

## **Information for Employers about 24 Month STEM OPT**

International students who have earned a degree in a STEM field may be eligible for a 24 month extension of their Optional Practical Training (OPT). There is no cost to employers for applying for STEM OPT, and employers do not have to sponsor students for a visa. Employers do have to assist in completing forms and tracking students' progress.

### **Employer Responsibilities**

Complete and Sign the Form I-983

- The student should provide you with this form
- You may rely on your otherwise existing training programs or policies to satisfy the requirements relating to performance evaluation and oversight and supervision

Report Material Changes to Form I-983

- Any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring
- Any reduction in student compensation that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked
- Any significant decrease in hours per week that a student engages in a STEM training opportunity
- Changes to the employer's commitments or student's learning objectives as documented on the Form I-983

Evaluate the Student's Progress

- Sign off on the student's initial evaluation within 12 months of the STEM OPT start date and the final evaluation at the conclusion of the training

Report Termination of Employment

- Email the student's international advisor at the student's school within five days of the student's termination or departure

### **Additional Resources**

- Form I-983: <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/I-983.pdf>
- Instructions for Form I-983: <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/i983Instructions.pdf>
- Dept. of Homeland Security overview of STEM OPT: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub>

The information on this handout is meant to summarize the STEM OPT regulations for employers and is not comprehensive.