



# WHY HIRE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR A JOB?

What's OPT?

OPT is a temporary employment authorization for international students who have completed their degree program in the U.S. and are currently on F-1 status. It allows them to gain practical work experience in their field of study. OPT is available for students in all fields of study, but the duration of the authorization varies by field. For example, students in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are eligible for a 36-month OPT period, while students in other fields are eligible for a 12-month OPT period. OPT is a valuable opportunity for international students to gain U.S. work experience and for employers to hire highly skilled international talent.

How long can a student work on OPT?

12 months for most students, 36 months for STEM students.

What happens after OPT ends for a student?

After OPT ends, international students must either return to their home country or apply for a new visa status. Some students may be eligible for a new visa, such as a student visa (F-1) or a permanent resident visa (Green Card). Others may choose to remain in the U.S. on a temporary basis, such as through the H-1B visa program. It is important for students to understand the options available to them and to consult with an immigration attorney for guidance.