

OPT OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

ACADEMIC ADVISOR RECOMMENDATION

F-1 visa status students are eligible to apply for permission to engage in employment for Optional Practical Training (OPT) according to the Federal U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations. OPT is employment authorization for a job related to the student's field of study, which is intended to enhance and supplement the formal, classroom education. Such employment must be recommended by the student's Academic Advisor.

Rules and Regulations

F-1 students are eligible for a total of twelve months of OPT per each degree program that they finish (B.A., M.A., PhD). In order to be eligible, a student must have been a full-time student for at least one academic year at the start of employment.

Before authorization of OPT can be granted ISSP must have a statement from the student's academic advisor indicating the date the student completed all degree requirements and a recommendation that the OPT be granted.

Students are advised to apply for OPT as soon as possible, as applications are taking up to three months to process via USCIS. Students may not start employment until they receive their work authorization. Applications may be filed up to 90 days in advance for OPT and up to 60 days following graduation.

Procedures

Please complete and return this form to ISSP. Please note that your Academic/Graduate Advisor must complete the bottom portion of the form. Failure to submit this form will delay processing your OPT.

Student: please complete the following section

Name: _____ Student ID# _____

E-mail: _____ Desired OPT start Date: ____/____/____

Academic/Graduate Advisors: please complete the following section

Student's Field of Study (Major) _____ Education Level: Bachelor's _____ Master's _____

The student will complete all degree requirements including projects/thesis and is expected to graduate by the end of the following semester:

Spring/May 20 _____

Summer/August 20 _____

Fall/December 20 _____

I recommend that this student be considered for optional practical training (OPT).

Name of Academic/Graduate Advisor

Signature of Academic/Graduate Advisor

Telephone number and/or e-mail address

Date

FRESNO STATE

International Office

For questions or concerns regarding OPT, please contact California State University, Fresno, International Office at international@mail.fresnostate.edu