



**SOUTH  
DAKOTA  
MINES™**

# Travel on OPT

## Question to ask before Travelling?

### 1. Will your travel signature be less than 6 months old when you return?

- **YES:** Great! You are good to go.
- **NO:** Contact the Ivanhoe International Center for a new travel signature.

### 2. Will your passport be valid when you return?

- **YES:** Perfect! You are good to go. Make sure your passport remains valid throughout your OPT and STEM extension OPT
- **NO:** Plan to renew your passport through your embassy or outside the U.S.

### 3. Will your F-1 Visa be valid when you return?

- **YES:** Wonderful! You must have a valid F-1 visa for entry on OPT
- **NO:** Plan to apply for a new F-1 visa at a U.S. embassy during your trip. You must have a valid EAD card to apply for a new F-1 visa. Visas CANNOT be renewed inside the U.S.

### 4. Do you have a valid EAD card?

- **YES:** Fantastic! A valid EAD card is required for entry while on OPT.
- **NO:** Contact the Ivanhoe International Center to discuss your options. Leaving the U.S. with a pending OPT application has risks.

### 5. Do you have proof of employment, such as a job offer letter?

- **YES: Awesome!** Customs or Immigration may ask for this with your other documents.
- **NO:** Request a letter from your HR department or supervisor.

## Carry these documents when travelling



### OPT or STEM OPT is APPROVED

- ☐ Valid passport with unexpired F-1 visa
- ☐ Most recent OPT/STEM I-20 with valid travel signature (less than 6 months old)
- ☐ Unexpired EAD card
- ☐ Proof of employment



### OPT or STEM OPT is PENDING

- ☐ Valid passport with unexpired F-1 visa
- ☐ Most recent OPT/STEM I-20 with valid travel signature (less than 6 months old)
- ☐ i-797c Notice of Action receipt
- ☐ Proof of employment (recommended)

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