

Hiring International Students & Graduates

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

F-1 visa status college students and graduates authorized for CPT and OPT are eligible to be hired. Exemplary international graduates offer a short-term workforce advantage, and CU Denver | Anschutz is a great resource for your company or organization.

CPT

Curricular
Practical
Training



- WHAT IT IS:** Pre-graduation work authorization that the university approves semester-by-semester. Paid or unpaid Internship/temporary employment. Part-time (20 hours or less per week) or full-time (more than 20 hours per week). Job position must be integral to curriculum through academic credits or other academic requirements.
- EMPLOYER:** Provide a signed temporary job offer letter with a start date & number of weekly work hours. Provide on company letterhead. Include job description.
- STUDENT:** Student will follow university's required steps for CPT approval in consult with their International Student & Scholar Services advisor.
- TIMELINE:** Students must first study full-time for one academic year in U.S. to be eligible. Students should obtain offer & complete CPT process before the semester they want to work begins.

OPT

Optional
Practical
Training



- WHAT IT IS:** 12-months of post-graduation work authorization that U.S. government must approve. Paid or unpaid temporary employment. Must be full-time (more than 20 hours per week). Job position duties must directly relate to the graduate's field of study/degree/courses.
- EMPLOYER:** Provide a signed temporary job offer letter with a start date & number of weekly work hours. Provide on company letterhead. Include job description. (Student doesn't require offer in order to apply, but must have it once OPT is approved).
- STUDENT:** Student will follow the university's required steps for OPT application in consult with their ISSS advisor. Student must then file OPT application with U.S. government.
- TIMELINE:** Process should be started during final school term. After ISSS recommendation, students may file application starting 90 days before graduation, but no later than 30 days after recommendation.

STEM OPT

Optional
Practical
Training

SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY,
MATH,
ENGINEERING



- WHAT IT IS:** 24-month extension of 12-month OPT (total of 36 months) that U.S. government must approve. For U.S. graduates with "STEM eligible majors." • Paid temporary employment. Must be full-time (more than 20 hours per week). Job position duties must directly relate to the graduate's field of study/degree/courses.
- EMPLOYER:** Complete a 4-page Form I-983 with graduate so they can request STEM-OPT recommendation from the university. Provide offer letter if new or materially-changed position from 12-month OPT. ■
- GRADUATE:** Graduate will follow the university's required steps for STEM-OPT application in consult with their ISSS advisor. Student must then file STEM-OPT application with U.S. government.*
- TIMELINE:** Graduate cannot file application with government until 90 days before 12-month OPT expires. Deadline for graduate to file application is expiration date of 12-month OPT.

CPT and OPT are not "sponsorship" for a new visa type. F-1 students are already eligible for these types of work authorization.

For more information: <http://ucdenver.link/HiringIntlGrads>

International Student & Scholar Services; 303.315.2230; ISSS@ucdenver.edu

• STEM-eligible degree programs: <https://internationalnewsroom.com/publications/stem/>

■ See all requirements on: studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub



University of Colorado
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