

New Proposed Rule for STEM OPT Extension

Expected Date
Rule Comes Into Effect

February 12, 2016

* Changes to previous STEM OPT Extension rule in **red**

OPT

STEM OPT Extension

Total Length	12 months	24 months previously 17 months
Allowed Unemployment	90 days	60 days
Eligible Degrees	Extension can be based on previous STEM degree from accredited US institution i.e. MBA degree with previous STEM degree can apply for STEM extension Up to 2 extensions granted	
Cap Gap Relief	A student that has filed for H-1B gets automatic extension of F-1 status until October 1 of the fiscal year for which the H-1B visa is being requested	
When to Apply	Students on OPT As early as 90 days before and until 60 days after OPT ends	Those on current 17 month STEM OPT extension As early as 120 days before STEM OPT Extension ends and until 60 days after it ends
Additional Paperwork	Student must write a Mentoring and Training Plan (MTP) signed by an employer and provide it to DSO prior to applying for STEM OPT Extension Evaluations by employer every 6 months to be delivered to DSO	

Learn more at <http://gsc.mit.edu/newly-proposed-f-1-student-optional-practical-training-opt-rules/>



We are the Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC) of the Graduate Student Council. We advocate on behalf of MIT graduate students in Washington D.C. and to a general audience on issues including immigration reform.
<http://gsc.mit.edu/about-gsc/legislative-action/>