



# Questions to ask yourself before TRAVELING on OPT

**Will your travel signature be less than 6 months old when you return?**

**Yes:** Perfect, keep your travel signature updated every 6 months.

**No:** Visit ISS for a new travel signature. If you're not in the local area, contact ISS about mail-in service.

**Will your passport be valid when you return?**

**Yes:** Looks good, make sure your passport will remain valid throughout OPT.

**No:** Make arrangements to renew your passport through your embassy or outside the U.S.

**Will your F-1 visa be valid when you return?**

**Yes:** Fantastic, a valid F-1 visa is required for entry on OPT.

**No:** Make arrangements to apply for a new F-1 visa at a U.S. embassy during your trip. You must have a valid EAD card to apply for a new F-1 visa after the end date of your I-20. Visas **CANNOT** be renewed inside the U.S. Contact ISS before you leave to discuss the visa application process if needed.

**Do you have a valid EAD card?**

**Yes:** Great! A valid EAD card is required for entry while on OPT.

**No:** Contact ISS to discuss your options. Travel with your I-797C Notice of Action receipt is permissible, but leaving the U.S. with a pending OPT application has risks. If OPT has been approved, you must carry your EAD card for entry.

**Do you have proof of employment, such as a job offer letter?**

**Yes:** Good, this may be requested when you pass through Customs.

**No:** Request a letter from your supervisor or contact a ISS if you are not currently employed.

## Documents to carry with you:



If OPT or OPT STEM application is **APPROVED**

- Valid passport with unexpired F-1 visa stamp
- Most recent OPT or STEM I-20 with valid travel signature
- Unexpired EAD card
- Proof of employment



If OPT or OPT STEM application is **PENDING**

- Valid passport with unexpired F-1 visa stamp
- Most recent OPT or STEM I-20 with valid travel signature
- I-797C Notice of Action receipt
- Proof of employment (recommended)