

Dear OPT student:

Below are several important notices. Please read each one carefully to determine if it applies to you and/or if you need to take any action.

Post U.S. Election Changes
New USCIS Fees
Completion of OPT Status
Approval of H-1B Status
Reporting Changes in Address and Employer
Unemployment
Travel While on OPT
Office Holiday Closures

POST US ELECTION CHANGES

The new administration takes office on January 20, 2017. We will be monitoring any proposed changes after that date. There is a lot of speculation and misinformation about possible changes. Please note that F-1 regulations are proposed and changed by Congress and require a period of publication and comment before any changes can be made. It is important that you rely on our office for information related to changes in immigration regulation that may affect you. We will be communicating regularly with OPT students through a listserv in the near future.

NEW USCIS FEES

[USCIS is increasing the fee](#) for the form I-765 which is required for OPT applications from \$380 to \$410 on December 23, 2016. If you are anticipating filing a STEM Extension OPT application and you are within 90 days of the end date of your OPT EAD card, you may want to apply now to be able to pay the current fee. The OPT application must be received by USCIS by December 22, 2016 to be eligible for the current fee of \$380 (for sufficient processing time by ISPO to issue a new I-20 for the STEM Extension, applications must be received by ISPO by December 9, 2016). Applications received by USCIS after December 22, 2016 will require the new \$410 fee.

COMPLETION OF OPT STATUS

If you are no longer in OPT status, you need to submit a "[Status Completion](#)" form to our office. You can send it electronically to istudents@ucsd.edu. This includes those of you who did a change of status to H-1B on October 1, 2016.

APPROVAL OF H-1B PETITION

If your employer filed an H-1B petition, but not a change of status, you need to check with our office to see if your SEVIS record was completed by SEVP. Send an email to icsa@ucsd.edu requesting that we check your SEVIS record and attach a copy of the approval notice of the H-1B petition. If we find that your SEVIS record was erroneously completed, we will file a data fix with the SEVP Help Desk.

REPORTING CHANGES IN ADDRESS AND EMPLOYER

Use the [Employment Reporting Form](#) to report any changes of address or employer. This is required to maintain your F-1 status while on OPT. If you are on STEM Extension and change employers, you must submit a new [I-983](#) form for your new employer AND an evaluation form (page 4 of the I-983) from your previous employer to ISPO using istemopt@ucsd.edu.

UNEMPLOYMENT

If you do not report your employment on the Employment Reporting Form, your SEVIS record may be terminated for unemployment. Students on the first 12 months of OPT have 90 days of unemployment. Students on STEM Extension have up to 150 days of unemployment. If you are approaching the limit of unemployment, you will want to explore the option of changing visa status, transferring schools, or departing the U.S.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S.

Travel signatures on page 2 of the OPT I-20 are valid for 6 MONTHS ONLY. If you need a new signature, you need to send your I-20 to ISPO along with a copy of your EAD card. Click [here](#) for additional information on travel and reentry.

ISPO HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The UC San Diego International Students & Programs Office will be closed for the Winter Break from December 23, 2016 through January 3, 2017. The office will reopen on January 4, 2017. Please plan accordingly.

QUESTIONS

Questions can be directed to iemployment@ucsd.edu.