

# Post-Completion OPT: Apply Online to USCIS

A guide to submitting your online application (Form I-765) to USCIS

This is a helpful, general guide and may not be up-to-date with USCIS requirements or address nuances of specific student situations. Contact ISS with any questions: international@saintpaul.edu

### Create your account at www.uscis.gov

### You will be asked to:

- set up your password
- enter phone or email for 2-step authentication
- answer security questions to retrieve your login if you get locked out

Note: if you already have a USCIS online account, sign in to your account



### Sign-in to your new USCIS account

- Enter your email ulletaddress & password
- The system will send ulletyou a one-time verification code every time you log-in



### Sign In

#### Email \*

iloveopt@gmail.com

#### Password \*

### ..... Forgot your Password? Show Password

### Sign In

One account for all of your USCIS needs. Create an account.

Didn't receive confirmation instructions?

### Legal

- · Department of Homeland Security Consent
- DHS Privacy Notice
- FBI Privacy Notice
- · Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Disclosure Notice
- Terms of Use



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Please enter your verification code to continue.

### Enter your verification code

A verification code has been sent to +

Please enter the code that you received. If you do not receive the code in 10 minutes, please request a new verification code.

If you have lost access to +

enter

your backup code instead, or Contact Us.

#### Secure verification code \*

#### Submit

## **Begin your application**

 Click "file a form online" from the main USCIS Account page after you log-in



### Choose "I-765, Application for Employment Authorization"

- Be sure to select I-765
- Note the eligibility categories: Postcompletion OPT is (c)(3)(B) eligibility category
- Click "Start form"

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O My Account

### File a Form

Select the form you want to file online. Once you start, we will automatically save your information for 30 days, or from the last time you worked on the form.

**Fee waiver:** If you are requesting a fee waiver, you cannot file online. You must file a paper version of both the Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver and the form for the specific benefit you are requesting. You can review the fee waiver guidance at <u>www.uscis.gov/feewaiver</u>.

#### Select the form you want to file online.

#### I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Use this form to request employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) if your immigration status allows you to work in the United States.

A Note: You may apply online if your eligibility category is:

- (a)(12) Temporary Protected Status (You are submitting an initial Form I-821 or you have an approved Form I-821);
- (c)(3)(A) F-1 student, pre-completion OPT;
- (c)(3)(B) F-1 student, post-completion OPT;
- (c)(3)(C) F-1 student, 24-month extension for STEM students (students holding a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics);
- (c)(8) Applicants for Asylum under the ABC Settlement Agreement;
- (c)(8) Application for Employment Authorization Based on Pending Form I-589, Application for Asylum or for Withholding of Removal;
- (c)(11) Parole;
- · (c)(19) Temporary Protected Status (You have a pending Form I-821); or
- (c)(33) Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) (You must have a pending or approved Form I-821D in order to file Form I-765).

All other applicants must submit a paper Form 1-765.

#### Concurrent filing available

You can file Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service, if you are filing under one of the eligible categories.

If you request premium processing, we will present Form I-907 for you to complete after you sign Form I-765. This will allow you to pay for and submit both forms at the same time.

My Account 

Resources 

Sign Out

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### I-765, Application For Employment Authorization

Certain foreign nationals who are in the United States may file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, to request employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Other foreign nationals whose immigration status authorizes them to work in the United States without restrictions may also use Form I-765 to apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an EAD that shows such authorization.

Foreign nationals may also apply for a Social Security number and card on Form I-765.

If you are a lawful permanent resident, a conditional permanent resident, or a nonimmigrant only authorized for employment with a specific employer under 8 CFR 274a.12(b), do **not** use Form I-765.

Learn more about employment authorization.

#### Before You Start Your Application

#### Eligibility

You may apply online if your eligibility category is:

- (a)(12) Temporary Protected Status (You are submitting an initial Form I-821 or you have an approved Form I-821);
- (c)(3)(A) F-1 student, pre-completion OPT;
- (c)(3)(B) F-1 student, post-completion OPT;

#### Completing Your Form Online

#### 📮 Filing online

Submitting your application online is the same as mailing in a completed paper form They both gather the same information.

#### 🚠 Complete the Getting Started section first

You should answer all questions in the Getting Started section first so we can best customize the rest of your online form experience.

#### Provide as many responses as you can

You should provide as many responses as you can. Incomplete fields or sections and missing information can slow down the process after you submit your form.

#### B We will automatically save your responses

We will automatically save your information when you select next to go to a new page or navigate to another section of the form. We will save your information for 30 days from today, or from the last time you worked on the form.

#### How to continue filling out your form

After you start your form, you can sign in to your account to continue where you left off.

# Important! Review the information on this page before proceeding

#### After You Submit Your Application

#### Track your case online

After you submit your form, you can track its status through your USCIS account. Sign into your account often to check your case status and read any important messages from USCIS.

#### Respond to requests for information

If we need more information from you, we will send you a Request for Evidence (RFE) or Request for Information (RFI). You can respond to our request and upload your documents through your USCIS account.

#### Receive your decision

The decision on Form I-765 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking. USCIS will notify you of the decision in writing. If your application is approved, we will either mail your EAD to you or we may require you to visit your local USCIS office to pick it up. If USCIS cannot approve your application, you will receive a written notice explaining the basis of your denial.

Next

- This is where you will receive the most updated tips from USCIS
- Scroll this page for information about:
  - Eligibility categories
  - Application timelines
  - Fees
  - Documents needed
  - Tracking your application
  - And more

# Note this important reminder:

- You must return to the application within 30 days of starting it or your information will be deleted
- Remember: you must <u>submit</u> the completed application to USCIS no later than 30 days after ISS issues you your OPT request I-20

### Security Reminder

If you do not work on your application for more than 30 days, we will delete your data in order to prevent storing personal information indefinitely.

# **Online Form Navigation**

- Form navigation is a vertical list on the left side
- The form saves when you go to a new section
- Sections collapse & expand



# If you have to leave the application and resume later...

- To pick up where you left off, log-in to your USCIS MyAccount
- You will be shown your draft right after logging in
- Click "continue"

Remember: you must <u>submit</u> the completed application to USCIS no later than 30 days after ISS issues you your OPT request I-20

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	O My Account	My Account 💌	Resources 🔻 🛛 Sign Out
Welcome To Y	our USCIS Account		
1 New Change Your Add You may now update your a	Iress feature available address with USCIS by submitting a <u>request to</u>	<u>change your address</u> in your online	account
Your Drafts Continue I-765 Applica	ition for Employment Authoriza	ation	
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Your Drafts Continue I-765 Applica You need to finish your dra	ition for Employment Authoriza	ation	

## "Getting Started" section

The "Getting Started" section will ask:

- Eligibility Category: choose "(c)(3)(B) Student Post-Completion OPT"
- Reason for Applying: always choose "initial permission to accept employment"
- Have you previously filed Form
   I-765?: most will choose "no"
- If someone is assisting you with the application: "No", ISS is providing guidance but not officially assisting!



Note: at this stage, you can also opt to pay for "premium processing" for an expedited decision on your OPT application. This is in addition to the normal \$470 filing fee

# "About You" section

# The "About You" section will ask for:

- Given (first), middle, and family name: enter these names as they appear on your I-20/Passport
- Daytime & Mobile Phone Numbers, Email Address: use a personal email address (not SPC email)
- Mailing Address
- Where in the US you live (if different from mailing address)
- **Gender**: this should match what is printed in your passport
- Marital Status
- City, State, Country of Birth
- Date of Birth: make sure to use Month/Day/Year



# "About You" section (continued)

- **Country of Citizenship**: click on "add country" if you have dual citizenship
- Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record Number
- Last Arrival in the US: date, place, and status
- Passport Number
- **Travel Document Number**: you (more than likely) do not have a travel document—leave this blank
- Passport Expiration Date: Month/Day/Year
- **Country that Issued Passport**: your citizenship country, even if you renewed your passport from inside the US
- **Current Immigration Status**: must be F-1 to apply for OPT
- SEVIS Number: the "N" is on the screen. Enter all "0"s (ex. N<u>000</u>111222333)

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	on	My Account 💌	Resources 🔻	Sign Out
I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		What is your country of citizenship or nationality?		
Getting Started	~	List all countries where you are currently a citizen or national.		
About You	^	•		
Your name Your contact information Describe yourself		+ Add country		
When and where you were born				
Your immigration information		What is your Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record Number (if any)?		
Other information				
Evidence Additional Information Review and Submit	* * *	Provide an 11 character I-94 Number.		
		When did you last arrive in the United States?		

List your arrival date, place of arrival, and status at arrival.

# "About You" section (continued)

- **A-Number**: Most F-1 students do not have an A-Number. Check the box for "I do not have or know my A-Number" if you do not have one
- USCIS Online Account Number: First-time online users: even though you created your account, you do not have your USCIS account number yet. Check the box for "I do not have or know my USCIS Online Account Number". If you do already have a USCIS Online Account Number, enter it.
- Has the SSA issued you an SSN (for on-campus work, CPT, or other?): If yes, you will be asked to enter it
- **Do you want the SSA to issue you an SSN?**: If yes, you will be asked to consent to disclose your information to the SSA and for your mother's and father's names



# The next section is "Evidence" (where you upload your documents)

Make sure your documents are saved in the appropriate file type, file size, are in English, and logically named

# USCIS asks that documents be uploaded in the following formats:

- Photos: JPG, JPEG, or PNG
- Documents: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF, or TIFF
- Foreign language documents must have English translation
- Maximum size: 6 MB per file



### **Upload: Passport photo (2x2 photo)**

- Just one photo is needed
- Must meet standard passport requirements
- ISS recommends you get your photo taken at <u>Walgreens</u>, <u>CVS</u>, or the <u>UPS Store</u> to ensure your photo complies with requirements. Be sure to request a digital copy
- If you cannot get an electronic photo, make sure that you have a high quality scan with no light reflection from the scanner

#### U.S. Citizenship and Immigration My Account 🔻 Sign Out Resources 🔻 Services I-765, Application for Employment Authorization 2" X 2" Photo Of You Upload a recent color photograph of yourself that measures 2 inches by 2 inches, with your face measuring 1 inch to 1 3/8 inch from your chin to the Getting Started $\sim$ top of your head. Your eyes should be between 1 1/8 inch and 1 3/8 inch About You ~ from the bottom of the photo. Make sure your whole face is visible, you are facing the camera directly, and Evidence ~ the background is white or off-white. Your head must be bare, unless 2" x 2" photo of you contrary to your religious beliefs. If you need help understanding the photo requirements or want to resize, Form I-94 or passport rotate, or crop your photo, you can use the Department of State's photo Employment Authorization composition tools. Please note that we cannot approve your application Document without your photo. Previously authorized CPT File requirements or OPT Clear and readable Form I-20 Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, or PNG · No encrypted or password-protected files Additional Information If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English Review and Submit translation and the translator's certification with each original document. Upload no more than one document at a time Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses Maximum size: 12MB per file

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### **Upload: I-94 Arrival Record**

- Printed from the CBP website: <u>i94.dhs.cbp.gov</u> •
- If you entered through a land border by car or boat, you may • have an I-94 card stapled in your passport
- **DO NOT** upload your passport here! That is ONLY for • those who do not have an I-94 record. Your passport will be uploaded in a different place.

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services		My Account 🔻		
I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		Form I-94, Arrival And Departure Record Or Passport		
Getting Started	~	Upload a copy of one of the following:		
About You	~	Your Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record (front and back);		
Evidence 2" x 2" photo of you Form I-94 or passport Employment Authorizatio Document Previously authorized CPT or OPT Form I-20	n r	<ul> <li>A printout of your electronic Form I-94; or</li> <li>Your passport or other travel document.</li> <li>If you were admitted to the United States by CBP at an airport or seaport after April 30, 2013, CBP may have issued you an electronic Form I-94 instead of a paper Form I-94. You may visit the <u>CBP website</u> to obtain a paper version of an electronic Form I-94. CBP does not charge a fee for this service. Some travelers admitted to the United States at a land border, airport, or seaport, after April 30, 2013, with a passport or travel document, who were issued a paper Form I-94 by CBP, may also be able to obtain a replacement Form I-94 from the CBP website without charge.</li> <li>If your Form I-94 cannot be obtained from the CBP website, it may be obtained by filing Form I 102, Application for Daplacement //siziol</li> </ul>		
Additional Information	~	Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Record, with USCIS. USCIS does charge a		
Review and Submit	*	fee for this service. If you do not have and cannot get a required document, you must demonstrate this and provide secondary evidence. If secondary evidence does not exist or is unavailable, you must demonstrate both the unavailability of the required document and the relevant secondary evidence and submit two or more sworn affidavits by people not named on this application who have direct knowledge of the event and circumstances.		

Sign Out

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### **Upload:** Passport ID page

### **Upload: Most Recent F-1 visa**

Or I-797 Approval Notice for students who changed status to F-1 within the US.

### **DO NOT upload EADs here.** EADs will be uploaded in a different place.

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### I-765, Application for Employment Authorization Getting Started About You Evidence ~ 2" x 2" photo of you Form I-94 or passport Employment Authorization Document

Previously authorized CPT or OPT

Form I-20

- Additional Information
- Review and Submit

### **Employment Authorization Document Or** Government ID

Upload a copy of your last Employment Authorization document (EAD) (front and back). If you were not previously issued an EAD, you must upload a copy of a government-issued identity document (such as a passport) showing your picture, name, and date of birth; a birth certificate with photo ID; a visa issued by a foreign consulate; or a national ID document with photo and/or fingerprint. The identity document photocopy must clearly show your facial features and contain your biographical information.

#### File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- · No encrypted or password-protected files
- · If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- · Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 12MB per file

#### Choose or drop files here to upload

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If you have never used or have never been authorized for CPT or OPT before, skip this section.

### <u>CPT</u>

# Upload: Your I-20 with CPT authorization

Make sure you have signed the I-20 on page 1

### <u>OPT</u>

Upload: Your I-20 with OPT request and a copy of your EAD card



### **Upload: OPT Requested I-20**

- Received from ISS/International Student Coordinator
- Make sure you have signed the front of the I-20 on page 1



# "Additional Information" section

# Click "Add a response" button to add information

# Most common "additional information" to include, if any:

### **Previous SEVIS Numbers:**

Section: Choose "About You" Page: Choose "Your immigration information" Question: Choose "What is your SEVIS Number (if any)"

 Enter previous SEVIS number and visa type for that SEVIS number

### **Previous OPT EADs:**

Section: Choose "Evidence" Page: Choose "Previously authorized CPT or OPT" Question: Choose "Previously authorized CPT or OPT"

• Give the USCIS # on the EAD card and the degree level that the EAD was issued for

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U.S. Citizenshi and Immigrat Services	ip tion	My Account ▼ Resources ▼ Sign Out			
I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		Additional Information			
Getting Started About You Evidence	* * *	If you need to provide any additional information for any of your answers to the questions in this form, enter it into the space below. You should include the questions that you are referencing. If you do not need to provide any additional information, you may leave this section blank.			
Additional Information Additional information	^	+ Add a response			
Review and Submit	*	Back			

### Note: You cannot upload documents on this page.

## **Review and Submit your Application**

### Check the "alerts and warnings"

- If you see the **RED** notification, go back and update your application
- Once you see the **GREEN** notification, you can click "next" to go to the next page and review all of your information

**NOTE:** you may see a **GREEN** notification even if you have skipped some answers or have not uploaded all of your documents.

Check your application!!



#### Alerts and warnings

We found no alerts or warnings in your application.

## **Review and Submit your Application**

### **Review your Application here**

- Check all of the information on this page and go back to make corrections if needed
- Ensure all information is accurate and all applicable/required sections are complete

ISS highly recommends clicking "View draft snapshot" to download a copy at this stage

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U.S. Citizenshi and Immigrat Services	ip tion	My Account ▼ Resources ▼ Sign Out			
I-765, Application for Employment Authorization Getting Started About You Evidence Additional Information	* * *	Review the I-765 form information Here is a summary of all the information you provided in your application. Make sure you have provided responses for everything that applies to you before you submit your application. You can edit your responses by going to each application section using the site navigation. We also prepared a draft case snapshot with your responses, which you can download below.			
Review and Submit ^ Review your application		Cotting Started			
Your application summa	iry	Basis of eligibility			
		What is your eligibility category? (c)(3)(B) Student Post- Completion OPT			

## **Review and Submit your Application**

### **Applicant's statement**

• Check the box to verify that you have read, understood, and completed this application

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U.S. Citizensk and Immigra Services	nip ation		My Account 🔻	Resources 👻 Sign Out
I-765, Application for Employment Authorization Getting Started About You Evidence Additional Information	* * *	Applicant's statement You must read and agree to the statement below. I can read and understand English, and have rea every question and instruction on this applicatio answer to every question.	id and understand on, as well as my	
Review and Submit Review your application Your application summa Your statement	ary	Back	Next	

# **Review and Submit your Application**

### "Sign" and certify your application

- <u>Read</u> the Declaration and Certification text
- Click the box to verify
- Type your **FULL LEGAL NAME** in the box to sign your application





# **Review and Submit** your Application

### Pay your application fee (\$470)

You will be able to pay using:

- a checking/savings account (you will need ٠ the account number and bank routing number)
- a debit/credit card (you will need the card ٠ number, expiration, and security code)



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I-765, Application for Employment Authorization		I	Pay for and submit your applicatio	n		
Getting Started	~	ן ג	The final step to submit your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, is to pay the required fee.			
About You	~	١	Your application fee is: \$410.			
Evidence	~	F	<b>Refund policy:</b> By continuing this transaction, you agree that you are			
Additional Information	~	f	fee and all related financial transactions are final and not refundable,			
Review and Submit	^	r c	'egardless of any action USCIS takes on an application of the second and application of the second s	on, petition or request, ist submit all fees in the		
Review your application						
Your application summary	у					
Your statement				We will send you to Pay.gov — our safe, secure payment website		
Your signature				— to pay your fees and submit your form online.		
Pay and submit			We will send you to Pay.gov — our safe, secu	Here are the steps in the payment and submission		
			— to pay your fees and submit your form on	process:		
				1. Provide your billing information on Pay.gov 2. Provide your credit card or U.S. bank account information		

Your application will be submitted after you have paid the fee

Pay and submit

When you have paid your fee, your application will be submitted.

Pay.gov will redirect you to a uscis.gov confirmation screen,

your application through your USCIS online account.

which will include your receipt number. Please keep a copy of your receipt number for your records. You can track the status of

3. Submit your payment

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!

You have now filed your application for post-completion OPT with USCIS

If you have questions, please contact ISS: international@saintpaul.edu 651-403-4470



Fit in. Stand out.