

Risks and Responsibilities While Traveling Abroad During OPT

WHAT IS MY SITUATION?	WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL?	WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF RISK?
OPT has been approved by USCIS. I have a job offer and offer letter with specific start date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 with travel signature • Valid F-1 visa • Valid passport • Employment offer letter on letterhead 	You have met all conditions necessary for travel while on OPT. Re-entry to the US is at the discretion of the CBP officer.
Post-Completion OPT application has been received by USCIS. The program end date of my most recent I-20 is in the future, and I have not yet completed my program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid I-20 with travel signature • Valid F-1 visa • Valid passport • Proof of enrollment • If received, EAD card 	Entry to the US is at the discretion of the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer. Re-entry cannot be guaranteed. Risks may be minimized by planning to re-enter several weeks before the program end date.
Standard 12-month Post-Completion OPT is approved. I have a job. OPT STEM Extension application is pending. Post-Completion OPT end date is in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 with travel signature • Valid passport • Valid F-1 visa • Employment offer letter on letterhead 	Be cautious. Traveling may cause USCIS to consider your pending application abandoned. Re-entry to the US will be at the discretion of the CBP officer.
OPT is approved by USCIS. I have a job. I will be renewing my visa while I am abroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 with travel signature • Valid passport • Employment offer letter on letterhead • Other supplemental documentation to renew F-1 visa 	Be cautious as you are no longer an enrolled student. Discretion to grant an F-1 student visa is with the Consulate / Embassy.
OPT has been approved by USCIS. I have completed my program and I-20 end date is in the past. I do not have a job offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 with travel signature • Valid F-1 visa • Valid passport • STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Employment offer letter on letterhead 	Be very cautious, as you do not have a job. Re-entry to the US will be at the discretion of the CBP officer.
I have completed my program and my end date is in the past. I have applied for Post-Completion OPT but it has not yet been approved.	Travel is not recommended.	Exiting the US while your OPT application is pending may cause USCIS to consider your application to be abandoned. Re-entry as F-1 student is not an option.
Standard 12-month Post-Completion OPT is approved. I have a job. OPT STEM Extension application is pending. Post-Completion OPT end date is in the past.	Travel is not recommended.	Exiting the US while your OPT STEM Extension application is pending may cause USCIS to consider your application to be abandoned. This is a high risk travel situation and is not recommended.