OPT APPLICATION PROCESS

• **Step 1: Request OPT I-20**
  Submit the [OPT Academic Advisor’s recommendation form](#) to the ISSS Office by logging in to [iSSS BU Client Services](#). You will also need to submit a completed [Form-I 765](#). Your OPT I-20 will be ready for pick up 7-10 business days after submitting the OPT Request Form.

• **Step 2: Prepare and mail your OPT Application**
  While waiting to receive your new OPT I-20, collect the items listed on the next page. Your OPT application must be received by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within 30 days of the date your OPT I-20 is created and must be mailed from within the United States.

• **Step 3: Receive the Employment Authorization Document (EAD)**
  On average USCIS takes 90 days to process an OPT application, however that time can vary. Employment cannot begin until you have received your EAD card.

• **Step 4: Report OPT Employment and Living Address**
  As a student on OPT, you are required by U.S. immigration regulations to report your employment information and living address to the ISSS office.
OPT APPLICATION PROCESS: STEP 2

Prepare the following items to send to USCIS:

- Form G-1145
- Form-I 765
- Photocopy of paper 1-94 card (both sides) or electronic I-94 record ([https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/))
- Photocopy of F-1 visa stamp
- Photocopy of identity page(s) in passport
- Photocopy of OPT I-20
- Photocopies of all previous I-20’s
- 2 passport photos taken within the last 30 days (write name and I-94 number in pencil on back of both photos)
- Check/money order for $410 (Make payable to: U.S. Department of Homeland Security) OR Form G-1450 with credit card information
- Copy of any previous EAD card (if applicable)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your OPT application must be received by USCIS no later than 30 days after your OPT I-20 has been issued. If it is received after 30 days, your application will be denied.
COMPLETING THE I-765 FORM

• Type the I-765 form online then print. If there are sections where you are unable to type the information, you can handwrite the information in black ink.
• Sign your name in black ink.
• Question 21.a.: Number from your online I-94 record.
• Question 27, the answer depends on the type of OPT authorization you are applying for:
  - Pre-Completion OPT (before you graduate): (c)(3)(A)
  - Post-Completion OPT (after you graduate or when you are course complete): (c)(3)(B)
• Click here for a sample of a completed I-765 form if you do not yet have a social security number.
• Click here for a sample of a completed I-765 form if you already have a social security number.
PASSPORT PHOTO INFORMATION

• The photo requirements for OPT applications must meet the same requirements for U.S. Passport Photos
• More information regarding these requirements can be found at the US Department of State website
• Passport photos must be 2” x 2” in size
• Photos must be taken within the last 30 days
• Write your name and I-94 number in pencil on back of photos
• Passport photos can be taken at the following local locations:
  o CVS Pharmacy
  o Walmart: 2405 Vestal Parkway East
  o AAA Travel Agency: Campus Plaza, Vestal
CHECK/MONEY ORDER OR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

• Include a check/money order for $410 OR Form G-1450 with credit card information (sample form on next page).

• The check or money order should be made payable to: “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”.

• Money orders can be purchased at any local bank or post office.

• Include your I-94 number in the memo section of the check.
Authorization for Credit Card Transactions

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

How To Fill Out Form G-1450

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.
2. Complete the Applicant’s/ Petitioner’s/ Requester’s Information, Credit Card Billing Information, and Credit Card Information sections and sign the authorization.
3. Place your Form G-1450 ON TOP of your application, petition, or request package.

NOTE: Failure to provide the requested information may result in USCIS not accepting the payment.

NOTE: Form G-1450 may only be used with a form being submitted to a USCIS Lockbox. Do not submit this form to a USCIS Field Office. They will not accept it.

We recommend that you print or save a copy of your completed Form G-1450 to review in the future and for your records.

Applicant’s/ Petitioner’s/ Requester’s Information (full legal name)

Given Name (First Name)  
Jenny

Middle Name (If any)  

Family Name (Last Name)  
Smith

Credit Card Billing Information (Credit Card Holder’s Name as it appears on the Card)

Given Name (First Name)  
Jenny

Middle Name (If any)  

Family Name (Last Name)  
Smith

Credit Card Holder’s Billing Address:

Street Number and Name  423 Main Street

City or Town  Binghamton

State  NY

ZIP Code  13902

Credit Card Holder’s Signature and Contact Information:

Credit Card Holder’s Signature  

Credit Card Holder’s Daytime Telephone Number  5077772510

Credit Card Holder’s Email Address  jsmith@binghamton.edu

Credit Card Information:

Credit Card Number  
1234  5678  9123  4567

Credit Card Expiration Date  (mm/yyyy)  01/2020

Credit Card Type:  

[ ] Visa  
[ ] MasterCard  
[ ] American Express  
[ ] Discover

Authorized Payment Amount  $ 410.00
MAILING THE OPT APPLICATION

• The address where you will mail your OPT Application is determined by the US mailing address that you listed on the I-765 form.

• If the address used on the I-765 form is from Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, or West Virginia, mail your application to one of the following addresses:

**US POSTAL SERVICE (Priority Mail):**
USCIS
PO Box 660867
Dallas, Texas 75266

**FEDEX, UPS OR DHL (Express Mail):**
USCIS
Attn: AOS
2501 S. State Hwy 121 Business Suite 400
Lewisville, Texas 75067

• If the address used on the I-765 form is from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Guam, or the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, mail your application to one of the following addresses:

**US POSTAL SERVICE (Priority Mail):**
USCIS
PO Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

**FEDEX, UPS OR DHL (Express Mail):**
USCIS
Attn: AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034
• Approximately 2-4 weeks after your OPT application is received by USCIS, you will receive an I-797 Notice of Action (Receipt Notice).

• Verify your name, date of birth and address on the I-797. If any of this information is not correct, call the USCIS National Customer Service Center number that is referenced on your Receipt Notice.
EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT (EAD): STEP 3

• Approximately 90 days after your OPT application is received by USCIS, you will receive your EAD card.

• You cannot begin your employment until you have received your EAD card and before the start date listed on your EAD card.

• Review your EAD card to make sure your personal information is correct. If it is not, contact USCIS.

• Your EAD card can be presented to your employer as proof of your legal work authorization.

• Provide a copy of the front AND back of your EAD card to the ISSS Office.
REPORTING OPT EMPLOYMENT & LIVING ADDRESS: STEP 4

• You must report your employment information and living address to the ISSS office while on OPT. If you do not report your employment to the ISSS office, you will be in violation of your F-1 status.

• You will need to submit an OPT Employment Update Form OR update your SEVP Portal under the following circumstances:
  ❖ When your OPT employment begins
  ❖ When your OPT employment ends
  ❖ When you change your employer while on OPT
  ❖ When you change your living address
  ❖ When you are unemployed

• SEVP has launched a portal where students on Post-completion OPT can report changes to their living address, employer, and phone number. You will receive an email from SEVP after your approved EAD start date; that email will contain instructions for creating your portal account. You have the option to create an account and update information through the portal, or you may report your information to ISSS as outlined above and ISSS will update your record. Please do not submit the same update to both sites as it may lead to duplicate information on your record.

• If you change your living address while on OPT, you must submit the Address Change for Students on OPT form OR update your SEVP Portal.

• When you have a change in your employment or living address, you must report the change to the ISSS Office within 10 days of the change.

• While on OPT, you cannot exceed more than 90 days of unemployment. Your unemployment days begin from the start date listed on your EAD card.

• After 90 days of unemployment, you will be in violation of your F-1 status and you will need to exit the United States.