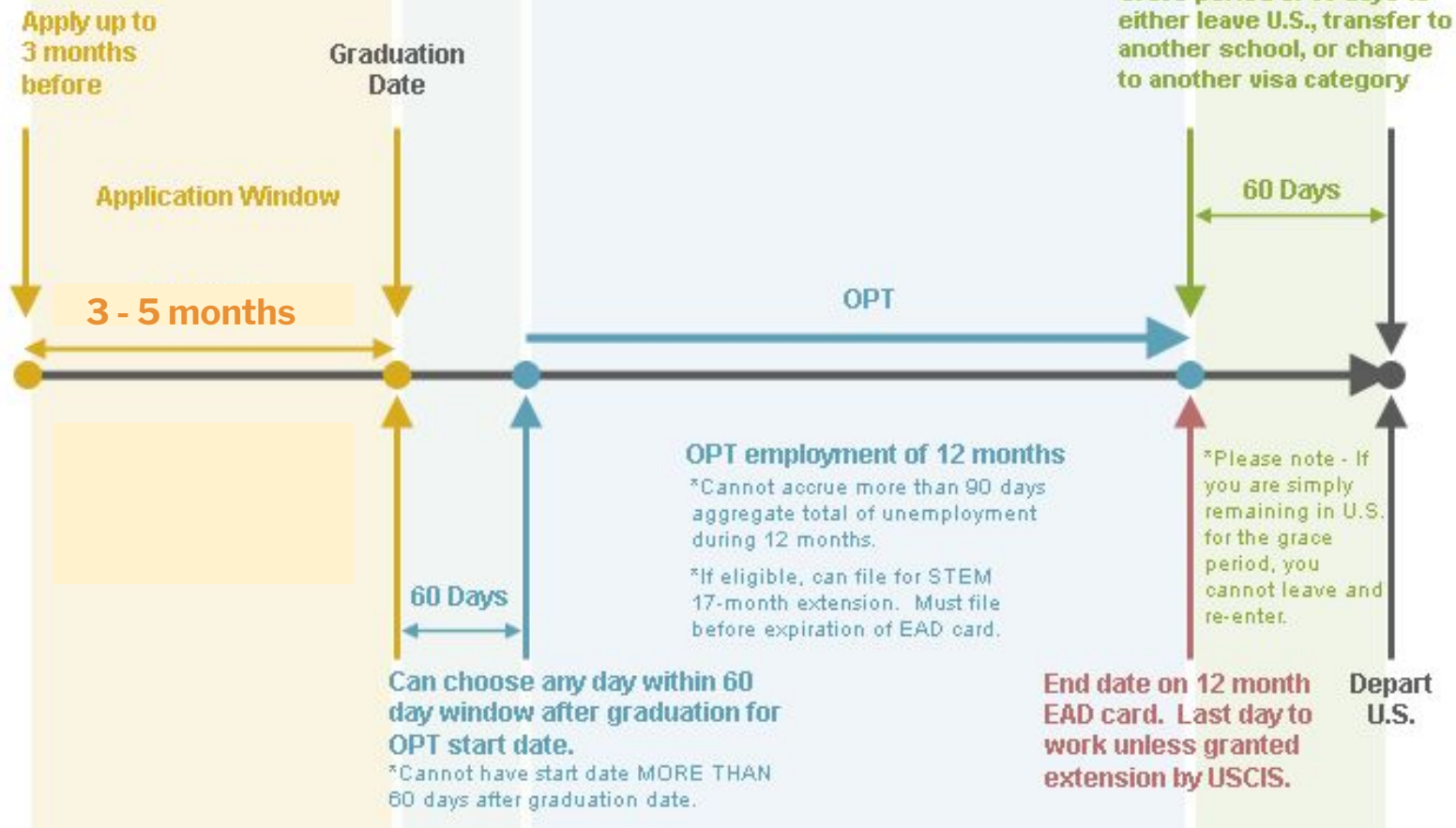


Optional Practical Training (OPT)

We will begin the presentation shortly!

OPT TIMELINE



Optional Practical Training (OPT)

LOCATION:

- You do ***not*** need to have a job lined up to apply for OPT!
- Students may engage in OPT for any employer during their authorization period, as long as that employment is directly related to their major

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

DURATION:

- Maximum of 12 months per education level (BA, MA...)
- You **cannot** accrue more than 90 days of unemployment!

POST-GRADUATION

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

OTHER POINTS:

- OPT can be paid or unpaid (some volunteering counts!)
- Travelling outside the USA is **not** advised while OPT is pending
- You may be self-employed
- You may work for multiple employers

QUESTION:

What is an
EAD Card?

ANSWER:

EAD = **E**mployment
Authorization **D**ocument

This is the card that you receive when your OPT has been approved.

QUESTION:

What is an
EAD Card?

ANSWER:



QUESTION:

When can I submit my application?

ANSWER:

OPT applications may be submitted 90 days **before** your graduation date, until 60 days **after** your graduation date.

If you're graduating in **Fall 2022**, the earliest you can apply is September 12. Apply early!!!

QUESTION:

How long does it take to receive my EAD Card?

ANSWER:

Between **3 - 5 months**.

Current processing times:

egov.uscis.gov/processing-times

Check your application status online:

egov.uscis.gov/casestatus

QUESTION:

When can I
start working?

ANSWER:

Once your OPT program start date occurs, **as long as your EAD Card has arrived.**

QUESTION:

What kind of employment am I eligible for?

ANSWER:

Your employment must:

1. Be **directly** related to your **major** field of study;
2. Can be **paid or unpaid**;
3. Should be at least **20 hours/week**;
4. Some volunteering counts!

QUESTION:

What if I don't
find a job?

ANSWER:

You have an aggregate total of **90 days** to find a job after your program start date has passed.

QUESTION:

What if I don't
find a job?

ANSWER:

If you do not find a job during those 90 days, then you will need to:

1. **Leave** the United States;
2. **Change/transfer** your educational level;
3. Or change to another **visa status** (uncommon).

QUESTION:

How do I report my employment?

ANSWER:

SEVP Portal:

sevp.ice.gov/opt

It is **VERY** important that you keep this portal up to date!

Employment Information

Plus icon indicates that the field can be expanded to display additional data (+)
Minus icon indicates that the field can be collapsed to display condensed data (-)

[Return to Student Information](#)

F-1 Student

Report OPT, Glenda

SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies - SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies

Start Date: 09/01/2015 End Date: 08/30/2017

Status: **ACTIVE**
SEVIS ID: **N0005321867**



Unemployment Counter for Active Employment ID 823104

Days Allowed	Days Accrued	Days Remaining
150	0	150

Your unemployment days are counted!

All Employment

Active	Employment Type	FT/PT	Status	School	Request Date	DSO Recommended		Actual		Level	Receipt	Employment ID
						Start Date	End Date	Start Date	End Date			
	STEM OPT	FULL TIME	APPROVED	SEVP School for Advanced SEVIS Studies	10/25/2019	10/31/2018	10/30/2020	10/31/2018	10/30/2020	MASTER'S	why1234567890	823104
Employer Name (EIN)	Employer ID	Job Title	FT/PT	Start Date	End Date	City	State	Zip	Explanation	Actions		
SEVP Industries (55-5555551)	811739	Research Scientist	FT	10/29/2019	10/30/2020	ARLINGTON	VA	22201	Student studied Biochemical Engineering and work for SEVP Industries as a full time Research Scientists conducting research one advanced solvents for construction adhesive.	Uploads		
SEVP labs (55-5555555)	810641	Research Associate	FT	10/31/2018	10/30/2020	ARLINGTON	VA	22201	biochemical engineering student will work as a full time research associate for SEVP labs researching adhesive polymers for use in construction.	Uploads		

Accrued Days of Unemployment
0
Last Updated: 08/25/2020

QUESTION:

Can I travel
while on OPT?

ANSWER:

Travel while your OPT is pending is **NOT** advised.

After OPT is approved, you will need:

1. Your **EAD Card**;
2. **Proof** that you have a job;
3. Your **signed** Form I-20;
4. **Unexpired** F-1 visa.

QUESTION:

Can I travel
while on OPT?

ANSWER:

TIP: Review your [OPT Acknowledgement Form](#) for tips and advice about OPT and travelling!

QUESTION:

Can I extend my
OPT period?

ANSWER:

Yes, for 24 months if you are a STEM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Math) major:

ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/stem-list.pdf

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

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315-312-5775