

What's OPT?

OPT is a temporary employment authorization for international students who have completed their degree program in the U.S. and are currently on-campus. OPT allows students to gain practical work experience in their field of study. There are two types of OPT: Pre-Completion OPT and Post-Completion OPT. Pre-Completion OPT allows students to work part-time (20 hours per week) during their academic term and full-time during their summer break. Post-Completion OPT allows students to work full-time for up to 90 days before, during, or after their degree program. The maximum duration of Post-Completion OPT is 12 months.

How long can a student work on OPT?

12 months. The maximum duration of OPT is 12 months. The duration of OPT is determined by the student's degree program. For example, students who complete a 12-month degree program are eligible for 12 months of OPT. Students who complete a 24-month degree program are eligible for 12 months of OPT. Students who complete a 36-month degree program are eligible for 12 months of OPT.

What happens after OPT ends for a student?

After OPT ends, a student must either return to their home country or apply for a new visa to remain in the U.S. If a student applies for a new visa, they must be eligible for that visa. For example, a student who is eligible for an F-1 visa must be a full-time student at a U.S. institution of higher education. A student who is not eligible for a new visa must return to their home country within 60 days of the end of their OPT period.