

To: All SEVIS users
Date: May 10, 2016
Re: DHS 24-Month STEM OPT Extension is Now in Effect
Number: 1605-03

General Information

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) new 24-month optional practical training (OPT) extension for F-1 students with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees is in effect starting today, May 10, 2016. This rule replaces the previous 17-month STEM OPT extension.

Beginning today, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will adjudicate 24-month STEM OPT applications only. For students with existing 17-month employment authorization documents (EAD), please note the following:

- All existing 17-month EADs will remain valid until the EAD expires, is terminated or revoked.
- If an eligible 17-month STEM OPT participant wants to apply for the additional seven months of STEM OPT, they have until Aug. 8, 2016, to submit their application to USCIS. DHS will not automatically convert 17-month extensions into 24-month extensions.
- Students with pending 17-month extension applications will receive a request for evidence from USCIS to allow the student to demonstrate their eligibility for the 24-month STEM OPT extension.

To assist with the transition, Study in the States provides resources to help students, schools and employers understand and comply with the new regulation. This includes the Study in the States [STEM OPT Hub](#), which has information about the new rule for all audiences.

SEVIS users, please also visit the [SEVIS Help Hub](#) on Study in the States for more information about implementation of the rule and about SEVIS functionality.

Comments

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