Information for ND graduates currently on the 17 month OPT STEM extension

Dear Notre Dame Alum,

According to our records you are currently utilizing the 17 month STEM extension of your OPT based on your ND degree. You may have heard that the government recently changed the rule about STEM OPT. You may read details about the new rule on our website and on the Study in the States website. As a result of this rule change, you may be eligible to apply for an additional 7 months of OPT based on your ND degree.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

1. You and your employer must complete pages 1-5 of form I-983 to cover the remainder of your STEM OPT, inclusive of the additional 7 months.
2. You must agree to adhere to the new rules and responsibilities that are tied to the 24 month extension. You can read about these on our website.
3. You must submit a new complete I-765 packet (with new fee) between May 10, 2016 and August 8, 2016. For question 16, use the code (c) (3) (C).
4. You must work with International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) at ND to add a recommendation to your SEVIS record, and to obtain a new I-20.
5. You must have at least 150 days of STEM OPT remaining on the date the USCIS receives this application.
6. You must not be self-employed.

Form I-983

Form I-983 is a new form that will be used to define the formal training plan for the remainder of your OPT experience. You may access the form and find detailed instructions here. Section 1 requires some information about Notre Dame. Here is the information you will need:

- Name of school recommending STEM OPT: University of Notre Dame du lac
- Name of school where STEM degree was earned: University of Notre Dame du lac
- SEVIS School Code of school recommending STEM OPT: CHI214F10484000
- DSO School Official name and contact information: Roy Bronkema, issa@nd.edu

Because form I-983 is an agreement between the employer and employee, ISSA cannot provide guidance on the content. Employers with questions should start by reviewing the information on the Study in the States website. If questions remain, they should contact the company’s HR department or immigration legal staff.

Pages 1-5 must be fully completed. ISSA is required to check for completion, and reject the form if any information is missing. Pages 6 and 7 should be left blank.

The application process

Beginning May 3, 2016, ISSA will make a new eform available in the ISSAlink system. (ISSAlink is a student services portal that was launched by ISSA in 2015. If you have not yet used it, you may find information here: http://international.nd.edu/assets/175059/introducing_issalink.pdf.) You will need
to login using the “Limited Services” option on the right side of the screen. Once you log in you can select F-1 Practical Training on the menu, and then select “7 Month STEM OPT Extension”. You will be asked to upload your new I-765 and the completed I-983 form.

On May 13 all schools in the US will be able to start submitting recommendations for the additional 7 months in SEVIS records. On that date ISSA will begin reviewing and processing the requests submitted through ISSAlink. We will create a new I-20 form and send it to you along with further instructions for application submission.

The Timeline

Starting now: you may begin working on completing the I-983 with your employer.

May 3—August 3: Request for 7 Month Additional STEM OPT Extension eform will be available in ISSAlink. (The form will close on August 3 to ensure there is time for ISSA to process your request and send the paperwork to you before the USCIS submission deadline.)

May 13: ISSA will begin processing the requests received through ISSAlink.

August 8: Final date that the USCIS will accept an application for the 7 month extension.

August 9 forward: USCIS will no longer accept applications for the additional 7 month extension.

Final Notes

This is a brand new process for schools as well as for the OPT recipients. If you have questions, please first check the Study in the States website, as that is the best source of information at this time. If you are unable find an answer there, please contact ISSA at issa@nd.edu, and we will try our best to assist you.

Sincerely,

International Student and Scholar Affairs

Notre Dame International