ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY--OPT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR/STUDENT SERVICES

What is OPT?

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is an employment option for F-1 students who wish to gain work experience directly related to their field of study. Eligible students may be authorized for up to 12 months of OPT per program level.

OPT can be used during a student's studies (pre-completion) or immediately after graduation (post-completion).

Pre-completion OPT is work authorization for a student who is enrolled in a full-time degree program and who has not completed his or her program. Pre-completion OPT is work authorization for a period that will begin and end before the completion of the degree program. Students are allowed to work part-time (up to 20 hours a week) while school is in session and full-time (more than 20 hours per week) on approved school breaks and vacation periods. Students who engage in pre-completion OPT will use up some of their 12 months of OPT.
Example: If you work full-time 3 months you use up 3 full months of OPT. If you work part-time 3 months you use up 1.5 months of OPT.

Post-completion OPT is OPT work authorization after the completion of a student's degree program. Note that a MA or PhD student may engage in post-completion OPT if s/he has completed all course work and is completing a thesis or dissertation, or is studying for comprehensive exams. Post-completion OPT dates must start within 60 days of the completion of program date. The completion of program date is considered to be the day of graduation.

Am I eligible for OPT?

To be eligible for Optional Practical Training, you must meet all the following requirements:

- be in F-1 status

- have completed one academic year of full time study.

- currently be enrolled in a degree or certificate program, or within 60 days after the completion of degree or certificate program

(Note: you do NOT need to have a job offer to apply for OPT)

Pre- or Post-completion OPT?

- Full-time pre-completion OPT authorized during vacation periods will be deducted from the total 12 months, and will reduce the OPT time you have available to use after graduation.
- Part-time pre-completion OPT (up to 20 hours per week) can be authorized for students using OPT before graduation while school is in session (during vacation periods full-time OPT can be authorized).

How do I apply for OPT?

View the "Pre/Post OPT Application checklist for your respective campus.

Application deadlines:

Pre-completion OPT can be filed 120 days before the OPT start date if the student has completed 1 academic year of study. If the student has not completed 1 academic year of study, s/he can apply up to 90 days before the end of the full academic year.

Post-completion OPT can be filed 90 days prior to the completion of program date (graduation date) and up to 60 days after the completion of program end-date. Because the government system is not updated to allow for applications after the student's completion date, we recommend that the student apply before s/he completes her/his program.

Pre/Post-completion OPT applications MUST be received by USCIS within 30 days of OPT recommendation from Roseman Registrar/Student Services Office (the issuing date on the new I-20).

Applications received before or after the above filing dates may be DENIED by the adjudicating Service Center.

How long does the application approval take?

From the time you mail your completed application to USCIS, you should be notified by mail within ~2 to 3 weeks that they have received your application. Please save this receipt as it will include your USCIS file number. With your USCIS file number, you can monitor progress on your application at the [USCIS Case Status Service website](). You should receive your EAD card by mail within ~4 months. Your OPT Card (Employment Authorization Document or EAD) will be mailed to you at the address on you indicated on your I-765.

Note: The Registrar/Student Services Office cannot expedite this process or give you any further information regarding your status beyond what is stated in the USCIS Case Status Service website link above. The process will require your patience in awaiting the mail notification.

What documents prove that I have approval to work under OPT?

An EAD (Employment Authorization Document) card will be issued by USCIS. The card will indicate the dates when you are authorized to work. This card, along with your OPT I-20, prove that you have OPT work authorization.

Note: Please remember to send the Registrar/Student Services a copy of your EAD card as well as your employer name/address (if you did not provide this information when you were applying).

What happens once I get my OPT card (also called an EAD card)?

Bring (or send a copy of) your EAD card to the respective Registrar/Student Services Office to be kept for your file within one week of receiving it so SEVIS can be updated. Failure to do so may affect your F-1 status.

Within how many days do I have to get a job?

Starting April 08, 2008, students on post-completion OPT are allowed only 90 total days of unemployment during their OPT period. Please contact Registrar/Student Services with any questions about the unemployment period and how volunteer work can count as employment.

What if I don't get a job within the allotted time?

After 90 days of unemployment the student can be considered in violation of maintaining their status unless s/he has:
1) Transferred to continue your education at the same or another educational institution;
2) Departed the US; or
3) Changed visa status

What reporting requirements are there?

All students on OPT must report the following information to Registrar/Student Services within 10 days of beginning, changing, or ending a new job:

• Employer's name
• Employer's address
• Start and end dates of employment

All students on OPT must also report any address changes within 10 days of the change.
Email this information to abigby@roseman.edu

Can I travel while on OPT?

Note: Post-completion OPT travel BEFORE you receive your EAD card may result in cancellation of your OPT application.

If you travel outside the US while on OPT you will need:

- EAD Card (the OPT card)
- Letter of employment. If you do not have proof of employment, you may be denied re-entry to the US
- Valid Passport
- Valid F-1 visa - if your F-1 visa has expired you will need to apply for a new F-1 visa while you are outside the US
- If you enter the US in B-1/B-2 (tourist), Visa Waiver, or any other status while you are on OPT, you will lose your OPT.

Can I extend my OPT?

Roseman University of Health Sciences has NOT been approved for the STEM extension program. That said, a maximum 12 months of full-time OPT per degree is all that is allowed.

What if I end my OPT early and leave the US?

Immigration regulations require you to report this information to ISSS. E-mail abigby@roseman.edu within 10 days of leaving the US.

Does CPT affect my OPT?

Roseman University of Health Sciences CANNOT give the option for students to complete CPT because internship hours are already built into the programs with experiential requirements and does not require an internship for graduation requirements and it is an elective for the MBA program.

Can I keep my student health insurance after I graduate while on OPT?

Yes, you can extend your student health insurance coverage as long as you apply for the extension through our insurance broker (Ascension) before you graduate and before the end of your current coverage (generally July 31 of each year). Coverage extensions while on OPT must be paid directly to the insurance company and cannot be charged to your student account. For more information and to apply, please complete contact 1-800-537-1777 or customerservice.la@ascensionins.com.