

SEVP Conference Bulletin

STEM OPT 24-Month Extension Final Rule

On March 11, 2016, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [published](#) its final rule to strengthen and enhance the optional practical training (OPT) program for F-1 international students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

The new [STEM OPT extension](#) includes a 24-month period of temporary training that directly relates to an F-1 student's program of study in an approved STEM field and effectively replaces the [17-month STEM OPT extension](#). The 17-month STEM OPT regulations remain in effect through May 9, 2016. The STEM OPT 24-month extension is effective beginning May 10, 2016.

In coordination with this final ruling, DHS's [Study in the States](#) launched the [STEM OPT Hub](#) to help stakeholders better understand the new regulation. Additionally, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will host a live [webinar](#) on Thursday, April 14, 2016 from 2 - 3 p.m. EDT to discuss the new regulation. This webinar is free and open to the public. SEVP encourages both F-1 students and school officials to participate.

We encourage you to visit the [STEM OPT Hub](#) and participate in the [webinar](#) to learn more about the STEM OPT final regulation.

Tune In! SEVP Webinar Week

Join us for SEVP Webinar Week! Starting on April 12, 2016, SEVP will host two webinars: the first will provide the academic community with updates on the latest program news; the second will comprehensively review the new STEM OPT regulation.

SEVP InFocus

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 1 – 2 p.m. EDT

SEVP Special Report: STEM OPT

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 2 – 3 p.m. EDT

The first webinar, part of the SEVP InFocus series, is designed for all members of the academic community and will discuss policy updates, compliance reminders, principal designated school official and designated school official updates, and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System June release. We will also host an SEVP Special Report webinar on STEM OPT. This webinar is designed for both members of the academic community and F-1 international students, and will discuss changes, updates and the transition plan for the new regulation.

Call for Questions: STEM OPT Webinar

If you have questions about the new STEM OPT 24-month extension, send them to SEVPOutreach@ice.dhs.gov. We will answer questions live during the SEVP Special Report webinar on April 14, 2016.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or are interested in SEVP participating in your event, email your request to SEVPOutreach@ice.dhs.gov. Did you recently attend an SEVP conference or join in an online webinar? SEVP wants your feedback! Fill out the [Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey](#) on Study in the States to provide feedback on our outreach events.

SEVP Response Center

703-603-3400 | SEVP@ice.dhs.gov
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For more information on SEVP Conferences and Outreach initiatives, or to view the latest seasonal conference presentation, please visit the [Conferences and Outreach](#) page on Study in the States.