F-1 students who plan to work in the U.S. this summer or after graduation need to apply NOW in order to receive the work permission on time. Optional Practical Training (OPT) [1] is 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 staying and working in the U.S. this summer, you should plan to apply for OPT soon. It can take 90 days or more for USCIS to approve OPT, so it is important to apply as early as possible [2]:

- **Are you graduating this May?** You can apply for post-completion OPT now.
- **Are you a continuing student?** You will apply for pre-completion OPT and you can apply as early as 90 days before your prospective employment start date.

You can find detailed information on eligibility, and application timeline and process on our [F-1 OPT][3] page.

**New Remote OPT Process**

As you might be aware, per university guidance OISS temporarily suspended in-person advising until April 16th. This means that we will not be able to arrange an in-person review of your OPT materials, but will instead process your new I-20 recommending for OPT and then communicate with you regarding next steps, including any possible revisions you need to make, how to compile your complete OPT package, and mailing options. If needed, you will also be able to schedule a virtual OPT review with your designated OISS adviser [4] after the processing of your I-20.

Please note that you must be physically in the U.S. when you file your OPT application. If you have questions regarding international travel after you submit your OPT application, please consult with your OISS adviser.

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