

## International Student work permission explained

Dear Employer,

Thank you for taking an interest in a Cooper Union student. I believe you will find Cooper Students to be prepared and hard working. Admission to Cooper was offered to less than 10% of the applicants.

Students who hold an F-1 (Student) Visa are permitted to engage in Employment in the US under **Optional Practical Employment** for 12 months using **Post-Completion OPT** and 24 months immediately following the 12 using **STEM extension OPT**. STEM OPT is available to students who majored in Science Technology Engineering and Math Related majors and are engaging in employment related to their major. I-9 satisfaction can be obtained with an **Employment Authorization Device**. This is also called an (EAD) or OPT Card. This card resembles a US Government issued ID.

OPT processing takes between 31-90 days, if you would wish them to begin employment, say June 1st, they would make an appointment with me, their Designated School Official, and we would apply for OPT no earlier than 90 days before June 1. An approved Post-completion OPT card would be valid for employment June 1 to June 1<sup>st</sup> of the next year. I have successfully done thousands of OPT applications and 99.9% have been approved.

If you wish for the STEM employee to continue working then; no earlier than 120 days before the end date of the Post-completion OPT the employee would see me to apply for the 24 month STEM OPT extension. This would result in a STEM Extension OPT card that would have dates on or about: June 1 to June 1<sup>st</sup>, plus 24 months.

For an independent resource on F-1 Student employment I would suggest: **[studyinthestates.dhs.gov](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov)**

Sincerely,

John Falls

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