



Questions to ask yourself before TRAVELING on OPT

Will your travel signature be less than 6 months old when you return?

Yes: Perfect, keep your travel signature updated every 6 months.

No: Visit the DSO at TBI for a new travel signature. If you're not in the local area, contact the DSO at TBI about mail-in service.

Will your passport be valid when you return?

Yes: Looks good, make sure your passport will remain valid throughout OPT.

No: Make arrangements to renew your passport through your embassy or outside the U.S.

Will your F-1 visa be valid when you return?

Yes: Fantastic, a valid F-1 visa is required for entry on OPT.

No: Make arrangements to apply for a new F-1 visa at a U.S. embassy during your trip. You must have a valid EAD card to apply for a new F-1 visa after the end date of your I-20. Visas CANNOT be renewed inside the U.S. Contact the DSO at TBI before you leave to discuss the visa application process if needed.

Do you have a valid EAD card?

Yes: Great! A valid EAD card is required for entry while on OPT.

No: Contact the DSO at TBI to discuss your options. Travel with your I-797C Notice of Action receipt is permissible, but leaving the U.S. with a pending OPT application has risks. If OPT has been approved, you must carry your EAD card for entry.

Do you have proof of employment, such as a job offer letter?

Yes: Good, this may be requested when you pass through Customs.

No: Request a letter from your supervisor or contact the DSO at TBI if you are not currently employed.

Documents to carry with you:



If OPT application is APPROVED

- Valid passport with unexpired F-1 visa stamp
- Most recent OPT with valid travel signature
- Unexpired EAD card
- Proof of employment



If OPT application is PENDING

- Valid passport with unexpired F-1 visa stamp
- Most recent OPT with valid travel signature
- I-797C Notice of Action receipt
- Proof of employment (recommended)