

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT) REQUEST FORM

General Information:

The application for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) can take up to 5 months to be processed. Students cannot begin work until they have obtained the EAD from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the start date of their OPT has been reached. Students applying for post-completion OPT must submit their application to USCIS the latest within 60 days of their program completion date. Now USCIS accepts applications through their online application platform. You must [create a USCIS account](#) before you can apply.

Application Procedures:

Step 1: Attend at least on OPT Employment Workshop prior to starting the process. This is mandatory.

Step 2: Submit the following documents to your campus Designated School Official (DSO):

- Complete this Optional Practical Training Request Form
- Letter from Academic Adviser or Department Chair (sample letter below)
- Completed Form I-765 (your DSO will review the I-765 and return it) – this is a worksheet to help ensure accurate entries when apply online.

Step 3: Pick up your document from your DSO once your OPT Recommendation I-20 is issued

- Your DSO will contact you by email when your new I-20 is ready. Your new I-20 will reflect your practical training beginning and ending date. *It is your responsibility to review this document for accuracy.*

Step 4: Prepare all documents and apply via your USCIS account. Application must be received by USCIS within 30 days of OPT I-20 issuance.

- Name the documents the same as on the check list and make sure the scanned documents are in the right direction for the officer.
- Schedule an appointment with DSO before make payment
- Once you make the payment online and submit, you cannot make any edits anymore. Any missing information or documents will have to be submitted via communication with USCIS through your account. It is at the discretion of the adjudicator whether your re-submitted evidence is acceptable.

POST- completion OPT Evidence		
Evidence (as listed in online filing system)	Document to Upload (Save the name as stated below)	Notes
2 x 2 photo of you	Passport Photo	<p>See “Photo Requirements” Save as JPEG file</p> <p><u>U.S. Department of State photo requirements.</u></p> <p>DOS also has a photo check tool that you can use to check the photo ahead of time.</p>
Form I-94	Form I-94 Or Change of Status I-797 Approval	<p>Save as PDF or JPEG</p> <p>Download your most recent I-94 here: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/</p>
Employment Authorization Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passport Bio Page • F-1 Visa 	<p>Save as JPEG</p> <p>Must be clear</p>
Previously authorized CPT or OPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-20(s) with CPT-OPT Authorization • EAD – Previous OPT 	<p>Save as PDF or JPEG</p> <p>Leave empty if no prior OPT or CPT Name accordingly</p>
Form I-20 for OPT	Form I-20 with OPT Recommendation	<p>Save as PDF</p> <p>Make sure to sign on the first page</p>

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT) REQUEST FORM

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO:

Global Engagement- international@thechicagoschool.edu

DIRECTIONS: This form should be completed by the student and submitted to the DSO. Students will receive a new I-20 with OPT recommendation and then must submit their OPT application to USCIS. Students must receive their EAD card and the start date on the EAD card must be reached before a student can begin work.

LAST NAME: _____ STUDENT ID#: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ MIDDLE NAME: _____

TCSP E-MAIL: _____ PHONE #: _____ LOCATION: _____

DEGREE LEVEL: _____ PROGRAM: _____ SEVIS ID#: N _____

NON-TCSP E-MAIL: _____ BIRTH DATE: MONTH: _____ DATE: _____ YEAR: _____

OPT START DATE: MONTH: _____ DATE: _____ YEAR: _____

*OPT END DATE: MONTH: _____ DATE: _____ YEAR: _____

* Start date can be the day after your program end date and no later than sixty days after your program end date on your I-20.

* Your future employment for OPT must directly relates to the major area of the field of study. You are responsible to enter the information to SEVIS Portal and provide an Explanation in Writing to your DSO after a job offer is received.

Employment Information: (If you do not have employment, leave this section blank. Once you find employment, you will enter the information in SEVIS Portal)

Exact location for OPT must be specified	Name of supervisor: _____				
	Name of company: _____				
	Company address: _____				
	City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____		
	Supervisor's Telephone: _____				
	Supervisor's Email: _____				

Job title: _____

Start Date: _____

End date: _____

No. of Hours/Week: _____

Previous Employment Information: (List all previously authorized employment for practical training; Type on a separate paper if more space is needed)

Curricular (CPT) Dates		<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME
Name of company:			
Curricular (CPT) Dates		<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME
Name of company:			
Curricular (CPT) Dates		<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME
Name of company:			
Optional (OPT) Dates		<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME
Name of company:			

By signing, I understand my employment must be related to my field of study.

By signing, I am aware that my employers may contact TCSP in the future to give pertinent information regarding my employment.

By signing, I understand that it is my responsibility to update the TCSP with any employer, address, and/or name changes while on OPT.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

SAMPLE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING – POST COMPLETION OF STUDIES

Once graduate students complete all required course work, they have flexibility in determining when to set their completion date for their immigration record. They may set it for the day when they've completed all required course work and/or the day they defend their final project/thesis/dissertation and/or the last day of their on-campus employment in their final semester of their dissertation. Recommendation must be in letter format including all information listed below.

Employment at TCSP: Students **may not** continue employment into the next semester once the student has completed degree requirements. Please note that students need valid work authorization in order to work on-campus after the completion date. In many cases, a graduate student's completion date will not correspond with their official graduation date. **If you have additional questions, please contact your DSO.**

(Department name)
(Street Address)
(City), (State) (Zip Code)

DATE: (MM/DD/YY)

TO: Designated School Official

This letter is in support of (student name)'s application for Optional Practical Training **After** Completion of Studies. (Student name) is a student in the (department name) department pursuing a (degree type) and is expected to complete (pick one of the following scenarios):

- all required course work by (MM/DD/YY)
- all required course work and project/thesis/dissertation by (MM/DD/YY)
- all required course work, project/thesis/dissertation, and on-campus employment obligations by (MM/DD/YY)

The department feels that such practical training undertaken in the United States would be beneficial for the student and is highly recommended. To the best of my knowledge, the intended practical training is related to the student's field of study and commensurate with (Student name)'s educational level.

Sincerely,

(Signature) (Must be Department Chair or Academic Advisor)
(Name)
(Title)
(Department)