

**FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES**

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

General Information

Optional Practical Training for F-1 students is intended to provide hands-on practical work experience complementary to the academic program. An F-1 student is eligible for 12 months of this type of training. It is important to note, however, that part-time Optional Practical Training (20 hours per week or less) is deducted from the available training at one-half the full-time rate.

While on Optional Practical Training, individuals are still considered to be F-1 students at Franklin University even though they may be working elsewhere in the United States. This type of training is available to students who have been lawfully enrolled on a full-time basis in F-1 status for at least one academic year. Optional Practical Training is available in the following cases:

- ⇒ **Pre Completion:** Part-time (20 hours per week or less) while school is in session; full-time during breaks or vacations
- ⇒ **Post Completion:** Full-time after completion of the course of study.
- ⇒ **OPT extension to 29 months for STEM students:** The 12-month limit on F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) will be extended by 17 months, for a total of 29 months, for certain STEM degree holders (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). Please contact International Student Services for more information on eligibility requirements.

OPT is available once after each degree level that is completed, so after a Bachelor's degree, again after a Master's degree, and again after a PhD degree.

Application Procedure

Applications should be submitted early. It may take Immigration 3 months or more to send your approval.

Bring the following to International Student Services. Any copies can be made when you turn in the application materials. If you have any questions, leave it blank to go over with your International SSA.

1) Completed Form I-765 (in line 16 enter **(c)(3)(A)** for pre-completion OPT, **(c)(3)(B)** for post-completion OPT, and **(c)(3)(C)** for a 17-month STEM OPT extension.)

2) 2 passport photos

You must submit two identical color photographs of yourself taken within 30 days of the filing of this application. The photos must be 2" x 2.", in color with full face, frontal view, on a white to off-white background. Head height should measure 1" to 1 3/8" from top of hair to bottom of chin, and eye height is between 1 1/8" to 1 3/8" from bottom of photo. Your head must be bare unless you are wearing a head dress as required by a religious order of which you are a member. Using pencil or felt pen, lightly print your name and I-94 number on the back of the photo.

