

F-1 OPT



The Basics

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is an employment option available to F-1 students for employment directly related to the major area of study.

12 month period of OPT per degree level.

The Basics: OPT Eligibility

- ❖ Must be in valid F-1 status and have been enrolled full-time for one academic year (2 long semesters)
- ❖ Must complete all degree requirements in the academic program on their I-20
- ❖ Must take and pass the OPT Quiz (at the end of the presentation on our website).

Application Timeline

Send in your OPT application during this time period:

- 90 days before your program completion date (you may apply up to 90 days before program completion date*)

Request a start date within this period:

- During the 60 day grace period after your program completion
- USCIS must receive your application before the end of the 60 day grace period. We highly recommend applying 90 days before completion date to avoid any delays.

Remember: It can take USCIS 90 days OR MORE to process OPT applications- The sooner you apply the better.

*your program completion is when you have completed all the requirements for your degree- Think of it as your last final at NCTC. Your completion date may be before the original end date on your I-20.

Choosing your OPT start date

Things to consider.....

- ❖ You have to choose a start date that is within the 60 day period after your program completion. You must report employment within 90 days of your start date.
- ❖ You only get 90 days of unemployment total. The 90 days of unemployment start on the first day of your OPT. It is not part of your 60 day grace period at the end of your OPT.
- ❖ Do you have an employer waiting to hire you? Pick an earlier start date.
- ❖ If you need time to look for a job, pick a start date closer to the end of the 60 days.
- ❖ Changes to the OPT application must be submitted prior to the filing with USCIS.

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SEVIS ID: [REDACTED]

SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME [REDACTED]	GIVEN NAME [REDACTED]	CLASS F-1 ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE
PREFERRED NAME [REDACTED]	PASSPORT NAME [REDACTED]	
COUNTRY OF BIRTH SRI LANKA	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP SRI LANKA	
DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED]	ADMISSION NUMBER [REDACTED]	
FORM ISSUE REASON CONTINUED ATTENDANCE	LEGACY NAME [REDACTED]	

SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL NAME [REDACTED]	SCHOOL ADDRESS [REDACTED]
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL [REDACTED]	SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE [REDACTED]

PROGRAM OF STUDY

EDUCATION LEVEL [REDACTED]	MAJOR 1 Child Development 19.0706	MAJOR 2 None 00.0000
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 48 Months	PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient
PROGRAM START DATE 08 JANUARY 2013	PROGRAM END DATE 31 DECEMBER 2016	

FINANCIALS

ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 13,945	Personal Funds	\$ 0
Living Expenses	\$ 9,073	Funds From This School	\$
Expenses of Dependents (0)	\$	FAMILY FUNDS	\$ 28,000
INSURANCE/BOOKS	\$ 2,750	On-Campus Employment	\$
TOTAL	\$ 26,568	TOTAL	\$ 28,000

REMARKS

Tuition/Fees subject to change w/o notice. Must enroll full time & carry health insurance while in the U.S. No more than 1 online class per semester.

SCHOOL ATTESTATION

I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.

SIGNATURE OF: Irine Connolly, Director, International Education
DATE ISSUED: 10 August 2015
PLACE ISSUED: Denton, TX

STUDENT ATTESTATION

I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.

X

SIGNATURE OF: [REDACTED] DATE: [REDACTED]

NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: [REDACTED] SIGNATURE: [REDACTED] ADDRESS (city/state or province/country): [REDACTED] DATE: [REDACTED]

Your program end date will change

Remarks will now be applicable to OPT

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Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: ██████████ (F-1) NAME: ██████████

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	TYPE
EMPLOYMENT START DATE	EMPLOYMENT END DATE
EMPLOYER NAME	EMPLOYER LOCATION
COMMENTS	

CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION

REQUESTED VISA TYPE	REQUEST/PETITION STATUS	RECEIPT NUMBER	BENEFIT START DATE/REQUEST DATE
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EVENT HISTORY

EVENT NAME	EVENT DATE
Registration	25 JANUARY 2013

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

AUTHORIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
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TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT

This page when properly endorsed, may be used for reentry of the student to attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each certification/signature is valid for one year.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
V. Dogfield	Asst. Dir.	<i>[Signature]</i>	8-10-15	Denton, TX
		X		
		X		
		X		

OPT Employment Recommendation with start and end dates.

Application Process

- ❖ Request an OPT I-20 from the international advisor- Must submit Request for New I-20 form.
- ❖ If eligible, we will complete the necessary OPT recommendation in the SEVIS system and a new SEVIS I-20 will be issued.
*The completion date on your I-20 will **now** reflect the completion date on your OPT I-20 request.*
- ❖ Your OPT recommendation, including start and end dates will be annotated on page 2 of the new I-20.

Meeting with your Advisor

Schedule a meeting with Zaynab Wazeer, *International Student Advisor*.

In this meeting, you will need to bring:

- VALID passport/visa stamp
- I-94
- Check or money order for \$410 addressed to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- 2 passport photos with your name written on the back

Application Process

- ❖ At the meeting, we will complete:
 - ❖ I-765: Application for Employment Authorization
 - ❖ G-1145: Notification of Application (USCIS will notify you when your application is received):
 - ❖ We will make 2 copies of the application packet; one for you and one for our file.
- ❖ You will leave with:
 - ❖ Your original application packet
 - ❖ A copy of the packet
 - ❖ The Federal Express address where you should send the packet.

Remember this!



USCIS will deny your OPT application automatically if:

They receive it more than 90 days before your program is complete;

OR

If they receive it more than 30 days after the OPT I-20 recommendation in SEVIS;

OR

If the forms are not completely filled out.

THERE IS NO SECOND CHANCE.....

What happens next?

1. USCIS will send an email confirming they have received your application.
2. Immigration will cash your check and send a receipt notice.
You can now check the case status online using the SRC number at www.uscis.gov
Normal processing time is 60-90 days
3. Once your application is processed, USCIS will send your EAD card to our office. We will contact you when it arrives, and you may pick it up or request to have it mailed to you.
4. You may begin working on the start date but not before.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RECEIPT NUMBER MAC-00-099-51064	CASE TYPE 1765
RECEIVED DATE February 16, 2000	PRIORITY DATE
NOTICE DATE February 16, 2000	PAGE 1 of 1
APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION APPLICANT TROJAN, Tommy	

Tommy Trojan 1 Troy Square #1 Los Angeles, CA 90007	Notice Type: Receipt Notice Amount received: \$ 100.00 Class requested: C033
-----------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The above application for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Form I-765, has been received. Processing time is approximately 90 days from the date of this receipt notice.

A Notice of Action, Form I-797, will be sent to you at the address listed above when a decision on this case is made.


If any of the above information is incorrect, or you do not receive a decision on this application within 90 days, please notify us immediately at the number listed below.

Case status information is available 24 hours a day by calling the number below from a touch-tone phone. You will need the receipt number listed on this notice to obtain the information.

If inquiry is written, please attach a copy of this notice.

Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.

IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE
CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER
P. O. BOX 30111
LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA 92607-0111
Customer Service Telephone: (949) 831 8427



Receipt Notice

Portal Information

When your OPT application is approved, you will receive information from SEVIS on how to create a Portal Account. The Portal will communicate with SEVIS and you can update certain parts of your record through it. It is solely for students on OPT to report employment.

If you have issues with the Portal, contact the SEVIS help desk at 703-603-3400.

The Portal will allow you to enter your information about employment, address changes, etc.

Maintaining status on OPT

- ❖ While you are on OPT you are still an F-1 student.
- ❖ Have your I-20 signed for travel by Zaynab. This travel signature is now good for 6 months
- ❖ You must report to SEVIS via the Portal any changes in:
 - ❖ Name
 - ❖ Address
 - ❖ Employer
 - ❖ Employer address
- ❖ You must report any gaps in employment, and you may not be unemployed more than 90 days total.

Maintaining status on OPT

- ❖ Work at least 20 hours a week
- ❖ Be in a job that is related to your degree program
- ❖ Maintain evidence of all employment and be prepared to provide the information to DHS if requested.*
 - ✓ Provide evidence showing duration of employment
 - ✓ Name and address of employer
 - ✓ If self-employed have proper business licenses
- ✓ *NCTC will not ask for this information, but you will need it when applying for future benefits through USCIS.

Maintaining status on OPT

It is up to you, the student, to justify how the job is related to your major.

Ask yourself,

“Is there a clear connection between the job and my major?”

Maintaining status on OPT

Types of employment:

- ❖ Paid
- ❖ Unpaid
- ❖ Internships
- ❖ Volunteer Work
- ❖ Multiple Employers (Combined Hours Must Total At Least 20 Hours Per Week)

Important Facts

- ❖ Multiple factors can have an effect on travel before, during, and after OPT
- ❖ GENERALLY speaking, we do not recommend traveling out of the country after you have applied for OPT.
- ❖ If you would like to discuss your particular circumstance, please feel free to come and talk to Zaynab.
- ❖ An expired visa does not impact your status while in the U.S. However, if you travel outside the U.S., you must renew your visa before returning.
- ❖ Do not attempt to renew your visa without a job while on OPT.

Important Facts

- ❖ If your OPT is approved after the 60 day grace period, you may not receive the full 12 months of OPT.
- ❖ You may not go to school to pursue a degree while on OPT. New degrees require you to have a new I-20 and attend school full-time.
- ❖ You may not accrue an aggregate (total) of more than 90 days of unemployment on OPT.

Life after OPT

60 day grace period after completing OPT.

Before the end of this grace period you must:

1. Depart the U.S., or
2. Apply for change of status to another visa category, or
3. Transfer to another institution.
Your new program must begin within 5 months of your OPT end date.

NOTE: Employment is not authorized during the 60 day grace period.

OPT QUIZ

Go to our website and click on “OPT Quiz.” Complete the quiz and e-mail it to international@nctc.edu or hand over in-person to Zaynab Wazeer, *International Student Advisor*.

All OPT applicants must pass this test in order to request an OPT I-20.

CONTACT

International Advisor



Hello! I am the international advisor for NCTC. I was an international student myself, and I completed my degree in 2016 while on a F-1 visa.

My F-1 experience helps me understand our students even more because I have been there myself.

If you are interested in attending NCTC, please contact me at international@nctc.edu and I will be more than happy to help you with any questions or concerns you may have.

Office Hours

Regular Hours

Monday — Thursday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

June & July

Monday — Thursday 7:30 AM-5:30 PM
Friday **Closed**

Contact Us

International Admissions *(for All Campuses)*

North Central Texas College
1500 North Corinth Street Suite 101
Corinth, Texas 76208
(940) 498-6429
international@nctc.edu



International Admissions