CCo California College of the Arts

ISS STEM OPT Extension Recommendation Request

[Study in the States STEM OPT Help Hub](#)

F1 students participating in 12-month Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) may be eligible to extend US employment authorization an additional 24 months through the STEM OPT Extension - if they have completed a US government DHS defined [STEM Designated Degree Program.](#)
STEM-designated degrees at CCA: Animation (BFA), Comics (BFA), Graphic Design (BFA), Interaction Design (BFA), MBA in Design Strategy (DMBA), MFA Comics (full residency model only), Master of Design in Interaction Design (MDes) and Architecture (B'Arch, M'Arch and MAAD).

Please Note: F1 Student, Student's E-Verified Employer, CCA ISS and USCIS are all part of the STEM OPT Extension application process.

To complete this form:
- Review [STEM OPT eligibility requirements](#) to confirm you and your employer are eligible
- Assemble STEM OPT application materials
- Complete Student Information section, review and sign Student Attestation on this form
- Submit assembled application materials, along with this completed form, to ISS ([iss@cca.edu](#)) to obtain STEM OPT I-20 with recommendation for I-765 application
- [Make an appointment with an ISS advisor](#) if you would like to review application materials, have any questions, or need assistance
- When STEM OPT I-20 with recommendation has been received from ISS, complete and submit the STEM OPT Extension application through [USCIS online I-765 Form](#) using category (c)(3)(C)

Important Deadline: Your STEM OPT Extension application must be received by USCIS *before* your current OPT end date. You may submit your USCIS application starting 90 days before your current OPT end date. USCIS must receive your application within 60 days from when ISS issues your STEM OPT I-20 with recommendation.

STEM OPT EXTENSION APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Digital US format [passport photo](#)
- PDF [Form I-765](#) ("worksheet" for ISS reference and review only), you will submit final application through USCIS online Form I-765
- PDF proof of STEM designated degree: STEM eligible degree official final transcript or diploma
- Digital copy of previous EAD card (front and back)
- PDF of most recent [Form I-94](#)
- Digital copy of Passport - Biographical page
- Digital copies of any previous I-20s with CPT or OPT authorization
- STEM OPT I-20 with Extension recommendation

    To receive the STEM OPT Extension I-20 with recommendation, submit the following to ISS ([iss@cca.edu](#))

    - STEM OPT Extension Recommendation Request (this form)
    - [Form I-983](#), pages 1-4 completed and signed (save page 5 for 12 month and final evaluations)

    Important Note: DO NOT submit your STEM OPT Extension I-765 before you have received your STEM OPT I-20 with recommendation from ISS

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STUDENT INFORMATION and ATTESTATION

Student Name

CCA ID#   SEVIS ID#

STEM related communication will be sent to Non-CCA E-mail

Current OPT EAD Start Date   End Date
(printed on the front of current EAD Card)

STEM OPT Job Title

STEM OPT Employer Name   Employer E-Verify #

Please read, sign and date that you attest to the following:

*I hereby request ISS to issue a Form I-20 to support my application to extend my OPT and confirm I meet all STEM OPT Extension eligibility requirements. I understand US immigration regulations require me to inform CCA ISS (iss@cca.edu) **within 10 days of any change** in the following:*

- Job status change
  - If I leave any STEM OPT employment - I must submit final evaluation on page 5 of I-983
  - If I start any new employment on STEM OPT - I must submit new I-983 for new employer
- Any material information changes on my I-983 training plan - I must submit an updated I-983
- Change my name, address, or contact information
- Change my US visa or immigration status (Examples: H-1B, O-1B, F-2, US Permanent Resident)
- I complete employment and depart the US to return to my home country

I understand US immigration regulations require me to report to CCA using the OPT Employment Update Form every 6 months to confirm my employer information is still correct, beginning on the start date of my new STEM OPT employment authorization (start date printed on my new STEM OPT EAD card).

I understand US immigration regulations require me to complete the 12 month Evaluation on Student Progress (page 5 of Form I-983) with my employer and submit this evaluation to ISS. I will also complete the 24 month Final Evaluation at the end of my STEM OPT employment and submit it to ISS.

I understand my OPT employment authorization and/or SEVIS record may be terminated if I am unemployed for more than 150 days (cumulative unemployment time OPT 90 days + STEM OPT 60 days) or if I do not fulfill my STEM OPT reporting and status requirements listed above.

Student Name

Student Signature   Date