

General Guidelines

You can find the Form I-765 and official instructions to complete the form on USCIS' website:
<https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

The Office of Global Engagement is not responsible for completing or reviewing Form I-765; it is the students' sole responsibility to complete the form using the instructions provided by USCIS. The goal of this document is to provide additional clarification for those items that can be confusing in nature.

When completing the form, remember that all fields must be answered, regardless of whether suggestions are given here. For any item you do not complete, write "N/A" (short for "Not applicable") or, if the question asks for a number response, write "None."

The form must be TYPED; do not complete it by hand. The only exception is your signature. The data entry for these forms is done via machine-reading, so handwriting is easily misinterpreted and can result in incorrect information in your application.

These guidelines should not be construed as legal advice.

Part 1

OPT: Check the "Initial Permission" box
STEM OPT Extension: Check the "Renewal" box

Part 2

- **Item 2:** Share any other way your name is given on your legal documents. This includes "FNU," multiple last names you may sometimes use, or previous names you used if you changed your name for any reason, such as marriage.
- **Item 5:** This is the address where USCIS will mail your documents related to this application only. If using anyone else's address, BE SURE to put their name in the "In Care Of Name" field, to ensure delivery. You cannot list the Office of Global Engagement as the recipient. Our office cannot receive USCIS mail for students.

- **Item 6:** Check YES if you currently live in the same address you just gave as the place to send your documents, in item 5. If you check yes, you do NOT have to complete Item 7. If you check NO, please complete item 7.
- **Item 7:** Give the address where you currently live. USCIS will NOT mail documents here, and it's OK if this will change over the course of your application processing. Just use the address where you live today.
- **Item 8: STEM OPT Extension only!** You will have an A-Number only if you are applying for the STEM OPT Extension, and it will be on your EAD card (called a "USCIS number"). If you are applying for OPT you can leave this field blank.
- **Item 9:** USCIS Online Account Number should be filled with "none".
- **Items 13 – 17:**
 - If you have an SSN, give it in Item 13b. You can then check NO for Item 14, and skip down to Item 18.
 - If you do NOT have an SSN, you can apply for it through this application, and your SSN will be issued to you when your OPT application is approved. You would answer NO to Item 13.a., YES to Item 14, and give the required information in items 15-17.
- **Item 21a:** Your I-94 number is found on your most recent I-94 entry record. You can access your most recent I-94 by going to <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home> and click on "Get Most Recent I-94". Please be sure that you use the I-94 from your most recent entry to the US. If you most recently entered the US after a short trip to Canada or Mexico, your trip may not have been recorded in your I-94 history. In this case, we suggest using the last I-94 record that does exist. You should answer all related questions based on that trip. If your I-94 is incorrect or does not show your most recent trip that was not a trip to Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean, you will need to work with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to get it corrected. You can find directions on how to get this correction done at the bottom of this website: https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/1683/kw/I%2094%20CORRECTION/session/L3RpbWUvMTUzMzEzODc5MS9zaWQvVnJ0cW84VG4%3D
- **Item 21.c:** Write "N/A" if you have a passport. For almost everyone, this will be "N/A."
- **Item 24:** This is "F-1 student" unless you changed your status from within the US, and have not left the US since then.
- **Item 25:** This is "F-1 student."
- **Item 26:** You can find your SEVIS ID number at the top left of your I-20. It starts with N00.
- **Item 27:** This item is asking you to give the regulatory citation of the kind of work permission you are applying for.
 - Pre Completion OPT: (c)(3)(A)
 - Post Completion OPT: (c)(3)(B)
 - STEM OPT Extension: (c)(3)(C)
- **Item 28: STEM OPT Only!** Applicants for OPT can leave this blank.
- **Item 28.a STEM OPT Only!** Degree: Enter your degree level and major. For example: Master's in Chemical Engineering.

- **Item 28.c: STEM OPT Only!** Be sure that this number is 5-7 digits long and is not the same as the EIN, which you were required to include on the I-983 form. Employers and students often confuse the company's e-verify number for an EIN tax ID number for the company, or the individual student's E-Verify ID. You will need to ask your company specifically for the e-verify number, as it is not public knowledge.
- **Items 29 – 31:** Skip these, as they are for other immigration categories only.

Part 3

Sign in Item 7.a. in black ink – this should be an original signature, and cannot be typed or stamped.

Parts 4-5

Draw a diagonal line across each page you are not completing, and write "N/A" next to your line.

Part 6

Draw a diagonal line across this page if you are not completing, and write "N/A" next to your line.

If you complete Part 6 sign and date in black anywhere in the blank space below item 7.d. This should be a hand-written signature, NOT an electronic signature.

Complete this section only if:

- You have been approved for **CPT** in the past
- You have been approved for **OPT** in the past
- You have used a different SEVIS ID in F-1 status in the US (for example, if you attended school for a while, left the US to take a break from school, and returned with a new I-20, you would have a SEVIS ID from your first period of attendance that is different than your current SEVIS ID). Your SEVIS ID is on the top right corner of your I-20 and starts with N00.
- You most recently entered the U.S. on a passport that is no longer valid and you now have a renewed passport

If you need to complete this section because one or more of these apply to you, please complete item 1.

For each of the items listed above, complete one box in Part 6. We suggest using the following to complete the Page number, Part Number, and Item number, as this information is required specific to Category (c)(3)(B) (per the [I-765 instructions](#), page 4):

Page 3, Part 2, Item 27

- **CPT:** List your CPT approvals. We suggest this format: **CPT Authorizations.** (as a title to the section). Employer Name; Start date – End date; Part-time or Full-time; Degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D.). You can find your CPT details on the I-20 that was approved for each period of CPT.
- **OPT:** List your past OPT approvals. We suggest this format: **OPT Authorizations.** (as a title to the section). Start date – End date; Degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D.)
- **Previous SEVIS ID's:** List your other SEVIS ID's you have used in the past. We suggest this format: **Previous SEVIS ID's** (as a title to the section). SEVIS ID: N00.....; program start date – program end date; Degree level (Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D.).
- **Passport:** List your passport numbers. We suggest this format: I entered the U.S. on (mm/dd/yyyy) with passport # ____, I-94 # ____. Since then I have renewed my passport, and the passport # is ____. Attached are copies of both passports.