OPT and beyond for ASU students

A guide to help you understand the benefits of Optional Practical Training and all the resources available to help you through the process.

The OPT experience

A message from our Assistant Vice President Holly Singh

Holly Singh

Scan to view the digital edition

ASU International Students and Scholars Center
Arizona State University
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tanvi Raorane</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Masters in Business Analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Mumbai, India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>May 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>JPMorgan Chase &amp; Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Vice President of Risk</td>
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The best parts of OPT are gaining precious working experience in the U.S. and keeping your options open for career development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Kemi Chen</th>
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<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Masters in Music Education and Music Performance (Percussion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Chongqing, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>Sunshine Acres Children's Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Drum Set Teacher</td>
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</table>

Click here to watch Kemi’s journey

[Link]
OPT has given me the opportunity to experience American culture in the corporate world. As an aspiring entrepreneur, working for a successful private company in the U.S. has taught me tips and nuggets which I know would be useful in my future business endeavors. For that, I am grateful.
From my personal experience, OPT was instrumental in securing my first full-time job in the United States and equipped me with the necessary skills to succeed as a professional in the fields of sports and education. Above all, it allowed me to reflect on my career and generate a path toward achieving my professional development and passion.

Click here to watch Shaorui’s journey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Shaorui Zhu</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Bachelor in Physical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Shanghai, China</td>
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<td>Graduation</td>
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<td>Employer</td>
<td>IMG Academy</td>
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<td>Position</td>
<td>Student-Athlete Mentor</td>
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</table>
Can I withdraw my Post OPT application?

Please contact the ISSC immediately to receive further advisement as a withdrawal is not always guaranteed to happen due to USCIS’s processing time.

Can I do a second POST-OPT after I finish a second degree?

Students can be eligible for 12 months of OPT (including Pre and Post) at each higher degree level completed. For example, if a student was granted OPT at a bachelor’s level, OPT for another bachelor’s degree is no longer available. For students with multiple majors at the same degree level, only one major can be used when applying for Post-OPT.

Can I change employers while on Post OPT?

Yes, as long as the new employment is directly related to the field of study and is a minimum of 20 hours per week. No special permission is required to change employers. Please remember you must report all updates within 10 days of the change to the SEVP Portal. sevp.ice.gov/opt/#/login.

Can I start working once I file my Post OPT application with USCIS?

No, work cannot begin until after the application is approved and you receive your EAD card and the valid from date occurs. This includes volunteer and intern positions.

Can I start a new degree program while on Post-OPT?

You can start a new degree during your work authorization, however, your OPT work authorization will be invalidated once your new I-20 is issued.
You will remain in F-1 status while your application is being processed, during your Post-OPT authorization and during your 60-day grace period upon completion of your OPT authorization.

There are no extensions of the Post-OPT work authorization unless you are eligible for the STEM OPT Extension. Once your Post-OPT authorization ends, you have a 60-day grace period to either change your visa status, transfer to another school, pursue another degree at ASU or depart the US.

You may apply for STEM OPT no more than 100 days prior to end date of your Post-OPT, but must apply before your Post-OPT authorization expires. This will maximize your opportunity to receive your EAD card on time.

As long as your application was received by USCIS, you are permitted to stay in the U.S. until your application is processed. Please keep in mind, you cannot work, intern or volunteer until the start date on your EAD card.
**Application timeline**

1. Apply for Post-OPT I-20 between 100 days before your degree completion date and 50 days after your degree completion date.

2. Within 10 business days of your academic advisors approval the ISSC will issue the Post-OPT I-20.

3. The requested OPT start date must be between the degree completion date and the end of the 60 day grace period.

4. Your OPT application must be received by USCIS between 90 days before your degree completion date and 60 days after your degree completion date, and within 30 days of the Post-OPT I-20 issue date.

5. The average USCIS processing time is 90 days, however, they can also take longer or shorter.

6. There is a 60 day grace period after your OPT EAD expires.
ASU students have access to free self-paced and discounted in-person prep to a variety of graduate exams? Thanks to a partnership with The Princeton Review, Sun Devils can take their preparation for the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, or MCAT to the next level. Learn more here!

The #1 piece of feedback employers give is that applicants do not tailor their materials to the position they are applying for. Make sure to read the job description clearly to make sure your experiences fit what the employer is looking for, and then update your resume and cover letter to make it clear why you are the right fit! You can have your resume reviewed in a number of ways. We recommend making use of resources in this order:

1. View examples of resumes and application materials
2. Get immediate feedback by leveraging the VMock platform.
Resources

 Advising
 ISSC advising
 Immigration specific questions
 Career Services advising
 Job search, application materials, interview skills help, and mock interviews

 Government resources
 MyUSCIS
 USCIS employment page
 USCIS Ombudsman
 Form I-765
 SEVP portal overview
 SEVP portal user guide

 How to apply for OPT
 Application tutorial
 OPT workshops
 ISSC YouTube channel
 ASU OPT web page
 MyISSC eForm portal

 Case management fee
 Pay Post-OPT
 Pay STEM OPT
 Refunds will be considered under the following conditions:
 1. Payment was paid in error
 2. ISSC determines that student is ineligible
 3. Application is canceled by the student prior to the issuance I-20

 Guided Canvas courses
 Post OPT review
 STEM Extension review
 Form I-983 review (for STEM)

 Finding a job
 Handshake
 Interstride
 Your academic unit may have a list of job opening tailored to your major or department

 Contact us
 (480) 727-4776
 issc.employment@asu.edu