CCA California College of the Arts

STEM OPT EXTENSION RECOMMENDATION REQUEST

The 12-month period of standard OPT can be extended for an additional 24 months for certain government designated STEM majors (presently at CCA, the only eligible majors are Animation, Graphic Design, and Interaction Design, BFA, MDes, Comics, B'Arch, M'Arch, and MAAD).

How to Apply

Applying for the STEM OPT extension is a multi-step process involving you, your employer, ISAP, and USCIS:

STEP ONE: **Review the [ISAP website](#) and discuss with your employer to confirm your eligibility**

STEP TWO: **Assemble application materials**
- o 1 recent U.S. [passport-sized photo](#)
- o *Original* [Form I-765](#) (for reference and to be submitted to ISAP)
- o *Photocopy* of any previously issued EAD (front and back)
- o PDF of your [most recent I-94](#).
- o Digital copy of your passport ID page(s)
- o Digital Copies of all previously issued I-20s with CPT or OPT authorization
- o Proof of your STEM degree: original final transcript or your diploma

To submit to ISAP in order to receive OPT Extension I-20
- o STEM OPT Extension Recommendation Request Form (this form)
- o Pages 1 - 4 of [Form I-983](#)
    - ■ **Save page 5 to use for your 12 month and final evaluations**
- o [Form I-765](#)
- o Proof of degree completion

STEP THREE: **Submit documents to ISAP and receive OPT Extension I-20.** You will e-mail the documents to ISAP (isap@cca.edu). The I-983, I-765, proof of degree completion, and Recommendation Request are required in order for ISAP to issue the new I-20; the other documents you're welcome to submit in order for ISAP to review and give you feedback, if you'd like. If you submit your materials to ISAP by e-mail, you'll receive your STEM OPT I-20 within 5 business days.

STEP FOUR: **Apply online at USCIS.GOV** When you have assembled all your application materials and have your new I-20 from ISAP, make a complete set of copies for your records.

Deadline: Your STEM OPT application must be received by USCIS *before* your current OPT expires. The earliest USCIS will accept your application is 3 months (90 days) before your current OPT expires. Further, USCIS must receive your application within 60 days of ISAP's recommendation on your new I-20.

STEM OPT EXTENSION RECOMMENDATION REQUEST

To be completed by STUDENT

Last Name: _____   First Name: _____

CCA ID#: _____   SEVIS ID#: _____

Non-CCA E-mail: _____
(**PLEASE note** : You will lose access to your CCA email after graduating. Immigration will contact you via this email)

Current EAD start date: _____   Current EAD end date: _____

STEM OPT Job Title: _____   STEM OPT Employer E-Verify # : _____

Please read carefully and certify your agreement:

> I hereby request ISAP to issue a Form I-20 to me in support of my application to extend my OPT and confirm that I meet all of the eligibility requirements.
>
> I understand that immigration regulations require me to inform ISAP as soon as any of the following circumstances arise:
> - My job status changes (**must be reported within 10 days of the change**):
>   - I leave any STEM OPT employer (must submit final eval on page 5 of I-983)
>   - I start any new employment on STEM OPT (must submit new I-983 for new employer)
> - There are material changes to the information on my I-983 training plan, in which case I will submit an updated I-983 to ISAP within 10 business days
> - I change my name, address, or contact information
> - I change my visa status (to H-1B, F-2, etc.)
> - I finish employment and return to my home country
>
> **I understand that immigration regulations require me to report via the OPT Employment Update Form every 6 months to confirm that my employer information is still correct, beginning on the start date of my new EAD.**
>
> **I understand that immigration regulations require me to complete the 12 month Evaluation on Student Progress (page 5 of Form I-983) with my employer and return this evaluation to ISAP. I will also complete the 24 month Final Evaluation at the end of my STEM OPT employment and submit it to ISAP.**
>
> I understand that my OPT and/or SEVIS record may be terminated if I am unemployed for more than 150 days (including unemployment time from my original OPT) or if I do not fulfill my STEM OPT reporting and status requirements as listed above.

Name : _____

Student's Signature: _____   Today's Date: _____