



## **F-1 OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)**

### **What is OPT?**

OPT is a practical work experience in your field of study after completion of a degree. OPT is limited to the 12 months (within 14) that you request. (Extensions of 24 more months with a new application and another \$410 fee can be requested for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields before original 12 month period ends.)

### **OPT Eligibility**

- ✓ F1 students who have been enrolled on a full-time basis for at least one academic year (9 months)
- ✓ Will be completing a course of study this semester and apply no sooner than 90 days before the end of the semester.
- ✓ Proposed OPT employment must be directly related to major course of study.

### **OPT Application Procedure**

- ✓ Fill-out and sign the I-765 Form with **black ink**, accessible online at [www.uscis.gov/i-765](http://www.uscis.gov/i-765)
- ✓ I-94 from [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94) using passport number and name (or both sides of I-94 card)
- ✓ Sign and photocopy all pages of your new I-20 endorsed for OPT
- ✓ Photocopy passport and visa picture page
- ✓ 2 recent passport photos (2 in. X 2in.) with full name and SEVIS (I 20) number printed on the back
- ✓ *Check for \$410 to U.S. Department of Homeland Security*
- ✓ Send form G-1145 to receive email and text message confirmation of receipt.
- ✓ Mail to: **USCIS**  
**PO Box 21281**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85036**

### **Request *Return Receipt* to track mailing.**

- ✓ Expect up to 3 months to receive EAD card.
- ✓ You must be employed within 90 days
- ✓ Report employer name and address to OIAS
- ✓ Report any change in your address to OIAS
- ✓ Fill out the insurance request form if you would like to continue with your policy.