

Have you moved?...
Where are you currently employed?...
Are you still using OPT?...
OPT ending soon?....

Supplemental Post Completion OPT Information

TRAVEL DURING THE OPT PERIOD:

Be sure your I-94 card always says F1 D/S. If anything else is written on the I-94 card, contact Indira Marin Dingleline immediately (202) 662-9319 or img4@law.georgetown.edu

EXPIRED VISAS

A valid F1 visa: Please note when your F1 visa expires – **you will not be allowed to reenter** the US without **obtaining a new F1 visa** if your F1 visa will have expired before reentry. Use of any other visa or status to enter other than F1 will end your work authorization under OPT.

Note the date when your F1 entry visa expires. You can obtain a new F1 entry visa **only outside** of the US and usually only after it has expired. So, plan international travel carefully. Often you cannot obtain a new F1 entry visa anywhere but your home country. Some graduates do obtain a new F1 visa in a third country. If you attempt to obtain a visa in a third country please keep in mind that US Embassy officials may scrutinize your visa eligibility more closely than if you apply in your home country. The risk of denial can be higher in a third country.

Find out if the third-country embassy allows third-country nationals to get a new F1 visa and under what circumstances. You can use the US Department of State website to check the visa information. Go to www.dos.gov and find your home country (or the country where you want to get an F1 visa covering your OPT period.)

To get a new OPT F1 visa covering at least your OPT dates you will need:
your OPT receipt issued by the US Government or the OPT card sent in response to your OPT application
your new updated I-20 - travel endorsement (Post completion OPT travel endorsements are valid for 6 months)
your SEVIS receipt from your prior payment
and a job offer letter or evidence you have been seeking practical training.

Please check with the US Embassy or Consulate where you will interview to see if that office has specific requirements. You should not have to pay another SEVIS fee to obtain this new F1 visa.

Exception for non-Mexican students: If you are traveling to Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands, you are entitled to return without renewing your F-1 entry visa under the “automatic revalidation” rule. Your visa will not be renewed but you will be readmitted to the U.S. with your I-20 form, EAD or receipt notice from USCIS and a job-offer letter.

Mexican Students: The special "automatic revalidation" rule **does not** apply to Mexican citizens when you go to Mexico. If you travel to Mexico on an expired F-1 entry visa, you need to go to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate to obtain a new F-1 entry visa. [If you go to Canada or adjacent islands, you get the benefit of the "automatic revalidation" rule, however, and you do not need to do the renewal to re-enter the U.S. in F-1 status.]

REQUIRED LEAVING OF THE US **AT THE END OF OPT:**

The day after your OPT period ends starts the first day of your 60 day grace period. You MUST LEAVE the U.S. within 60 days of the end of your OPT period. You cannot work, volunteer, or study during the 60 days. You give up your F-1 status the first time you leave the U.S. after graduation, so if you re-enter the U.S., you will have to have a tourist visa or other appropriate visa.

Overstaying in the US even a day could limit your ability to get another US visa. In addition, overstaying your status puts you at serious risk of arrest, detention, and deportation.

Your grace period is also a time in which you can change your status or ask me to transfer your I-20 information to another university if you have been accepted into a new academic program.

We are eager to work with you to make certain that you are in full compliance with the law regarding your student status, and we ask for your full cooperation. USCIS holds you responsible for respecting the law. You can always reach me by email [ing4@law.georgetown.edu] or telephone [202 662 9319, and leave a message if I don't answer.]

Thank you for your cooperation. Please let me know if you have any questions
Indira Marin Dingleline