

STEM OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT) FOR F-1 STUDENTS

ABOUT OPT FOR STEM STUDENTS ON A F-1 VISA



WHAT IS IT?

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) allows graduates of STEM programs on F-1 visas, who work for an E-Verify employer, the opportunity to work full-time in the US.



DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Initially, 12 months, plus a 24-month STEM extension for students working for eligible E-Verify employers.



PROCESSING TIME

From submission to approval: 90 days (typically).

Students may apply for the initial 12-months of OPT 90 days prior to and up to 60 days after program completion.

Students may apply for the STEM extension up to 90 days prior to the end date of their initial 12-month OPT, but no later than the end date of OPT.

**STEM-
DESIGNATED
PROGRAM**
36 months OPT

- Master of Analytical Finance
- MS in Business Analytics
- MBA - Business Analysis Track

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



STUDENT'S ROLE

Submit initial OPT and STEM-OPT extension on time.

Ensure work relates to field of study and verify eligibility for STEM extension.

Report employment and changes to their educational institution from which they graduated.



EMPLOYER'S ROLE

Provide a written offer of employment for STEM extension (*students can be approved for initial OPT without offer of employment*).

Participate in E-Verify and request a copy of student's Employment Authorization Document (EAD Card) for I-9.

Provide student with E-Verify and Employer Identification Number.

Complete I-983 Training Plan and attest that compensation is commensurate with "similarly situated US workers".



PROOF OF AUTHORIZATION

Form I-766, the EAD card indicating the start/stop dates of work authorization.

Student may work for up to 180 days after the end date of their initial 12-month EAD card, provided he or she filed their STEM OPT extension on time.