

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 visas. 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 work experience and improve their skills in their field of study.

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 find a job that sponsors them for an H-1B visa, return to their home country, or re-enroll in a degree program in the U.S. to maintain their F-1 status. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations. The H-1B visa is subject to an annual lottery, and the number of visas available is limited. If a student is not selected for the H-1B visa, they may have to return to their home country or re-enroll in a degree program in the U.S. to maintain their F-1 status.