F-1 OPT Application Checklist

REMINDER: The OPT application must be received by USCIS within 30 days of the date on which ISSS issues an OPT I-20. If filed with USCIS after 30 days of the OPT I-20 issuance date, your application will be denied. Updated 1/21/2021.

To prepare the OPT application for USCIS, assemble the following documents:

- **Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance**
  - To receive an e-Notification when your Form I-765 has been accepted.
  - Attach it to the front of the application.

- **Two US Passport-Style Photos**
  - Taken recently (photos cannot be more than 30 days old)
  - Lightly print your name on the back of each photo with a pencil
  - Individuals should not wear glasses when posing for their photos.

- **I-765 Application Fee**
  - Currently the fee is $410; Please see https://www.uscis.gov/i-765 under Filing Fee.
  - Note, there is NO biometric fee for OPT.
  - Include a personal check or money order payable to “US Department of Homeland Security”. Do not abbreviate this. Write “USCIS I-765” in the memo/for line.
  - Do not use starter checks (those that do not have your name/address printed)
  - Do not use check or money orders from a foreign bank.

- **Form I-765**
  - Type or print legibly in black ink.
  - For “I am applying for” select “Initial permissions to accept employment”
  - For PART 2, Information About You
    - Item 1 - List your name exactly as it appears on the biographical page of your passport. In Other Names Used
    - Items 2 – 4 - write “None” or “N/A” if you have not used another name.
  - For PART 2, Mailing Address - Make sure the address you list on this form will be accurate for at least 90 days as this is where USCIS will send your Receipt Notice, Approval Notice and EAD. If you will use a reliable friend or family member’s address, please make sure to enter their name in line 5.a. (In Care of Name).
  - In Item #27 write:
    - (c) (3) (A) for pre-completion OPT
    - (c) (3) (B) for post-completion OPT
  - In items 28 – 30 enter N/A in each field
  - In PART 3 – Select 1.a. and enter N/A in items 1.b – 2
    - Provide your Contact information under “Applicant’s Contact Information”!
    - Be sure to sign and date the form inside the box under “Applicant’s Signature.”
    - Signature must be written, (preferably blue ink).
    - Do not use an electronic signature.
  - PARTS 4 & 5 are for those using an interpreter or a paid preparer to complete the form. Since you will be completing the form yourself, you can enter “N/A”, or “Not Applicable.”
  - Part 6 needs to be completed ONLY if:
    - You had a previous SEVIS ID.
    - You have ever been approved for CPT or OPT in the past.
• This information is listed on your I-20’s.

Example if you had a previous SEVIS ID:

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Example for CPT Authorization:

Example for OPT Authorization:

• Document Photocopies – do not send originals:
  o New OPT I-20 (make sure to sign and date)
  o All previous I-20’s
  o I-94 Printout www.cbp.gov/i94 or copy of the I-94 card (front and back)
  o Passport ID or biographical page
  o F-1 US visa (citizens of Canada and Bermuda are exempt)
  o All previous EADs (if applicable)

Final Steps:

1. Check all documents for completeness and accuracy. Refer to I-765 Instructions.
2. Be sure to sign Forms I-20 and I-765.
3. Keep a complete copy of your application for your records.
   • ISSS does not maintain copies of OPT applications.
   • All documents should be single-sided. Do not use staples.
• Keep a copy of your express mail receipt and money order receipt, if applicable.

4. **Mail completed application** to [Direct Filing Addresses for Form I-765](https://www.ice.gov/filing) listed for foreign students under category for F-1 Optional Practical Training, (OPT).

• Current mailing address is for the [USCIS Chicago Lockbox](https://www.ice.gov/filing).

  o **If mailing the I-765 application with U.S. Postal Service (USPS):**

    ▪ USCIS
      PO Box 805373
      Chicago, IL 60680

  o **If mailing the I-765 application with UPS or FedEx:**

    ▪ USCIS
      Attn: I-765 C03
      131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor
      Chicago, IL 60603-5517

**We recommend that you mail your application by express mail** such as UPS, Federal Express or by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, so you will have a record of its delivery.

**Finally**, if you decide NOT to apply for OPT or use your OPT benefits please notify your ISSS Advisor.