that this is not legal advice. You may choose to hire an immigration attorney to assist you with this process at any time. The information contained here is for general information purposes only. The U.S. government may make modifications to the I-765 form and instructions at any time without prior notice.

General Tips

Online Filing

You can file the I-765 online by creating a USCIS account at <u>https://myaccount.uscis.gov/</u>. More information about filing online is available at <u>https://uscis.gov/file-online</u>. The online form is the same as the paper version, but the online form logic will show only the relevant questions based on your answers. Your answers are automatically saved when you go to a new section and draft forms are saved for 30 days from the last time you worked on your form. Download a copy of your completed I-765 form for your records.



Emeil *	
Password *	
Forgot your Password? Sign In	Show Password
One account for all of your USCIS r Create an account. Didn't receive confirmation instruct	lons.
Legal	
 Department of Homeland Securi DHS Privacy Notice 	ty Consent
Paper Reduction Act Burden Dis	closure Notice

Mailing A Physical Application

If you plan to mail a physical application to USCIS, be sure to download the correct edition of the form from the USICS website. If you use an outdated form, your OPT application will be denied. Please print the I-765 single sided and type in your information whenever possible. If you are unable to type in a field, you may neatly handwrite the information in black ink. Sign the signature on page 5 with BLUE ink. Please fill in "N/A" or "None" on the questions that do not apply to you (if you cannot enter "N/A" or "None", leave any fields that don't apply to you blank). Keep a photocopy of your complete OPT application for your records.

Filling in Form I-765: Online Version

Getting Started

Eligibility Code

Be sure to enter the correct eligibility category:

- Post-Completion OPT (c)(3)(B) (for after araduation or after finishing all coursework)
- Pre-Completion OPT (c)(3)(A) (used before graduation during your program)
- 24 month STEM OPT Extension (c)(3)(C) (for STEM degree holders after their first year of Post-Completion OPT)

Only STEM degree holders who <u>are already in their first</u> <u>year of OPT</u> and are applying for the STEM extension should enter (c)(3)(C).

Premium Processing

Select whether you would like to request Premium Processing. If USCIS accepts the request, they will take action within 30 calendar days of receiving your application. The premium processing fee is \$1,500 (in addition to the \$410 I-765 filing fee). USCIS actions can be one of the following:

- An approval notice
- A denial notice
- A notice of intent to deny
- A request for evidence
- Opening an investigation for fraud or misrepresentation

As shown in the screenshot to the right, note that if you choose 'Yes' to this question, you will automatically be sent to Form I-907, 'Request for Premium Processing' after you finish submitting in the I-765 and will be charged the additional fee. You cannot go back and change your answer to this question after you complete the online I-765.

Reason for Applying

Choose 'Initial permission to accept employment' if you are applying for Pre- or Post-Completion OPT.

Only STEM degree holders who are already in their first year of OPT and are applying for the STEM extension should choose 'Renewal of permission to accept employment'.

Previous I-765

Answer based on your immigration history.

Preparer & Interpreter Information

Answer based on your situation.

Put "No" if you prepared the form yourself without an interpreter/preparer's assistance.



Would you like to request Premium Processing Service?

Premium Processing Service guarantees that USCIS will take one of several possible actions (issue an approval notice, a denial notice, a notice of intent to deny, or a request for evidence) on your Form I-765 within 30 days.

The fee for Premium Processing Service for Form I-765 is \$1,500.

If you request premium processing, you will be asked to complete Form I-907 after you sign your Form I-765. You will then be able to pay for and submit both forms at the same time.

Yes
 No
 Form I-765 and Form I-907 will be submitted together. After you sign Form I-765, the form will be locked. You will not be able to make any changes to the form once it is locked. You

• Form 1-765 and Form 1-907 Will be submitted together. After you sign Form 1-765, the form will be locked. You will not be able to make any changes to the form once it is locked. You will immediately be directed to Form 1-907 and will be able to pay for and submit both forms after you provide your signatures.

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization	Wł	nat is your reason for applying?
Getting Started Basis of eligibility Reason for applying Preparer and interpreter information	• •	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
Evidence Additional Information Review and Submit	 → →	ve you previously filed Form I-765? Yes No
-765, Application for Employment Authorization	ls so app	omeone assisting you with completing this lication?
Getting Started Basis of eligibility Reason for applying Preparer and interpreter information	^ •	Yes No

About You

Legal Name

Please put your name exactly as it shows on your passport.

Other Names

If you ever legally changed your name, click "Yes" and enter your past names. It's up to you if you want to share nicknames or aliases. Be consistent across all U.S. government applications!

Your Contact Information

Fill in your contact information.

U.S. Mailing Address

Put a U.S. address where you can receive mail after graduation. If it is not the place where you are currently living, please put your physical address as well. <u>USCIS will not mail anything to you abroad.</u>

<u>Changing your address while your OPT is pending is not</u> <u>recommended! Do not use an on-campus address, as</u> <u>Residence Life will not receive/hold your mail after</u> <u>graduation.</u>

Physical Address

If the same as mailing address, click "Yes". If different, click "No" and enter where you are currently physically living at the time of submitting this form.

Describe Yourself & When and where you were born

Make sure all information is accurately entered. Dates MUST be in mm/dd/yyyy format!

Employment Authorization		What is your city, town, or village of birth?
Getting Started	~	
About You	^	
Your name		
Your contact information	n	
Describe yourself		What is your state or province of birth?
When and where you	were	,
born		
Your immigration information		
Other information		
Evidence	~	
Additional Information	~	What is your country of birth?
Review and Submit	~	
		What is your date of birth?

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		What is your current legal name?
Getting Started	~	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.
About You Your name	^	Given name (first name) Middle name
Your contact information Describe yourself When and where you were born Your immigration information		Family name (last name)
Other information		
Evidence Additional information Review and Submit		Have you used any other names since birth? Other names used may include nicknames, allases and maiden names. Yes No
I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		How may we contact you?
Getting Started	~	Daytime telephone number
About You Provide a 10-digit phone number. Your name Provide a 10-digit phone number. Your contact information Mobile telephone number (if any) Describe yourseli This is the same as my daytime telephone number. When and where you were born Provide a 10-digit phone number. Your immigration information Email address		
	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	
		Apartment, suite, unit, or floor City or town State Provide a 3 or 9-digit ZiP code
		Is your current mailing address the same as your physical address? Yes No

Back

Citizenship

If you have dual citizenship, please put both countries.

I-94 Arrival Information

You can find your I-94 record number and date/place of last entry at: <u>https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94</u>. Click 'Get Most Recent I-94' (look at travel history to see place of arrival).

Passport Number

Put the passport number of your most recently issued passport.

Travel Document

Most F-1 students don't have a travel document.

Passport Expiry & Issuing Country

This is your country of citizenship. Don't put the U.S. even if you renewed your passport in the U.S.

Current Status

Choose F-1 student.

SEVIS Number

This is listed on your I-20 at the top. If you have multiple SEVIS numbers, please enter the current one here.

Alien Registration Number

ide a 12-digit Online Account Nu

If you have applied for OPT before or other immigration benefits, please put the USCIS number (9 digits) from your EAD.

Have you been issued a Social Security card?

Click "Yes" and enter your SSN if you have one. If you don't have a SSN check "No".

Do you want SSA to issue a Social Security card?

If you already have the SSN, click "No".

If you need a SSN for the first time or lost your SSN card, click "Yes". USCIS will send your information to SSA once they approve your OPT application. The SSN will be issued and mailed to the address you put on the I-765. You should receive the SSN within 7 business days after you receive your EAD. You can also choose to apply for a SSN after you receive the EAD.

What is your A-Number?	Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to you?
A-	○ Yes
Provide a 7, 8, or 9-digit number. If your A-Number is fewer than 9 digits, the system will automatically add zero(s) after the 'X' and before the first digit so there is a total of 9 digits, for example: A-001234567.	○ No
What is your USCIS Online Account Number? Providing your unique USCIS Online Account Number (DAN) helps us manage your account. You may already have an OAN if you previously filed centain paper form and meterived an Account Access Notes in the mail. You	Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card?
I do not have or know my USCIS Online Account Number.	O No

	•
+ Add country	
What is your Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Recor Number (if any)?	d
Provide an 11 character I-94 Number.	
When did you last arrive in the United States? Listyour arrival date, place of arrival, and status at arrival.	
Date of arrival (on or about)	
mm/ov/1111	
Place of arrival	
Status at last arrival	
	•
What is your travel document number (if any)?	
What is the expiration date of your passport or ravel document?	
MM/DD/YYYY	
What country issued your passport or travel document?	
•	
What is your current immigration status or category?	
•	
What is your Student and Exchange Visitor nformation System (SEVIS) Number (if any)?	
Jse the "Additional Information" section to include all previously used EVIS numbers.	

Evidence

When filling in the online form and uploading documents, please note:

- These file formats are accepted: JPG, JPEG, PNG, PDF, TIF, TIFF
- These file formats are NOT allowed: DOC, BMP, XLSX
- Maximum file size is 6 MB per file.
- Foreign and special characters are not allowed.
- The only characters allowed in document file names are: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, parentheses.
- Foreign language documents must have a certified English translation.
- Make sure any PDF files are not password protected/encrypted

5 upload files are allowed per section. We recommend naming and uploading each evidence type separately (e.g. Passport copy file named 'passport.pdf' uploaded separately from visa and I-94 files, not combined).



The screenshot below shows where to upload each piece of evidence.

Passport Photo of You

- 2 in x 2 in U.S. style passport photo taken within 3 months with white background (note: don't wear glasses).
- Purchase at local pharmacies ask for a digital photo if possible.
- For digital passport photos, you may also use this website: <u>https://tsg.phototool.state.gov/photo</u>

1-94

You can access your I-94 record at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home. Click 'Get Most Recent I-94' in the top menu. Enter your name and birth date exactly as it appears in your passport, and your passport number. Click the 'Next' button to access your I-94 and download the PDF.

Most Recent I-94	
Admission (I-94) Rec	ord Number :
Most Recent Date of	Entry: 2020 January 22
Class of Admission :	F1
Admit Until Date : D/	s
Details provided on t	the I-94 Information form:
Last/Surname :	
First (Given) Name :	
Birth Date :	

Previously Authorized CPT or OPT

- Include all 3 pages of each previous I-20 (including schools other than Hofstra).
- You MUST include those with CPT/OPT, but may want to provide all I-20s just to be safe.

Form I-20

- Upload the OPT recommendation I-20 here. Don't forget to include it, or your application will be automatically rejected!
- Note your application must be received by USCIS before your grace period ends <u>and within 30</u> <u>days of the date when your OPT I-20 was issued</u>, whichever is earlier.

Additional Information

If you had any CPT or OPT before, you need to provide that information in the 'Additional Information' section. Choose the Section, Page, and Question that refers to the eligibility category question as seen in the screenshot to the right.

Then, in the text box enter your CPT/OPT details using the format shown in the example. List the type of work authorization, degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, etc.), start and end dates, and part-time/full-time. If you had OPT before, also include the USCIS number on your previous EAD card.

If you haven't had CPT or OPT before and don't have employment information, you don't need to fill this in.

Getting Started	
Page	
Basis of eligibility	
Question	
What is your eligibility category?	
Additional information	
CPT/OPT Authorization	
Degree level	
Date: mm/dd/vvvv – mm/dd/vvvv	

Date: mm/dd/yyyy – mm/dd/yyyy Part-time or Full-time

If you had a different SEVIS number before, you need to choose the Section, Page, and Question that refers back to the question that asked you for your SEVIS number. In the text box, list your previous SEVIS number, the dates during which you used that number, and your degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, etc.) at the time you used that SEVIS number.

Review and Submit

Review your entries carefully before you pay the filing fee. Once you submit payment, you cannot make corrections. When you review your form before submission, print or download a draft snapshot for your records. Double check you uploaded all the materials!

To pay the filing fee you will be directed to Pay.gov, a secure government portal where you can pay by ACH withdrawal from a U.S. bank account, or a U.S. debit card, or accepted credit cards as listed on Pay.gov.

After you pay the fee, your form will be submitted to USCIS. You will receive confirmation the form was submitted. Click on "Go to my cases" to see your case card and receipt notice. All notices will be mailed to the mailing address you provided in the I-765 form and posted to your account, including any requests for evidence (RFE) and decision letter.



Filling in Form I-765: Paper Version

Part 1. Reason for Applying

1.a.-1.c. Choose 1.a. 'Initial permission to accept employment' if you are applying for Pre- or Post-Completion OPT.

Only STEM degree holders who are already in their first year of OPT and are applying for the STEM extension should choose 1.c.

Part 2: Information About You

1.a.-1.c. Please put your name exactly as it shows on your passport.

Other Names Used

You must put any other legal names that you have ever used in the past in the Other Names Used section. If you have any commonly used nicknames, it is up to you if you wish to enter them. If you have another name you regularly go by, it may be a good idea to include it.

Your U.S. Mailing Address & U.S. Physical Address

5a. – 7d. Put a U.S. address where you can receive mail after graduation. If it is not the place where you are currently living, please put your physical address as well.

Please note USCIS will not mail anything to you abroad. Changing your mailing address while your OPT is pending is possible, but is not recommended!

If you will be moving after graduation and don't know your new mailing address yet, you may enter the address of a relative or friend who you trust to receive and forward your mail to you.

Other Information

8. Alien Registration Number: If you have applied for OPT or other immigration benefits before, please put the USCIS number (9 digits) that is listed on your previous EAD card.

9. Enter your USCIS online account number if you already have one. If you do not have an account, you can enter "None".

10. You must check one of the boxes to indicate your gender.

11. You must check one of the boxes to indicate your current marital status.

12. You must check one of the boxes to indicate if you have ever previously filed a Form I-765.

Part 1. Reason for Applying

I am applying for (select only one box):

- 1.a. Initial permission to accept employment.
- 1.b. Replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged employment authorization document, or correction of my employment authorization document **NOT DUE** to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) error.

NOTE: Replacement (correction) of an employment authorization document due to USCIS error does not require a new Form I-765 and filing fee. Refer to **Replacement for Card Error** in the **What is the Filing Fee** section of the Form I-765 Instructions for further details.

1.c. Renewal of my permission to accept employment. (Attach a copy of your previous employment authorization document.)

Part 2. Information About You

Your Full Legal Name

1 . a.	Family Name (Last Name)	
1.b.	Given Name (First Name)	
1.c.	Middle Name	

Par	t 2. Information About You (continued)
You	Ir U.S. Mailing Address (USPS ZIP Code Lookup)
5.a.	In Care Of Name (if any)
5.b.	Street Number and Name
5.c.	Apt. Ste. Flr.
5.d.	City or Town
5.e.	State 5.f. ZIP Code
6.	Is your current mailing address the same as your physical address? Yes No
	NOTE: If you answered "No" to Item Number 6. , provide your physical address below.
U.S	E. Physical Address
7 .a.	Street Number and Name
7.b.	Apt. Ste. Flr.
7.c.	City or Town
7.d.	State 7.e. ZIP Code
Oth	er Information
8.	Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any)
	► A-
9.	USCIS Online Account Number (if any)
10.	Gender Male Female
11.	Marital Status Marital Status Single Married Divorced Widowed
12.	Have you previously filed Form I-765?

13.a.-14. If you already have a Social Security number (SSN), check "yes" in 13.a., enter the SSN number in13.b., and check "no" in 14.

If you don't have a SSN, check "no" in 13.a., skip 13.b., and check "yes" in 14 to apply for one. USCIS will send your information to the SSA once they approve your OPT application. The SSN will be issued and mailed to the address you put on the I-765. According to SSA, you will receive the SSN within 7 business days after you receive your EAD.

You don't have to choose to apply for a SSN on your I-765 application, as you can always apply for a SSN in person once you receive your EAD.

15-17.b. If you checked "yes" in 14, check "yes" in 15 and enter your parents' information in 16-17. If you checked "no" to 14, you may skip these questions.

Your Country or Countries of Citizenship or Nationality

18a.-18b. Enter your country of citizenship. If you have dual citizenship, please put both countries.

Place of Birth

19.a.-19.c. Enter the information for your place of birth. Please be sure to double check that everything is spelled correctly.

20. Enter your date of birth in mm/dd/yyyy format. Be careful not to reverse the month and day.

13.a.	Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever
	officially issued a Social Security card to you?
	Yes No

NOTE: If you answered "No" to Item Number 13.a., skip to Item Number 14. If you answered "Yes" to Item Number 13.a., provide the information requested in Item Number 13.b.

13.b. Provide your Social Security number (SSN) (if known).				
►				

- 14. Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card? (You must also answer "Yes" to Item Number 15., Consent for Disclosure, to receive a card.)
 Yes No
- Consent for Disclosure: I authorize disclosure of information from this application to the SSA as required for the purpose of assigning me an SSN and issuing me a Social Security card.

NOTE: If you answered "Yes" to Item Numbers 14. - 15., provide the information requested in Item Numbers 16.a. - 17.b.

Father's Name

Provide your father's birth name.

16.a.	Family Name (Last Name)	
16.b.	Given Name (First Name)	

Mother's Name

Provide your mother's birth name.

17.a. Family Name (Last Name)	
17.b. Given Name (First Name)	

Your Country or Countries of Citizenship or Nationality

List all countries where you are currently a citizen or national. If you need extra space to complete this item, use the space provided in **Part 6. Additional Information**.

18.a. Country

18.b. Country

Place of Birth

List the city/town/village, state/province, and country where you were born.

19.a. City/Town/Village of Birth

19.b. State/Province of Birth

19.c. Country of Birth

20. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

Information About Your Last Arrival in the United States

21.a. You can find your I-94 record number at: <u>https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94</u> Do not use a previously printed out I-94, please download your most recent I-94.

21.b. Put the passport number of your most recently issued passport.

21.c. If you used a travel document other than a passport to travel to the United States, enter the travel document information, even if the travel document is currently expired. (This field does not apply to most F1 students.)

21.d. Enter the country that issued your passport. Please note that even if you renewed your passport in the U.S., the country of issuance should be your country of citizenship.

21.e. Enter the expiration date for your passport in mm/dd/yyyy format. The expiry date is listed on the ID page of your passport. Be careful not to reverse the month and day.

22. You can find the date of your last arrival on your I-94 at: <u>https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94</u>. Be careful not to reverse the month and day.

23. You can find the date of your last arrival either on the entry stamp in your passport or the travel history on the same website where you print out your I-94.

Information About Your Last Arrival in the United States

21.a.	Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record Number (if any)							
21.b.	Passport Number of Your Most Recently Issued Passport							
21.c.	Travel Document Number (if any)							
21.d.	Country That Issued Your Passport or Travel Document							
21.e.	Expiration Date for Passport or Travel Document							
	(1111)(00/9393)							
22.	Date of Your Last Arrival Into the United States, On or About (mm/dd/yyyy)							
•••								
23.	Place of Your Last Arrival Into the United States							
24	Immigration Status at Your Last Arrival (for example							
24.	B-2 visitor, F-1 student, or no status)							
25.	Your Current Immigration Status or Category (for example,							
	B-2 visitor, F-1 student, parolee, deferred action, or no status or category)							
26.	Student and Exchange Visitor Information System							
	(SEVIS) Number (if any)							
	► N-							

24 & 25. Most students can enter "F-1 student" for both questions, unless you previously held a different status when you last entered the U.S., please enter the category in 24.

26. Enter the SEVIS number listed on your current I-20. If you have multiple different SEVIS numbers, please enter the current one here and use page 7 (Part 6) to list all the SEVIS numbers you had previously with the degree level, dates, and citation to include Page 3; Part 2; Item Number 26.

Information About Your Eligibility Category

27. Be sure to enter the correct eligibility category:

- Post-Completion OPT (for after graduation or after finishing all coursework) - (c)(3)(B)
- Pre-Completion OPT (used before graduation during your program) (c)(3)(A)
- 24 month STEM OPT Extension (c)(3)(C) (for STEM degree holders after their first year of Post-Completion OPT)

Only STEM degree holders who are already in their first year of OPT and are applying for the STEM extension should enter (c)(3)(C).

28.a.-28.c. Students of all majors applying for Post-Completion OPT may skip 28. Only STEM degree holders who are already in their first year of OPT and are applying for the STEM extension should enter their degree and employer name as listed in E-verify. Please note the E-verify number (4-7 digits) is different from the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on your I-983.

29-30. F-1 students applying for OPT may skip these questions.

Information About Your Eligibility Category

- 27. Eligibility Category. Refer to the Who May File Form I-765 section of the Form I-765 Instructions to determine the appropriate eligibility category for this application. Enter the appropriate letter and number for your eligibility category below (for example, (a)(8), (c)(17)(iii)).
- (c)(3)(C) STEM OPT Eligibility Category. If you entered the eligibility category (c)(3)(C) in Item Number 27., provide the information requested in Item Numbers 28.a. 28.c.

28.a. Degree

28.b. Employer's Name as Listed in E-Verify

28.c. Employer's E-Verify Company Identification Number or a Valid E-Verify Client Company Identification Number

Part 3. Applicant's Statement, Contact Information, Declaration, Certification, and Signature

1.a.-1.b. Check the box that applies to you. If you are not using an interpreter and not having someone else fill in the form for you, check 1.a.

- 3 5. Fill in your contact information.
- 7.a. Sign your name by hand in BLUE ink!
- 7.b. Enter the date when you signed your name.

Applicant's Signature							
7.a. ➡	Applicant's Signature						
7.b.	Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)						

NOTE TO ALL APPLICANTS: If you do not completely fill out this application or fail to submit required documents listed in the Instructions, USCIS may deny your application.

If you did not use an interpreter to assist you with filling in this application, you may skip Part 4.

Part 6. Additional Information

If you had a different SEVIS number before, you need to fill in this page. Enter your full name as it appears in your passport in 1.a.-1.c. Then in the fields below, list your previous SEVIS number with dates, degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, etc.), and citation to include Page 3; Part 2; Item Number 26.

If you had any CPT or OPT before, you need to provide that information on this page. Enter your full name as it appears in your passport in 1.a.-1.c. List the type of work authorization, degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, etc.), start and end dates, part-time/full-time, and citation to include Page 3; Part 2; Item Number 27. If you had OPT before, also include the USCIS number on your previous EAD card. If you haven't had CPT or OPT before, you don't need to fill this in.

3.a.	Page Number 3	b. Par	t Number	3.c.	Item Number					
	3		2		27					
3.d.	CPT/OPT Authorization									
	Degree level									
	Date: mm/dd/yyyy - mm/dd/yyyy									
	Part-time or Full-time									
4.9	Page Number 4	. h . Par	t Number	4.c.	Item Number					
	3		2		26					
4.d.	Previous SEV		Number	N01	23456789					
	Degree leve		Humber .	1101	20100700					
	Date: mm/dd/www mm/dd/www.									
	Dates: mill/ day	1111	, aa,	TIXX						