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)