F-1 students who plan to work in the U.S. may apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT), [1] a temporary employment authorization that provides an opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to a practical work experience off-campus. If you will be graduating this May and plan on working in the U.S. this summer, you should start preparing to apply for OPT as soon as the applications open, which this year is February 21st.

Please note that you must be physically present in the U.S. to apply for OPT and you do not need a job to apply for OPT. Do not pay the USCIS fee of $410 until you have a new I-20 from OISS recommending you for OPT.

Here are a few resources to help get you started:

- **Review our website** [2]: You will find detailed information on eligibility, the application timeline, and process on our F-1 OPT page.
- **Register for an OPT Workshop** [3]: Over the next few weeks, OISS advisers will hold several OPT workshops to answer your questions and help get you started on the OPT application process. If you will be applying for OPT, it is highly recommended that you attend the appropriate workshop or sign-up to receive the recording.

**Yale College Students:**

- Register for January 31, 3-4:30pm (virtual) [4]
- Register for February 2, 3-4:30pm (in-person) [5]

**GSAS Masters Students:**
As it may take 90 days or more for USCIS to process an OPT application, it is important to apply as early as possible:

- **Are you graduating this May?** The earliest date you can apply for OPT is February 21st. Start reviewing our website now and register for an OPT workshop with OISS so you can apply once the application is open.
- **Are you a continuing student?** You may be eligible to apply for pre-completion OPT and you can apply as early as 90 days before your requested employment start date.

Get started now!

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/news/sign-up-for-an-f-1-optional-practical-training-opt-workshop

Links
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-students/employment/f-1-optional-practical-training
[3] https://oiss.yale.edu/calendar
[8] https://yaleconnect.yale.edu/OISS/rsvp_boot?id=2262337
[9] https://yaleconnect.yale.edu/OISS/rsvp_boot?id=2262338
[10] https://yaleconnect.yale.edu/OISS/rsvp_boot?id=2262339