

New Opportunities for Optional Practical Training in the United States!

Science and Technology Students

(NAFSA)

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is temporary employment authorization that gives many international students (F-1 visa holders) an opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to a practical work experience off-campus. Students apply through their host institution in the United States.

On April 8, 2008, the US Department of Homeland Security announced several key aspects of new OPT opportunities, one of which is a substantial extension:

- ◆ Most notably, the rule extends STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) students' OPT from 12 to 29 months for certain degree holders. STEM graduates may work for up to 29 months in the US.

Contact your host institution in the US for details about this promising development or read the Interim Final Rule and a brief NAFSA summary:

www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information.sec/regulatory_document_library.dlib/sevis/opt_29_month_rule