STEM OPT Extension Online Workshop
The STEM OPT extension is a 24-month period of temporary training that directly relates to an F-1 student's program of study in an approved STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) major.

Eligible F-1 students with STEM degrees who finished their program of study and are participating in their initial 12-month of post-completion OPT have the option to apply for a STEM OPT extension.

Please note: This workshop is for enrolled UCLA students only and is specific to UCLA policies and procedures.
If you are applying based on your most recent UCLA STEM degree:
To be eligible, F-1 students:

- Must have completed a STEM Designated Program (based on the Classification of Instructional Program [CIP] code listed on page 1 of their current I-20)
- Must be in their initial 12-month of post-completion OPT period (EAD card must not have already expired)
- Must not have exceeded 90 days of unemployment time during their initial 12-month post-completion OPT period
- Must have a bona fide employer-employee relationship with an employer enrolled in E-Verify
- Must have a paid, full-time employment offer (20 or more hours per week) for a position directly related to their major and appropriate for their degree level. Volunteer/unpaid positions and self employment are not eligible.
- Must be within the U.S. with F-1 status at the time they submit their STEM OPT Extension application to USCIS

NOTE: A student can only be authorized for the STEM OPT Extension twice in their lifetime.
If applying based on a previously obtained STEM degree

- Check USCIS STEM OPT Website for more information

STEM degree must have been completed within 10 years of the STEM OPT Extension application submission date

- Must have a paid, full-time (20 or more hours per week) employment offer directly related to their STEM degree with an E-Verified employer

- Must submit copies of their previous STEM diploma or official transcripts, and their most recent UCLA diploma or official transcripts (in addition to the checklist documents)
### STEM OPT Extension Employment Types

- **Paid Employment:** A student must work at least 20 hours per week. Employers must be enrolled in E-Verify.

- **Multiple Employers:** A student may work for more than one employer, but each employment must be at least 20 hours per week, paid, related to their degree program and all employers must be enrolled in E-Verify. Students must submit a completed Form I-983 for each employer.

- **Work for Hire (Contractual):** This is commonly referred to as 1099 employment, where an individual performs a service based on a contractual relationship rather than employment relationship. The company for whom the student is providing services must be registered with E-Verify. If requested by DHS, the student must be prepared to provide evidence showing the duration of the contract period and the name and address of the contracting company. Employment must be at least 20 hours per week.

- **Employment through Third Party Employers and Staffing Agencies:** Employment must constitute a bona fide employer-employee relationship. The Form I-983 must be signed by the E-Verified employer who is providing the practical training experience. Employment must be at least 20 hours per week. The staffing placement agency cannot complete and sign the Form I-983 as an employer unless:
  - The staffing placement agency is an E-Verified employer of the student, and
  - The staffing/placement agency provides and oversees the training (training experience may take place at a site other than the employer’s principal place of business)
STEM OPT Extension applications may be submitted to USCIS for processing as early as (but no earlier than) 90 days before a student’s initial 12-month OPT EAD card end date.

USCIS must receive STEM OPT Extension applications by the initial 12-month OPT EAD card end date to be considered timely filed.

USCIS may take 3 months or more to approve STEM OPT Extension applications. Visit the ‘Check Case Processing Times’ page for current USCIS processing times (see “Form I-765” for “Potomac Service Center”).

Students with a timely filed STEM OPT Extension application may continue employment for up to 180 days after their initial 12-month OPT EAD card end date while their STEM OPT Extension application is pending with USCIS.

If you do not receive your STEM OPT Extension EAD card by your initial 12-month OPT EAD card end date, you will have to update your I-9 with your employer to continue employment beyond your current EAD card end date while your STEM OPT Extension application is pending. For information on how to update your I-9 with your employer, please visit the USCIS Foreign Academic Students page and discuss this with your employer.
1. Must report all of your post-completion OPT employment and contact information through the SEVP Portal
2. Review in full this STEM OPT Extension Online Workshop
3. Pay $380 Dashew Center STEM OPT Administrative Processing Fee
4. Prepare and complete your STEM OPT Extension I-20 Request materials
5. Submit your completed STEM OPT Extension I-20 Request via MyBruin International
6. Receive your STEM OPT Extension I-20. Processing time can take up to 10 business days from a completed request submission
7. Prepare your STEM OPT Extension Application for submission to USCIS for processing

(See STEM OPT Extension Application Submission Instructions)
To request a STEM OPT Extension I-20 from the Dashew Center, you must:

- Report all post-completion OPT employment in your SEVP Portal account.

Complete the STEM OPT Extension I-20 Request and upload the following documents in MyBruin International:

- $380 STEM OPT Extension Administrative Processing Fee Payment Receipt
- Completed Form I-983 (See Form I-983 Instructions)
- 1 copy of your I-94 Admission Record
  - Electronic I-94: Print record from CBP I-94 Website
  - OR Paper I-94: Copy both front and back sides
- 1 copy of your Travel History Page.
- 1 copy of your passport biographical page
- 1 copy of your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card (front and back sides)
- 1 copy of your STEM degree diploma or official transcript indicating your degree was awarded
- Recently dated employment verification letter from employer on official letterhead (must indicate: job title, supervisor’s name, employer’s contact information, and employer’s E-Verify ID)
If applying based on a previous STEM degree, please also submit (in addition to checklist requirements on the previous slide):

- Copy of previous STEM degree I-20 (STEM degree must have been completed within 10 years of the STEM OPT Extension application date)
- Copy of previous STEM degree diploma or official transcripts indicating degree awarded
- Copy of most recent UCLA diploma or official transcripts indicating degree awarded.
- Combine into one PDF the following documents: Previous STEM degree I-20, previous STEM degree diploma or transcripts, and your UCLA diploma.
- Then, upload the combined PDF into the STEM OPT Extension I-20 Request eform in the section STEM Degree Diploma or Official Transcript.
STEM OPT Extension I-20 Request Form

Log into MyBruin International → Select F-1 Practical Training
What does the STEM OPT Administrative Processing Fee cover?

The Dashew Center STEM OPT Administrative Processing Fee pays for systems required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to maintain a student’s F-1 SEVIS record during their STEM OPT period.

SEVIS record maintenance is still required during a student’s STEM OPT Extension period to allow the Dashew Center to process F-1 benefits such as travel authorization, I-20 requests, Cap Gap requests, and STEM OPT employment and address updates.

SEVIS maintenance fees are covered by UCLA for currently enrolled UCLA students. Since students will not be enrolled at UCLA during their STEM OPT Extension period, they will be charged a STEM OPT Administrative Processing Fee by the Dashew Center.

Students are required to pay the Dashew Center OPT/STEM OPT Administrative Processing Fee each time they apply for Post-Completion OPT or the OPT STEM Extension.
The Dashew Center OPT Administrative Processing Fee for the STEM OPT Extension application is $380.

To Pay the fee:

- Go to your Dashew Account, OPT Administrative Processing Fee Site on the Dashew Center website
- Log in using your Bruin Logon ID to access the payment site
- Click on the ‘Pay’ link for ‘F-1 OPT: STEM Extension’
STEM OPT Administrative Processing Fee

- Follow the instructions on the payment site to pay the STEM OPT Administrative Processing Fee by debit or credit card.

- To review your payment submission, click on ‘My Payments’ and a record of your payment submission will appear.

Opt Payments

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<td>F-1 OPT: STEM Extension:</td>
<td>12/23 04:51 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F-1 OPT: Initial 12 Months:</td>
<td>12/22 02:53 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A receipt of your payment will be sent by UCLA Corporate Financial Services to your email address reported in MyUCLA.

- Please be sure that your email address is written correctly and valid.

A copy of your payment receipt or screenshot of payment history is required for your OPT I-20 Request.

If you cannot locate the payment receipt email, please provide us a screenshot of the payment history screen from your Dashew Center account.
An F-1 student and their employer must obtain, complete and sign the Form I-983 Training Plan before the student may apply for the STEM OPT extension.

The formal training plan must clearly articulate the STEM OPT student’s learning objectives and affirm the employer’s commitment to helping the student achieve those objectives.

STEM OPT students and their employers are subject to the terms and conditions of the 24-month STEM OPT extension regulations, the Form I-983 Instructions and the completed Form I-983, effective as of the employment start date requested for the associated STEM OPT period, as indicated on the Form I-983.

*Make a copy of your completed Form I-983 to keep in your records*
How to Complete Form I-983

SECTION 1: STUDENT INFORMATION (Completed by Student)

Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name):
BRUIN, Josie

Student Email Address:
jbruin@ucla.edu

Name of School Recommending STEM OPT:
UCLA
Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned:
UCLA

SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3-digit suffix):
LOS214F00297000

Designated School Official (DSO) Name and Contact Information:

LEAVE THIS SECTION BLANK

Qualifying Major and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code:
Computer Science, 11.0101

Level/Type of Qualifying Degree: Bachelor's

Date Awarded (mm-dd-yyyy): 06-10-2016

Based on Prior Degree? ☑ No

Employment Authorization Number: 111-111-111

USCIS # on EAD Card

Answer “NO” if you are applying based on your most recent UCLA STEM degree
Answer “YES” if you are applying based on a previous STEM degree

Enter your STEM OPT period (starting the day after your current EAD end date)

Example:
OPT End Date is 08/13/2024
STEM OPT Request Period: 08/14/2024-08/13/2026

Major and CIP code can be located on page 1 of your OPT I-20

Answer “NO” if you are applying based on your most recent UCLA STEM degree
Answer “YES” if you are applying based on a previous STEM degree
SECTION 2: STUDENT CERTIFICATION

I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.

I certify that:

1. I have reviewed, understand, and will adhere to this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students ("Plan");

2. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity if I believe that my employer is not providing me with appropriate training as delineated on this Plan;

3. I understand that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may deny, revoke, or terminate the STEM OPT of students whom DHS determines are not engaging in OPT in compliance with the law, including the STEM OPT of students who are not, or whose employers are not, complying with this Plan;

4. My practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies me for the STEM OPT extension; and

5. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity regarding any material changes to or deviations from this Plan, including but not limited to, any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring, any non-trivial reduction in compensation from the amount previously submitted on the Plan that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked, any significant decrease in hours per week that I engage in a STEM training opportunity, and any decrease in hours below the 20-hours-per-week minimum required under this rule.

Signature of Student: ____________________________
Printed Name of Student: _______________________
Date (mm-dd-yyyy): ____________________________

Sign and Date Here
(USCIS will accept an electronically reproduced original signature. Digital signatures or your name typed in script font are not accepted).
An EIN is different than an E-Verify Identification Number. EINs are used for tax purposes and are 9 digits long: XX-XXXXXXX.

Enter the date that you will begin your STEM OPT Extension training with your employer (usually the day after your initial, 12-month OPT EAD card end date).

Search your industry NAICS code here: https://www.census.gov/naics/

| Employer Name: UCLA, Computer Science Department | Street Address: 4732 Boelter Hall | Suite: |
| Employer Website URL: http://www.cs.ucla.edu | City: Los Angeles | State: CA | ZIP Code: 90095 |
| Employer ID Number (EIN): 95-6006143 | Number of Full-Time Employees in U.S.: 26,000+ | North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code: 611300 |

OPT Hours Per Week (must be at least 20 hours/week): 40

Compensation:
A. Salary Amount and Frequency: $2,000.00/bi-weekly
B. Other Compensation (Type and Estimated Amount or Value): 1.

Start Date of Employment (mm-dd-yyyy): 7/15/2020

(Example: Student is an employee of the UCLA Computer Science Department)
By signing Section 4, your employer is obligated to provide on-site supervision and training and report any material changes to the Training Plan, including a reduction in compensation, hours worked, or termination of employment.

Employer Official must provide all the information requested for all fields then sign and date (USCIS will accept an electronically reproduced original signature. Digital signatures or names typed in script font are not accepted).
SECTION 5: TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS (Completed by Student and Employer)

Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name):

Employer Name:

EMPLOYER SITE INFORMATION

Site Name: Site Address (Street, City, State, ZIP):

Name of Official: Official’s Title:

Official’s Email: Official’s Phone Number:

Note: for the remaining fields in this section, employers who already have an internal/pro-existing training plan in place may fill in the details based on that plan.

Student Role: Describe the student’s role with the employer and how that role is directly related to enhancing the student’s knowledge obtained through his or her qualifying STEM degree.

Address of where you are physically working for the employer (may be different from address in Section 3). If you are working remotely, please provide the address where you would be working if you were working on-site such as company headquarter or office location.

Student Role: Describe what tasks and assignments the student will carry out during the training and how these relate to the student’s STEM degree. The plan must cover a specific span of time and detail specific goals and objectives. Responses must include the name of your STEM degree and a description of the direct relationship between your role and your degree.

Goals and Objectives: Describe the specific skills, knowledge, and techniques the student will learn or apply; how the student will achieve the goals set out for their training; and the training curriculum including the timeline. Responses must include learning objectives and how they will be achieved.
Section 5, continued

Employer Oversight: Explain how the employer provides oversight and supervision of students filling this position. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such oversight and supervision, a description of the program/policy may suffice to answer this question. Responses must include description/method(s) of oversight and supervision.

Measures and Assessments: Explain how the employer measures and confirms whether the student is acquiring new knowledge and skills. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such measures and assessments, a description of the program/policy may suffice to answer this question. Responses must include a description of how knowledge and/or skills are assessed.

If the information provided does not fit in the given box, you may provide an additional page as an appendix to your I-983 document. Combine the I-983 document and the appendix into one PDF and upload them together in MyBruin International.
First evaluation due twelve months after the STEM OPT Extension start date

Second evaluation due at the end of the STEM OPT Extension period or when ending employment

This page is to be left blank when initially applying for the STEM OPT.
After you submit your STEM OPT Extension I-20 Request in the MyBruin International Portal, your documents will be reviewed and a STEM OPT Extension I-20 will be issued if the documents are sufficient.

Once you receive your STEM OPT Extension I-20, please review it for accuracy and sign the bottom of page 1 at the student attestation section in wet-ink:
- Make a copy of pages 1 and 2 after signing it to include with your STEM OPT Extension application materials to USCIS.

Prepare your STEM OPT Extension application materials for submission to USCIS by following the [STEM OPT Extension Application Submission Instructions](#)

USCIS must receive your STEM OPT Extension application materials:
1. Within 60 days of your STEM OPT Extension I-20 issuance date (as indicated on page 1 of your updated I-20, next to your F-1 Counselor’s signature)
2. Before the current initial 12-month OPT end date
Please note that the Dashew Center does not have step-by-step instructions for filing STEM OPT Extension applications online, so please follow the instructions provided by USCIS if you choose to submit your application online.

To file your application online, please visit [https://www.uscis.gov/i-765](https://www.uscis.gov/i-765) and click on the blue ‘File Online’ button. The link will redirect you to a new page with instructions on how to create a USCIS account.

Once you have created a USCIS account, please select that you would like to file the I-765 Form to apply for the STEM OPT Extension to be directed to the online I-765 Form. The questions on the online I-765 form will match the questions on the [PDF I-765 Form](https://www.uscis.gov/i-765), but will appear in a different order. It is recommended that you review the following slides of this workshop to prepare your I-765 Form, even if you will be submitting your application online.

You must wait until you receive your STEM OPT Extension I-20 from the Dashew Center BEFORE submitting application materials to USCIS, as the STEM OPT Extension I-20 is a required supporting document.

Once you submit your completed STEM OPT Extension application online, you will be issued an application receipt number and will be able to access your application receipt notice through your USCIS account. Your EAD card will be mailed to the U.S. mailing address provided on your I-765 Form.
Students can file their application online or by mail. USCIS recommends online filing. Here are some of the benefits of filing online:

- USCIS receives application materials faster than mail application
- Receive receipt notice of your application immediately
- Receive USCIS notices online, and sign up for email/text notifications
- Track and review your application after submission
  - Pay fees online
- Respond to requests for evidence online
- Send USCIS secure messages about your case
- Easy access to all USCIS correspondence
- Upload additional documentation to application after submission
- Update your mailing and physical address
Please type and print the I-765 Form, or if completing by hand, use black ink only!
Part 1. Reason for Applying

I am applying for (select only one box):

1.a. ☐ Initial permission to accept employment.
1.b. ☐ Replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged employment authorization document, or correction of my employment authorization document NOT DUE to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) error.

NOTE: Replacement (correction) of an employment authorization document due to USCIS error does not require a new Form I-765 and filing fee. Refer to Replacement for Card Error in the What is the Filing Fee section of the Form I-765 Instructions for further details.

☐ Renewal of my permission to accept employment. (Attach a copy of your previous employment authorization document.)

Select “Renewal of my permission to accept employment”
Part 2. Information About You

Your Full Legal Name

1.a. Family Name (Last Name)  BRUIN
1.b. Given Name (First Name)  Josie
1.c. Middle Name

Other Names Used

Provide all other names you have ever used, including aliases, maiden name, and nicknames used on government/legal documents; i.e. passport.

2.a. Family Name (Last Name)
2.b. Given Name (First Name)
2.c. Middle Name
• The EAD card will be shipped to the address you provide here.
• The mailing address here must be valid for at least 4 months into the future from your STEM OPT application submission date.
• This address must be an address in the U.S.
• This address may be a residential, commercial, or P.O. Box address.

If you listed a ‘U.S. Mailing Address’ that is NOT your current, physical address, select “No,” provide the name of someone who resides at that address in the ‘In Care of Name’ field, 5.a., and complete #7.a – 7.d.
If you answered “No” for Question #6, please provide your physical address here.
Enter your USCIS-Number here (as indicated on your initial, 12-month OPT EAD card)

Enter your USCIS Online Account Number (if applicable)

Other Information

8. Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any)
   ▶ A-

9. USCIS Online Account Number (if any)
   ▶

10. Gender
    [ ] Male  [ ] Female

11. Marital Status
    [ ] Single  [ ] Married  [ ] Divorced  [ ] Widowed

12. Have you previously filed Form I-765?
    [ ] Yes  [ ] No
Answer #10 and 11

Check “Yes.” You must provide copies of your previous EAD(s)
13.a. Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to you?

- Yes
- No

NOTE: If you answered “No” to Item Number 13.a., skip to Item Number 14. If you answered “Yes” to Item Number 13.a., provide the information requested in Item Number 13.b.

13.b. Provide your Social Security number (SSN) (if known).
If you would like to apply for a replacement Social Security Card with your STEM OPT Extension application, check ‘Yes’ for Questions #14 & 15 and complete #16.a. - 17.b.

- If you are applying for a replacement Social Security Card, you will retain the same Social Security Number.

You will receive your replacement Social Security Card in the mail after you receive your STEM OPT EAD card.

Check ‘No’ for Questions #14 & 15 if you do not want a replacement Social Security Card and skip #16 and 17.
List all countries of citizenship, as applicable. Use Part 6 of the I-765 Form if you have more than two countries of citizenship.

Please submit copies of any/all country passports if you have more than 1 country of citizenship.

Provide your birth city/town/village and state/province.

List the name of the country as it was named when you were born, even if the name has changed.

Make sure your Date of Birth is in the correct format: MONTH/DAY/YEAR (01/31/1998 not 31/01/1998)

Your Country or Countries of Citizenship or Nationality

List all countries where you are currently a citizen or national. If you need extra space to complete this item, use the space provided in Part 6. Additional Information.

18.a. Country

18.b. Country

Place of Birth

List the city/town/village, state/province, and country where you were born.

19.a. City/Town/Village of Birth

19.b. State/Province of Birth

19.c. Country of Birth

20. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
Enter the information directly from your passport

Leave blank

Your most recent U.S. entry date can be found on your paper or electronic I-94 Admission Record

- If your most recent entry date on your I-94 and admission stamp do not match, please use the date on the I-94 Admission Record.

For the place of your last arrival into the U.S., please see your entry stamp or Travel History

Enter your I-94 Number here.

This should match the country of citizenship on your I-20 and I-94 Admission Record

Immigration status at your last arrival and current immigration status should be ‘F-1 Student’

You can find your SEVIS number on the top left side of your current I-20

Enter your I-94 Number here.

Immigration status at your last arrival and current immigration status should be ‘F-1 Student’

You can find your SEVIS number on the top left side of your current I-20
Retrieve a copy of your electronic I-94 Admission Record on the CBP Website:

https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/ - /recent-search
Go to the I-94 Travel History page
The most recent entry in your travel history should match your I-94 Admission Record.

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<td>2016-02-12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-01-12</td>
<td>Departure</td>
<td>SFR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use the code (c)(3)(C) for the STEM OPT Extension

The E-Verify Identification Number is different than the EIN. E-Verify ID numbers are 5-7 digits long

Skip questions 29 – 31.b.
Select 1.a. to indicate that you have read and understood the questions.

Provide your information as requested.
Hand sign your name in wet-ink and provide the date of the signature.

Read the entire declaration carefully
Skip Parts 4 and 5
Part 6 must be completed to report:
- Your previous OPT authorization(s)

You do not need to report previous CPT authorization periods or previously issued SEVIS ID numbers.

Enter your USCIS-Number here (as indicated on your initial, 12-month OPT EAD card)

Copy this page/part/item number to report previous OPT authorization(s)

Write or type all periods of previous OPT authorization and include copies of all previous OPT I-20s and EAD cards.

(you may need to contact your previous schools if you are missing any of this information)
You have completed the I-765 paper Form!

Review all the information on the form for accuracy. You must submit ALL 7 pages of the I-765 to USCIS if you are submitting your application by mail.

Make a copy of your completed I-765 application to keep in your records, in case there is a problem with the application.

If you submitted your I-765 online, you can review a copy of your submission at myUSCIS.
For applications submitted to USCIS by mail:

USCIS accepts the following payment methods for the STEM OPT Extension application fee:

- **Personal Check:** Use a check from a U.S. debit/bank account. Funds will be drawn directly from the bank account.

  *Note: Providing a personal check with insufficient funds or a check from a foreign bank (e.g. Canadian banks) will result in the denial of your application.*

- **Cashier's Check:** Go to your local bank (where you have your debit account) and request a Cashier's Check. A Cashier's Check is a draft guarantee drawn from your bank’s own funds. Your bank will withdraw funds from your personal account to create the Cashier's Check.

- **Money Order:** A money order can be purchased at a U.S. post office, Western Union, or CVS/pharmacy. Cash will need to be exchanged to obtain a money order for a specified amount.

  *Do not write on the back of your check or money order*

**Note:** The Dashew Center recommends using a Personal Check, Cashier’s Check, or a money order. Personal checks and Cashier’s checks can be tracked and are secure payment methods since they are guaranteed by a bank.
Josie Bruin  
417 Charles E Young Drive West  
Los Angeles, CA 90095  

Pay to the order of: **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
### Hundred ### and 00/100  

**Note**: Do not write on the back of your personal check, cashier’s check or money order.

Write your Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) and Your SEVIS ID # in the memo section.

**Note**: Please check the USCIS website for the I-765 filing fee amount.

DOB: 12/31/1989  
SEVIS ID#: N0000000000  

Note: Do not write on the back of your personal check, cashier’s check or money order.
U.S. Style Passport Photos

Passport Photo Requirements

- Please reference the Department of State passport photo tool [here](#).
- When filing online, please follow the instructions provided in the I-765 / MyUSCIS application portal.
- If you mail your application, please write LAST NAME, First Name and SEVIS ID Number on back side of the photos.

Options to have your passport photo taken near UCLA:

<table>
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<th>Off-Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Photo Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ackerman Union A-Level</td>
<td>1520 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310-206-8433</td>
<td>310-475-0789</td>
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<td>1001 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90024</td>
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<td></td>
<td>310-209-9141</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Once you have prepared all of your STEM OPT Extension application forms and supporting documents using the STEM OPT Extension Application Submission Instructions, please mail the STEM OPT Extension application materials to USCIS to the appropriate address listed under “Foreign Students” on this page: https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses

Please ship your application to USCIS using a courier service with mail tracking (USPS, FedEx, UPS, DHL). If you need USCIS’ phone number to process your STEM OPT Extension application shipment, please use: 800-375-5283.
For applications submitted to USCIS online:

The online STEM OPT Extension application will redirect you to Pay.gov to make your USCIS filing fee payment.

USCIS accepts the following payment methods for the USCIS I-765 Form filing fee:

- Withdrawal from a Checking or Savings Account: You will be required to provide your account number and routing number.
- U.S. Debit/Credit Card
Next Steps After Submitting Your Application to USCIS

- Applicants who mailed their STEM OPT Extension application to USCIS will receive an I-797 Notice of Action Receipt Notice from USCIS approximately 2-4 weeks from the date their STEM OPT Extension application was received by USCIS.

- Applicants who filed their STEM OPT Extension application online will be issued an application receipt number within 24 hours of submitting their application and will be able to access their application receipt notice through their myUSCIS account.

- Applicants can check the status of their STEM OPT Extension application online using the receipt number in their I-797 Notice of Action Receipt Notice on the USCIS Case Status Page.

- Applicants will receive the decision from USCIS approximately 3+ months from the date their STEM OPT Extension application was received by USCIS.

- Applicants will receive First Class mail containing their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card if the request has been approved by USCIS. Check your address at USPS.com using the Zip-Code Lookup tool.
What if I don’t receive a decision from USCIS by my initial OPT end date?

- Students with a timely filed STEM OPT Extension application with USCIS may continue working beyond their initial, 12-month OPT EAD card end date while their STEM OPT Extension application is pending up to 180 days.

- If you do not receive your STEM OPT Extension EAD card by your initial, 12-month OPT EAD card end date, you will have to update your I-9 with your employer to continue employment beyond your current EAD card end date while your STEM OPT Extension application is pending. For information on how to update your I-9 with your employer, please visit the USCIS Foreign Academic Students Page.
After you receive your STEM OPT Extension EAD card, upload PDF copies of the front and back of your card in the MyBruin International Portal.
Address and Mailing of EAD Card

We recommend that you provide a mailing address for your STEM OPT Extension application that will be valid for at least 4 months from your application submission date.

- If you move before receiving the EAD card you may risk losing your EAD card in the mail, even if you file a change of address with USCIS after submitting your OPT application to USCIS for processing.
- U.S. Postal Service (USPS) does not forward federal mail, even if you request mail forwarding services from USPS.
- If you must change address, you can file form AR-11 with USCIS online or login to your myUSCIS account to do so.

What do I do if I lost my EAD card?
Apply for a replacement EAD card from USCIS online, which will require a new I-765 form, filing fee, and supporting documents. Contact USCIS and USPS if lost in the mail, then request a new EAD card from USCIS.
Students on the STEM OPT Extension have an additional 60 calendar days—including weekends and holidays—of allowed unemployment time, in addition to any remaining unemployment days from the initial 12-month OPT.

Exceeding the allotted days of unemployment will end the STEM OPT Extension period and you must depart the United States. Please schedule an appointment with a Dashew Center F-1 Counselor or email OPT@saonet.ucla.edu prior to this happening to discuss options.
You can only update your personal information in your SEVP Portal account while on STEM OPT Extension. Report any employment changes or updates to the Dashew Center through the MyBruin International Portal.

Resetting Portal Account
If you have been locked out of your SEVP portal account and are prompted to contact your DSO, please submit an SEVP Portal Reset Request in the MyBruin International Portal.
Students with STEM OPT Extension authorization must report the following information to maintain valid F-1 status during their STEM OPT Extension period through MyBruin International:

1. Upload EAD card copies (front and back) upon receipt
2. Every 6 months, submit the STEM OPT Validation E-Form to confirm:
   - Legal name
   - U.S. residential address
   - Employer name and address
   - Status of current employment
3. Self Evaluations (required for 12 and 24-month validation reporting)
4. Unemployment
5. Material Changes to an existing I-983 Training Plan
6. Changing Employers
7. Employer Non-compliance
Students engaging in the STEM OPT Extension must submit validation reports at the 6, 12, 18, and 24-month marks of their STEM OPT Extension period. Your SEVP portal will indicate when your next reporting requirement will be due.

To submit a validation report, please submit the STEM OPT Validation E-Form in MyBruin International:

- 6-month: submit STEM OPT Validation E-Form and upload STEM OPT EAD card
- 12-month: submit STEM OPT Validation E-Form and 12-month self-evaluation (top half of only page 5 of Form I-983)
- 18-month: submit STEM OPT Validation E-Form
- 24-month: submit STEM OPT Validation E-Form and final self-evaluation (bottom half of only page 5 of Form I-983)

- Reporting can be completed up to 30 days prior to the validation due date.
- Validation requests should be submitted to the Dashew Center at least 10 business days before the validation due date.
Select which validation is due and you will be prompted to upload any required documents.
When submitting your evaluations, please ensure the “Range of Evaluation Dates” are accurate.

For example:
12-Month Evaluation: 09/20/2023 – 09/19/2024
24-Month Evaluation: 09/20/2023 – 09/19/2025
Unemployment: Report unemployment by completing a final self-evaluation (bottom half of page 5 of Form I-983) for your previous employment and submitting the STEM Update Employment E-Form within 10 days of your last day of employment.

Material Changes: Report material changes to an existing Form I-983 by completing an updated Form I-983 and submitting the STEM Update Employment E-Form with any additional documents for the material change within 10 days of the change.

- Material changes include (but are not limited to): any change in student compensation, any change in hours per week that a student engages in a STEM training opportunity, changes to the employer’s commitments or student’s learning objectives as documented on the Form I-983, employer address, supervisor, etc.
Changing Employment

Students who change employment (or if the employer EIN changes) during their STEM OPT Extension period must submit the following within 10 days of the change through the STEM Update Employment E-Form:

- For previous employment, submit a final self evaluation (bottom half of page 5 of Form I-983) to report your previous employment end date
- For new employment, submit a completed Form I-983 (pages 1-4) to report your new employment start date
- Employment verification letter from new employer on company letterhead (must include: job title, supervisor’s name, employer’s contact information, and employer’s E-Verify ID)
Select which employment update has occurred, and you will be prompted to upload the required documents.
Reporting Employer Non-Compliance

If a STEM OPT Extension student believes that their employer is not complying with the terms and conditions of the 24-month STEM OPT Extension regulations, the [Form I-983 Instructions](#), and the completed Form I-983 on file with their Designated School Official (DSO), the student may:

- Contact the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by following the instructions found on [ICE.gov](http://www.ice.gov).
- Report violations through the Homeland Security Investigations tip submission form.

(A period of student unemployment, caused by an employer’s failure to comply with program requirements, on its own will not affect the STEM OPT student’s status so long as the student reports changes in employment status and adheres to the overall unemployment limits.)
The Dashew Center does not recommend traveling outside of the U.S. while their STEM OPT Extension application is pending with USCIS. Traveling outside the U.S. prior to STEM OPT Extension approval could result in application being delayed or denied.

Documents required to re-enter the U.S. in valid F-1 status AFTER STEM OPT Extension has been approved and STEM OPT EAD card received:

- Valid Passport (with at least 6 months validity from re-entry date)
- Valid F-1 Visa
- Endorsed STEM OPT Extension I-20 (each travel authorization signature is valid for 6 months from the date it was last signed and must be valid at the time of entry to the U.S.)
- STEM OPT Extension EAD Card
- Proof of Employment or Offer Letter (Verification document from an employer verifying your job title, job duties, duration and start date of employment written on company letterhead)
F-1 students engaging in STEM OPT Extension will still hold F-1 status in the U.S.

The Dashew Center will still maintain and update an F-1 student’s SEVIS record while the student engages in the STEM OPT Extension.

Dashew Center services such as advising appointments, support letters, and travel authorization requests are still available to F-1 students engaging in STEM OPT Extension.

F-1 students engaging in STEM OPT Extension are still required to obtain a travel signature from the Dashew Center on their I-20 to re-enter the U.S. in valid F-1 status after traveling abroad.
Students may request an updated I-20 from the Dashew Center after they receive their STEM OPT Extension EAD card in the mail. An updated I-20 is not required to maintain F-1 status but is highly recommended if a student will be traveling internationally and re-entering the U.S. after their initial 12-Month OPT end date.

- The updated I-20 will show a student’s STEM OPT Extension status as ‘APPROVED’ on page 2 and will include employment information that has been reported in the SEVP Portal.

To request an updated I-20, please:
- Verify that the SEVP Portal is up-to-date and accurate
- Submit copies of the front and back of your STEM OPT EAD card in MyBruin International
- Complete an I-20 Update Request Form in the MyBruin International Portal
I-20 Update Request Form

Log into MyBruin International Portal → Select F-1 Student Services

I-20 Update Request

(*) Information Required

Instructions

This form is for students in active F-1 status including OPT/STEM OPT Extension who need to update information on their I-20.

To request an updated I-20, please select one of the options listed below.

Reason for request*

- Change of Major
- Change of Funding
- Name Change
- Change of Country of Citizenship
- Add a Second Major
- OPT / STEM OPT Approved
- Other

Select the reason “OPT / STEM OPT Approved”
Cap Gap I-20: Transition to H-1B

- Cap Gap – a period in which a student’s F-1 status and STEM OPT Extension authorization is automatically extended by USCIS to bridge the gap between the end of their F-1 status and the start of their H-1B status.

- The most common situation occurs when a student’s STEM OPT Extension ends in the Spring or Summer and their F-1 status expires 60 days later, leaving a gap of several weeks or months before the start of the student’s H-1B status begins on October 1.

- If granted by USCIS, the Cap Gap will automatically extend a student’s F-1 status and STEM OPT Extension authorization without requiring a new EAD card. Students should request an updated I-20 indicating they have Cap Gap approval.
The Cap Gap is available to F-1 students engaging in STEM OPT Extension with pending or approved cap-subject H-1B petitions.

To request a Cap-Gap I-20:
1. Report any/all STEM OPT Extension employment to the Dashew Center to update your SEVP Portal and verify the portal is correct
   - Complete all necessary validation reporting requirements or material changes
2. Ensure that you have submitted copies of the front and back of your STEM OPT Extension EAD card in MyBruin International
3. Submit a Cap-Gap I-20 Request in MyBruin International
   - Upload a copy of the H-1B Receipt Notice or Approval Notice from USCIS (I-797A or I-797C)
You have now completed the STEM OPT Extension Workshop

Resources:

- STEM OPT Application: Preparation and Mailing Instructions
- MyBruin International
- $380 OPT Administrative Processing Fee
- USCIS’s Processing Times

Contact the Dashew Center:

- Schedule a Counseling Appointment
- Email us: OPT@saonet.ucla.edu