



What's OPT?

OPT is a temporary employment authorization for F-1 students. It allows students to gain practical work experience in their field of study. OPT is divided into two categories: Pre-Completion OPT and Post-Completion OPT. Pre-Completion OPT allows students to work part-time (20 hours per week) during their academic program. Post-Completion OPT allows students to work full-time (40 hours per week) for up to 90 days after completing their program. The maximum duration of OPT is 12 months. Students who have used Pre-Completion OPT are eligible for an additional 90 days of Post-Completion OPT. Students who have used Post-Completion OPT are not eligible for Pre-Completion OPT. OPT is not available to students who have previously used OPT, who are on a visa other than F-1, or who are currently on OPT.

How long can a student work on OPT?

12 months. Students who have used Pre-Completion OPT are eligible for an additional 90 days of Post-Completion OPT. Students who have used Post-Completion OPT are not eligible for Pre-Completion OPT.

What happens after OPT ends for a student?

After OPT ends, a student must either return to school, change their visa status, or depart the United States. If a student returns to school, they must be enrolled in a full-time program. If a student changes their visa status, they must apply for a new visa at a U.S. consulate or embassy. If a student departs the United States, they must do so before their current visa expires. Students who do not return to school, change their visa status, or depart the United States within the required time frame will be considered out of status and may be subject to deportation.