

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE | UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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## 24-Month STEM OPT Extension

# Form I-765 Paper Filing Guide

Last updated 1/2024

- As of 12/4/2020, the current version of Form I-765 is the 8/25/2020 Edition. Please consult USCIS's Form I-765 page and contact an ISO advisor to confirm the most up-to-date information about Form I-765 during this period of transition. Using the wrong version of Form I-765 can result in rejection of your application.
- ☑ This guide should only be used for 24 Month STEM OPT application paper filing, not any other type of USCIS application. If you are replacing a lost, stolen, or incorrect EAD card, please consult an ISO advisor.
- ☐ This guide provides information about various application forms, but the STEM OPT application also requires specific supporting document copies. Please see the following pages for assistance with the I-765 and a full list of materials to include with your STEM OPT application.
- ☐ This document, as well as any other application support from ISO, should not be considered legal advice.

  You are responsible for accurately completing your forms and timely submitting your application.
- ☑ The information in this guide is updated regularly. We advise that you check the most updated version of this guide on our website.

#### Form I-765 and official instructions:

https://www.uscis.gov/i-765

Please note that Form I-765 must always be submitted with appropriate supporting documentation. Consult the ISO's STEM OPT Application Checklist for more information about this documentation.

We highly recommend filling out this form electronically (typing in the information). If you must fill any sections out by hand, use black ink and write clearly.

**Check this box**. STEM OPT is a separate employment permission from 12-month OPT and uses a new eligibility category, so it is not considered a renewal.

Enter your **full name** as it appears on your passport. If your full name does not fit in these boxes, you can use Part 6: Additional Information (page 7) to write out your full name.



#### Application For Employment Authorization

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services USCIS Form I-765 OMB No. 1615-0040 Expires 07/31/2022

USCIS released a new version of Form

I-765 that must be used starting August 25, 2020. Note the current edition date in the bottom left (8/25/20). In case of sudden changes, make sure to download the most recent version of the form from the USCIS website for your application.

Leave this section blank.

Enter N/A in any fields that do not apply to you throughout the application.

You can use this section if you have ever changed your name OR if your name appears differently on different legal documents (e.g. your names are in a different order, with a dash [-], with or without an extra space, etc). If this does not apply to you, enter N/A in any unused fields.

Authorization/Extension Valid From  For USCIS Use Only Alien Registration Number Remarks	Action Block
Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)- accredited representative (if any).	ais box if Form G-28  Attorney or Accredited Representative USCIS Online Account Number (if any)  Lestions fully and accurately. If a question does not apply to you (for
unless otherwise directed. If your answer to a question which	is, "Provide the name of your current spouse"), type or print "N/A" — I requires a numeric response is zero or none (for example, "How eparted the United States"), type or print "None" unless otherwise  Other Names Used
I am applying for (select only one box):  1.a. Initial permission to accept employment.  1.b. Replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged employment authorization document, or correction of my employment authorization document NOT DUE to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) error.  NOTE: Replacement (correction) of an employment authorization document due to USCIS error does not require a new Form I-765 and filing fee. Refer to Replacement for Card Error in the What is the Filing Fee section of the Form I-765 Instructions for further details.	Provide all other names you have ever used, including aboves, maiden name, and nicknames. If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in Part 6.  Additional Information.  2.a. Family Name (Last Name)  2.b. Given Name (First Name)  2.c. Middle Name  3.a. Family Name (Last Name)  3.b. Given Name (First Name)
1.c. Renewal of my permission to accept employment.  (Attach a copy of your previous employment authorization document.)	3.c. Middle Name  4.a. Family Name (Last Name)
Part 2. Information About You	4.b. Given Name (First Name)
Your Full Legal Name	THE PRODUCT STREET
1.a. Family Name (Last Name)  1.b. Given Name (First Name)  1.c. Middle Name	

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The address you enter here is where your EAD card and any other notices from USCIS will be mailed. This should be an address where you can securely receive mail for the next 6 months.

If the mailing address you are using is different from where you live, select "No". If the mailing address you are using is the same as your physical address, select "Yes".

# If you selected "No" in #6, fill in your current residential address here.

[Some students have issues with the fillable PDF not working for this section—if you are not able to type this in, you can use a text box or neatly hand-write in black ink after printing your forms.]

You can enter the 9-digit "USCIS #" on your current EAD card as your "A-Number". Most students do not have a USCIS Online Account Number, and that can be left blank.

Answer #10, #11, & #13a appropriately based on your personal circumstances. In #12 you can select "Yes".

If you have a **Social Security Number**, enter that into #13b.

#### 14. Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card? Part 2. Information About You (continued) (You must also answer "Yes" to Item Number 15., Consent for Disclosure, to receive a card.) Your U.S. Mailing Address Yes No 5.a. In Care Of Name (if any) NOTE: If you answered "No" to Item Number 14., to Part 2., Item Number 18.a. If you answered "Yes" to Item Number 14., you must also answer "Yes" to Item 5.b. Street Number Number 15. and Name 15. Consent for Disclosure: I authorize disclosure of 5.c. Apt. Ste. Flr. information from this application to the SSA as required for the purpose of assigning me an SSN and issuing me a 5.d. City or Town Social Security card. Yes No 5.e. State 5.f. ZIP Code NOTE: If you answered "Yes" to Item Numbers 14. - 15., provide the information requested in Item Is your current mailing address the same as your physical Numbers 16.a. - 17.b. NOTE: If you answered "No" to Item Number 6., Father's Name provide your physical address below. Provide your father's birth name. 16.a. Family Name U.S. Physical Address (Last Name) 7.a. Street Number 16.b. Given Name and Name (First Name) 7.b. Apt. Ste. Flr. Mother's Name 7.c. City or Town Provide your mother's birth name 17.a. Family Name 7.e. ZIP Code 7.d. State (Last Name) 17.b. Given Name Other Information (First Name) Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any) Your Country or Countries of Citizenship or ▶ A-Nationality USCIS Online Account Number (if any) List all countries where you are currently a citizen or national. If you need extra space to complete this item, use the space provided in Part 6. Additional Information. Male Female Gender 18.a. Country 11. Marital Status Single Married Divorced Widowed 18.b. Country 12. Have you previously filed Form I-765? 13.a. Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to you? Yes No NOTE: If you answered "No" to Item Number 13.a., skip to Item Number 14. If you answered "Yes" to Item Number 13.a., provide the information requested in Item Number 13.b. 13.b. Provide your Social Security number (SSN) (if known). Form I-765 Edition 08/25/20 Page 2 of 7

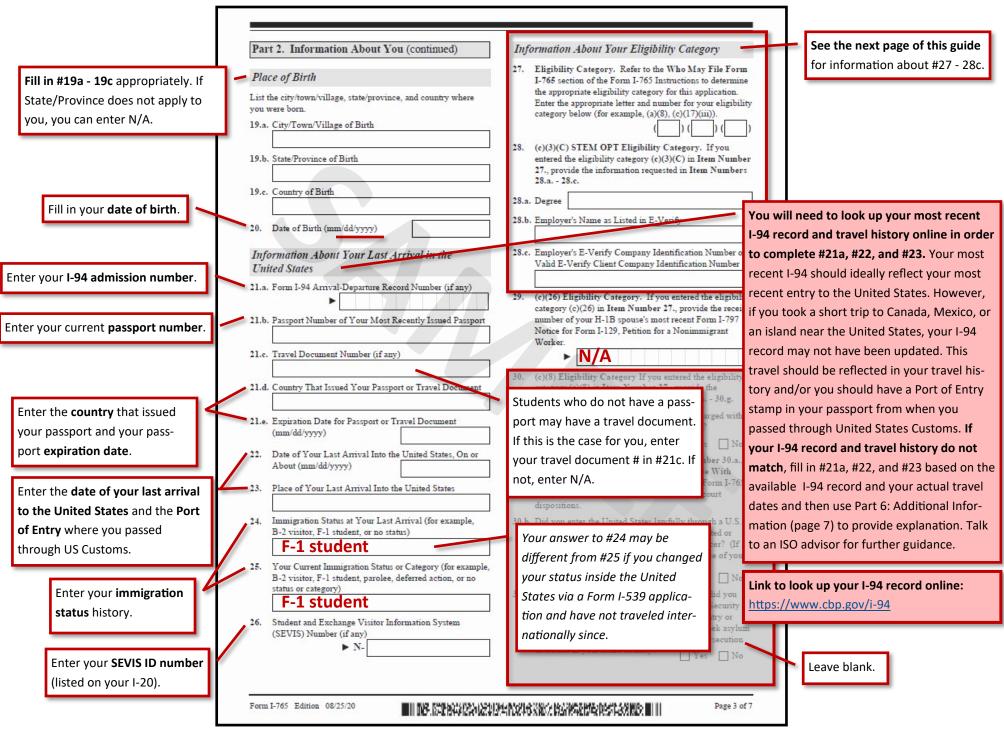
If you already have a Social Security
Card and have not lost it, you can
select "No" in #14 and skip to #18a.

If you have never had a Social Security Number or have lost your official Social Security Card, you can select "Yes" in #14. [Being approved for OPT automatically makes you eligible for a Social Security Number, so you can apply for one along with your OPT application. Your Social Security Card will be sent to the mailing address used for this application.]

If you select "Yes" in #14, fill in #15—17b. These questions are only for the Social Security Number application.

List your **country of citizenship** in #18a.

If you have dual citizenship, list your second country of citizenship in #18b. If you do not have dual citizenship, you can enter N/A in #18b.



Place of Birth  List the city/town/village, state/province, and country where you were born.  19.a. City/Town/Village of Birth	Information About Your Eligibility Category  27. Eligibility Category. Refer to the Who May File Form I-765 section of the Form I-765 Instructions to determine the appropriate eligibility category for this application.  Enter the appropriate letter and number for your eligibility category below (for example, (a)(8), (c)(17)(iii)).  (C)(3)(C) STEM OPT Eligibility Category. If you	Enter this eligibility code for 24-Month STEM OPT External
19.b. State/Province of Birth  19.c. Country of Birth  Fill in your employer name exactly as 20. Dat listed in E-Verify.	entered the eligibility category (c)(3)(C) in Item Number 27., provide the information requested in Item Numbers 28.a 28.c.  28.a. Degree  28.b. Suployer's Name as Listed in E-Verify  28.c. Employer's E-Verify Company Identification Number or a	The I-765 Instructions ask you to in the degree level and degree na of your eligible STEM degree in #2 ISO recommends you list your degas it appears on your I-20, such as
Information About Your Last Arrival in the United Fill in your employer's E-Verify Number (not EIN). This should be a number between 4-7 digits long.	29. (c)(26) Eligibility Category. If you entered the eligibility category (c)(26) in Item Number 27., provide the receipt number of your H-1B spouse's most recent Form I-797 Notice for Form I-129. Petition for a Nonimmigrant	EXAMPLE: PhD in Electrical and Electronics Engineering 14.1001  EXAMPLE: Masters in Managemer
21.c. Travel Document Number (if any) 21.d. Country That Issued Your Passport or Travel Document	Worker.  N/A  30. (c)(8) Eligibility Category If you entered the eligibility category (c)(8) in Item Number 27., provide the information requested in Item Numbers 30.a 30.g.	Sciences and Quantitative Method Other 52.1399  Most students will be unable to f
Expiration Date for Passport or Travel Document (mm/dd/yyyy)      Date of Your Last Arrival Into the United States, On or About (mm/dd/yyyy)      Place of Your Last Arrival Into the United States	30.a. Have you EVER been arrested for, and/or charged with, and/or convicted of any crime in any country?  Yes No NOTE: If you answered "Yes" to Item Number 30.a., refer to Special Filing Instructions for Those With Pending Asylum Applications (c)(8) of the Form I-765 Instructions for information about providing court	of the recommended information into this fillable field. In that case, you may want to consider: 1) using free PDF editing software to insert text/comment box with smaller for
24. Immigration Status at Your Last Arrival (for example, B-2 visitor, F-1 student, or no status)	dispositions.  30.b. Did you enter the United States lawfully through a U.S. port of entry and were you inspected and admitted or paroled after inspection by an immigration officer? (If you answer "Yes," you MUST provide evidence of your	2) neatly hand-writing this section black ink after printing, or 3) filling out degree level and either the de
25. Your Current Immigration Status or Category (for example, B-2 visitor, F-1 student, parolee, deferred action, or no status or category)  26. Student and Exchange Visitor Information System	lawful entry.)  Yes No  No  No:  Tyes No  No:  No:  Tyes No  No:  No:  No:  Tyes No  No:  No:  No:  No:  No:  Tyes No  No:  No:  No:  No:  No:  No:  No:	gree name or CIP code, and then using Part 6 to list the complete information.
26. Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Number (if any)  ▶ N-		mation.  Leave blank.

See the previous page of this guide for information about

#19a - 26.

#### Part 2. Information About You (continued) Part 3. Applicant's Statement, Contact Information, Declaration, Certification, and If you answered "Yes" to Item Number 30.c., provide the following information: 30.d. Date you presented yourself to DHS NOTE: Read the Penalties section of the Form I-765 Instructions before completing this section. You must file Form I-765 while in the United States. 30.e. Location where you presented yourself to DHS Applicant's Statement NOTE: Select the box for either Item Number 1.a. or 1.b. If 30.f. Country of claimed persecution applicable, select the box for Item Number 2. 1.a. 🙀 I can read and understand English, and I have read 30.g. Provide an explanation for why you did not enter the and understand every question and instruction on this United States lawfully through a U.S. port of entry. If application and my answer to every question. you need extra space to complete this item, use the space 1.b. The interpreter named in Part 4. read to me every provided in Part 6. Additional Information. question and instruction on this application and my answer to every question in N/A a language in which I am fluent, and I understood At my request, the preparer named in Part 5., prepared this application for me based only upon information I provided or authorized NOTE: Refer to the Special Filing Instructions for Those With Pending Asylum Applications (c)(8) section of the Form Applicant's Contact Information I-765 Instructions for more information. Applicant's Daytime Telephone Number 31.a. (c)(35) and (c)(36) Eligibility Category. If you entered the eligibility category (c)(35) in Item Number 27., please provide the receipt number of your Form I-797 Notice for Applicant's Mobile Telephone Number (if any) Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker. If you entered the eligibility category (c)(36) in Item Number 27., please provide the receipt number of your spouse's or Applicant's Email Address (if any) parent's Form I-797 Notice for Form I-140 Select this box if you are a Salvadoran or Guatemalan 31.b. If you entered the eligibility category (c)(35) or (c)(36) in national eligible for benefits under the ABC Item Number 27., have you EVER been arrested for settlement agreement. and/or convicted of any crime? Yes No Applicant's Declaration and Certification NOTE: If you answered "Yes" to Item Number 31.b., refer to Employment-Based Nonimmigrant Categories. Copies of any documents I have submitted are exact photocopies Items 8. - 9., in the Who May File Form I-765 section of of unaltered, original documents, and I understand that USCIS the Form I-765 Instructions for information about may require that I submit original documents to USCIS at a later providing court dispositions. date. Furthermore, I authorize the release of any information from any and all of my records that USCIS may need to determine my eligibility for the immigration benefit that I seek. I furthermore authorize release of information contained in this application, in supporting documents, and in my USCIS records, to other entities and persons where necessary for the administration and enforcement of U.S. immigration law. Form I-765 Edition 08/25/20 ■|| 別名 異婚記念者以及2分次の発表的心理程序は各人的人となったとからと何と Page 4 of 7

Please note that you must file Form

I-765 from within the US. Please
contact an ISO advisor if you have
questions or concerns about this.

If you completed Form I-765 by yourself, without the assistance of a legal preparer or attorney, **select this option.** 

Fill in your **phone number** and an **email address** where you can be reached for the **next 6 months**.

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	Part 3. Applicant's Statement, Contact Information, Declaration, Certification, and Signature (continued)	Part 4. Interpreter's Contact Information, Certification, and Signature
	I understand that USCIS may require me to appear for an appointment to take my biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) and, at that time, if I am required to provide biometrics, I will be required to sign an oath reaffirming that:	Interpreter's Mailing Address  3.a. Street Number N/A and Name  3.b. Apt. Ste. Flr. N/A
	<ol> <li>I reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, my application; and</li> </ol>	3.c. City or Town N/A
	<ol><li>All of this information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing.</li></ol>	3.d. State 3.e. ZIP Code N/A
	I certify, under penalty of perjury, that all of the information in my application and any document submitted with it were provided or authorized by me, that I reviewed and understand	3.f. Province N/A 3.g. Postal Code N/A
	all of the information contained in, and submitted with, my application and that all of this information is complete, true, and correct.	3.h. Country  N/A
	7.a. Applicant's Signature	Interpreter's Contact Information  4. Interpreter's Daytime Telephone Number  N/A
Sign and date this form in dark blue or black ink after printing	7.b. Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)  NOTE TO ALL APPLICANTS: If you do not completely fill	5. Interpreter's Mobile Telephone Number (if any)
(no gel pen, no digital signatures).	out this application, as full to submit required documents listed in the Instructions, USCIS may deny your application.	6. Interpreter's Email Address (if any)  N/A
	Part 4. Interpreter's Contact Information, Certification, and Signature	Interpreter's Certification  I certify, under penalty of perjury, that:
	Provide the following information about the interpreter.	I am fluent in English and N/A, which is the same language specified in Part 3., Item Number
	Interpreter's Full Name	1.b., and I have read to this applicant in the identified language every question and instruction on this application and his or her
	1.a. Interpreter's Family Name (Last Name)  N/A	answer to every question. The applicant informed me that he or she understands every instruction, question, and answer on the application, including the Applicant's Declaration and
	Interpreter's Given Name (First Name)  N/A  Interpreter's Business or Organization Name (if any)	Certification, and has verified the accuracy of every answer.  Interpreter's Signature
	N/A	7.a. Interpreter's Signature  N/A
		7.b. Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)
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	n, If Other Than the Applicant llowing information about the preparer.	have prepared this application on behalf of the applicant and with the applicant's consent.  7.b. I am an attorney or accredited representative and my
1.b. Preparer	Full Name  's Family Name (Last Name)  A  's Given Name (First Name)  A  's Business or Organization Name (if any	representation of the applicant in this case  extends does not extend beyond the preparation of this application.  NOTE: If you are an attorney or accredited representative, you need to submit a completed Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, with this application.
3.a. Street N and Nan 3.b. Apt. 3.c. City or 3.d. State 3.f. Province 3.g. Postal C 3.h. Country	Ste. Flr. N/A  Town N/A  3.e. ZIP Code N/A  e N/A  code N/A	By my signature, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I prepared this application at the request of the applicant. The applicant then reviewed this completed application and informed me that he or she understands all of the information contained in, and submitted with, his or her application, including the Applicant's Declaration and Certification, and that all of this information is complete, true, and correct. I completed this application based only on information that the applicant provided to me or authorized me to obtain or use.  Preparer's Signature  8.a. Preparer's Signature  8.b. Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)
_	Contact Information 's Daytime Telephone Number  N/A	
N	r's Mobile Telephone Number (if any)  I/A  r's Email Address (if any)	

Leave blank.

Part 6: Additional Information of Form I-765 can be used to provide additional information regarding anything you included earlier in the form. If you do not have anything to add, you may just leave Part 6 blank.	Part 6. Additional Information  If you need extra space to provide any additional information within this application, use the space below. If you need more space than what is provided, you may make copies of this page to complete and file with this application or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print your name and A-Number (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the Page Number, Part Number, and Item Number to which your answer refers; and sign and date	5.a. Page Number 5.b. Part Number 5.c. Item Number 5.d.  If you are filling out Form I-765 elect cally, this section is usually auto-fille	ed
You can use as many sections of Part 6 as necessary. Start by using #3a-d, then move to #4a-d if necessary, then #5a-d, etc.	each sheet.  1.a. Family Name (Last Name)  1.b. Given Name (First Name)  1.c. Middle Name  2. A-Number (if any)   A-	(from the name you entered earlier form)—if not, be sure to fill it out.	in the
Three common reasons students use Part 6 are (1) to add your full name if it did not fit above, (2) to clarify discrepancies between your I-94/travel history, and (3) to list your full degree information if it did not fit above.	3.d. ***EXAMPLE, DO NOT COPY!!!***  Complete legal name:  Last name:  First name:	6.a. Page Number 6.b. Part Number 6.c. Item Number 28a 6.d. ***EXAMPLE, DO NOT COPY!!!*** Complete degree information:  Bachelor's in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics 45.0603	Example format: Writing out full level, name, & CIP code of degree
Example format: <b>Clarifying full legal name</b> that didn't fit in space provided (Page 1, Part 2, Item #1).	Middle name:  4.a. Page Number 4.b. Part Number 4.c. Item Number 2 22  4.d. ***EXAMPLE, DO NOT COPY!!!***	7.a. Page Number 7.b. Part Number 7.c. Item Number 7.d.	as listed on I-20, if it didn't fit in space provided.
Example format: Clarifying I-94 record/ number that does not match most recent entry to United States (Page 3, Part 2, Item #22).	Public I-94 record system was not updated after most recent travel to Canada. The I-94 record associated with the I-94 number in #21a does not reflect my most recent entry to the United States referenced in #22 and #23.		
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## **Application Materials**

All document copies can be in black and white OR in color, as long as they are clear and accurate reproductions of your original documents. Do not send any of your original immigration documents to USCIS.

When filing the paper application, we recommend that you prepare your documents as mentioned on the ISO <u>website</u>. Your application should be assembled in the order the documents are listed below. Documents should be printed single-sided and secured with a paperclip (not stapled).

## **☑** FILING FEE

The filing fee can be paid by personal check, bank check, money order, or credit card. <u>ISO recommends paying by check if possible</u>, due to numerous issues students have had with the credit card authorization form. Please see page 11 of this guide for further details about these options.

## ☑ PHOTOS

2 identical passport – sized printed photos cropped to the appropriate size. **Write your name and A-Number (USCIS #) OR I-94 number on the back of your photos**. Also be sure to **enclose them in a protective covering (e.g.** envelope, Ziploc bag, etc.) to avoid damage during mailing.

## 

<u>Form G-1145</u> **E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance** is a one-page form that allows you to receive electronic notifications from USCIS about your application. Be sure to list an email address you will be able to access for at least 6 months.

## 

<u>Form I-765</u> **Application for Employment Authorization** is the application form for OPT and STEM OPT. Make sure to download the most recent version of Form I-765 from the USCIS website for any new application. Please note that Form I-765 requires an <u>original signature</u> in *Part 3 #7a.-b.* Sign Form I-765 in dark blue or black ink after printing. USCIS will reject unsigned applications.

## ☑ DOCUMENT COPIES:

- ⇒ Recommendation I-20
- ⇒ Previous CPT and/or OPT I-20s
- $\Rightarrow$  Passport
- ⇒ I-94 Record
- ⇒ Previous/Current EAD(s)
- ⇒ Supplemental Evidence for STEM OPT: Proof of STEM Degree (and Accreditation Summary, if applicable)

Personal check: Make sure to <u>sign</u> and date the check as you fill it out in pen, see example below:



Form G-1450 Authorization for Credit Card Transactions requires an original signature.

