



Guide for Completing Form I-983 Training Plan of STEM OPT Students (Harvard University Administrators)

Introduction

The formal training plan, Form I-983, must clearly articulate the STEM OPT student's learning objectives and affirm the employer's commitment to helping the student achieve those objectives. To fulfill this requirement, a student and their employer must complete and sign Form I-983 and submit it to the student's international student advisor.

STEM OPT students and their employers are subject to the terms and conditions of the 24-month STEM OPT extension regulations, effective as of the employment start date requested for the associated STEM OPT period, as indicated on the Form I-983.

The information below is to assist students and their employers to properly complete the Form I-983.

Section 1: Student Information (Completed by Student)

Student Name: Enter your full name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name) exactly as it appears on your passport.

Student Email Address: Enter current email address

Name of School Recommending STEM OPT: Enter school name (see "School Information" section on your Form I-20)

Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned: Enter the name of the school from which you earned the degree upon which the STEM OPT is based. This may or may not be the same school recommending the STEM OPT if you are using a prior STEM degree.

SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT: Harvard University's F-1 School Code is BOS214F00162000. If your I-20 is not issued by Harvard, you can find your school code on page 1 of your current Form I-20.

DSO Name and Contact Information: Enter the name and contact information of your designated [HIO advisor](#). If your I-20 is not issued by Harvard, you will have to enter the contact information of the Designated School Official who is issuing your new STEM OPT I-20. Please contact the institution's international office for this information.

Student SEVIS ID Number: Enter your SEVIS identification (ID) number (see "SEVIS ID" at top of Form I-20, beginning with N)

STEM OPT Requested Period: The duration of your STEM OPT extension is based exclusively on your current OPT end date, regardless of whether the authorized dates match actual training dates.

- **24-Month Extension:** For a student currently on 12-month OPT requesting a STEM OPT extension, the start date should be the day after your current 12-month OPT ends and the end date is fixed at 24 months after the start date.

Start date = date immediately after your current 12-month OPT ends

End date = add 24 months from the start date determined above

- **7-month Extension:** For a student currently on a 17-month STEM OPT extension requesting an additional 7 months for a maximum of 24-months in STEM OPT, the requested period on Form I-983 should identify a start date on or before proper filing at USCIS. Therefore, the HIO recommends the following:

Start date = Please list the start date as the date you pass the I-983 for your supervisor's review and signature

End date = Add 7 months to your current 17-month OPT expiration date

Qualifying Major and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: Enter the code per Form I-20 for the particular school and degree program you are basing your STEM OPT request.

- If you have a Form I-20 issued in 2015 or later, the CIP code can be found in the "Program of Study" section on page 1. The CIP code is a six-digit code (XX.XXXX) following the major.
- If you are basing your STEM on a prior degree and have a Form I-20 issued prior to 2015, you can find your CIP Code (XX.XXXX) at the top of page 3, preceding the specific major.

Level/Type of Qualifying Degree: Enter the academic level upon which you are basing STEM OPT. (For example, Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D.)

Date Awarded: Enter the program end date listed on the Form I-20 for the particular school and degree program upon which you are basing your STEM OPT request.

Based on Prior Degree?

- Check "Yes" if your STEM OPT is based on a previously-obtained U.S. STEM degree, and is not the same degree upon which your current OPT was granted.
- Check "No" if your STEM OPT is based on your most recently obtained degree, and that is the degree upon which your current OPT is based.

Employment Authorization Number: Enter your "A" number found on your Employment Authorization document (EAD card).

Section 2: Student Certification (Completed by Student)

Student Certification: Review each item carefully and affirm the statements by signing the Form.

Section 3: Employer Information

(Completed by Employer)

Employer Name: Enter Harvard University – specific department. For example, Harvard University – School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Street Address, Suite, City, State, Zip Code: Enter the employer’s complete mailing address.

Employer Website URL: Enter specific department or lab website link.

Employer ID Number (EIN): Enter Harvard University’s EIN: 04-2103580

Number of Full-Time Employees in the United States: Enter Harvard University’s total number of employees as 16,000

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code: Enter Harvard University’s NAICS code: 611310

This code is used by federal statistical agencies to classify business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

OPT Training Hours Per Week: Enter the agreed-upon number of average working hours per week. In order to qualify for STEM OPT, the student must work a minimum of 20 hours per week for each job.

Start Date of Employment: Enter the same start date as listed in Section 1.

Compensation: Enter the dollar amount of salary, stipend, and/or other compensation, and the frequency of pay (per hour, per week, bi-weekly, monthly). Other compensation may include housing, tuition waivers, transportation costs, etc.

Note: The terms and conditions of a STEM practical training opportunity (including duties, hours, and compensation) must be commensurate with those applicable to similarly situated U.S. workers, except that a STEM OPT participant must work at least 20 hours per week while employed.

Section 4: Employer Certification (Completed by Employer)

For Harvard employees, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor must be exclusively listed as the employer contact, as well as the signatory on the Form I-983. Department administrators or other staff members may not sign or attest to the STEM OPT requirements on a student’s behalf.

Employer Certification: The Employer Official with signatory authority must be the Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor who is familiar with the student’s goals and responsible for supervising the student during the employment period. The P.I. or faculty supervisor must review each item carefully and affirm the statements by signing the Form.

Section 5: Training Plan for STEM OPT Students

(Completed by Employer)

In order to better ensure the academic benefit and integrity of the extension, Federal regulations require each STEM OPT student to prepare and execute with *his or her* prospective employer a formal training plan that identifies learning objectives and a plan for achieving those objectives. The STEM OPT student and his or her employer must work together to finalize the plan.

Student Name: Enter student's full name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name) exactly as it appears on their passport.

Employer Name: Enter the employer's name, as it appears in "Section 3: Employer Information."

Site Name: Enter Harvard University – specific department. For example, Harvard University – School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Site Address: Enter the exact address of the work site where the STEM OPT will take place.

Name of Official: Enter the name of the Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor who signed the Employer Certification.

Official's Title: Enter the Harvard title of the Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor

Official's Email: Enter the email address of the Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor

Official's Phone Number: Enter the phone number of the Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor

Student Role and the Training Program's Direct Relationship to the Student's Qualifying

STEM Degree: Describe what specific tasks and assignments the student will carry out during their employment, and how these relate to the student's STEM degree. The plan must cover a specific span of time, and detail specific goals and objectives.

Goals and Objectives: Describe the specific skills, knowledge, and techniques the student will learn or apply; how the student will achieve the goals set out for his or her training; and the training curriculum including the timeline.

Employer Oversight: Explain how the employer provides oversight and supervision to the student. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such oversight and supervision, a description of the program or policy may suffice to answer the question.

Measures and Assessments: Explain how the employer measures and confirms whether the student is acquiring new knowledge and skills. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such measures and assessments, a description of this program or policy may suffice to answer the question.

Additional Remark: Provide any additional pertinent information.

Section 6: Employer Official Certification (Completed by Employer)

Certification of Official with Signatory Authority: Signature by Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor who is familiar with the student’s goals and responsible for supervising the student during the employment period. The P.I. or faculty supervisor must review each item carefully and affirm the statements by signing the Form.

Evaluation on Student Progress (Page 6 and 7 of Form I-983 – Completed by both Student and Employer)

During the course of the STEM OPT employment, the student is required to submit self-reported evaluations and assessments. Student evaluations are a shared responsibility of both the student and the employer to ensure that the student’s practical training goals are being satisfactorily met. The student is responsible for conducting a self-evaluation based on his or her own training progress. The employer must review and sign the self-evaluation to attest to its accuracy.

These evaluations are required at the following times:

- First evaluation (page 6 of Form I-983) required after completion of 12 months of STEM OPT period
- Final evaluation (page 7 of Form I-983) due at conclusion of 24-month STEM OPT period
- **Enter the range of the student evaluation dates:** Enter start and end dates for first 12 months of STEM OPT training period.

Student Signature: Student must sign, print name, and enter date of signature.

Employer Signature: Signature by Principal Investigator (P.I.) or Faculty Supervisor upon agreement with the assessment information that the student has entered for the evaluation portion of Form I-983.

Upon Completion of the Evaluation: Student will provide page 6 and page 7 of Form I-983 to their HIO advisor for record purposes. These can be submitted electronically.