



CASE SCENARIO	WHAT IS MY STATUS?	CAN I TRAVEL?	WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL?	WHAT LEVEL OF RISK IS INVOLVED FOR RE-ENTRY TO THE US?
Post-Completion OPT application has been submitted to USCIS. The program end date of my I-20 is in the future.	As an enrolled student you are in an F-1 student status until the program end date of your I-20.	Yes, you are still an F-1 student (who is enrolled) because your I-20 ends in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid I-20 signed for travel • Valid F-1 visa • Valid passport • Proof of enrollment • If received, EAD card <p><i>NOTE: If your visa is nearing its expiration date, you might want to consider renewing it. Renewing a visa while on OPT is risky.</i></p>	<p>Visa issuance and re-entry to the U.S. is at the discretion of the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) immigration officer. The IC cannot guarantee re-entry. However, you can minimize any kind of problems by planning to re-enter the U.S. a few weeks prior to the end date of your I-20.</p>
EAD card is approved*. I have a job offer and I have a letter stating the offer with specific dates.	You are in F-1 OPT student status.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 signed for travel • Employment Offer Letter on company letterhead. 	<p>You have all the necessary conditions to travel. Entry to the U.S. will be decided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) immigration officer.</p>
EAD card is approved.* My I-20 program end dates has passed. I don't have a job offer yet.	You are in an extension of your F-1 student status.	Maybe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 signed for travel • Valid F-1 visa • Valid Passport • Strongly Recommended: Employment Offer Letter on company letterhead. 	<p>You need to be cautious as you do not have a job to return to. Entry to the U.S. will be decided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) immigration officer.</p>
EAD card is approved. I am currently working. I will be renewing my F-1 visa while I am abroad.	You are in F-1 OPT student status.	Maybe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 signed for travel • Valid passport • Employment Offer Letter on company letterhead. • Additional documents required for renewing your F-1 visa. 	<p>You need to be cautious. You technically are no longer a student. You are in an extension of your F-1 student visa status. It is up to the discretion of the U.S. Consulate/Embassy where you apply to grant you a student visa.</p>

<p>EAD is approved and currently working on Post-Completion OPT. OPT STEM extension application is pending and my Post-Completion OPT end date is in the future.</p>	<p>You are in F-1 OPT student status.</p>	<p>Maybe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAD card • Valid I-20 signed for travel • Valid F-1 visa • Valid passport • Employment Offer Letter on company letterhead. 	<p>You need to be cautious because you have a pending application with USCIS and are traveling this may cancel your OPT STEM application.</p>
<p>Mailed OPT Post-Completion application to USCIS. The program end date of my I-20 has passed. EAD card <u>not</u> approved and has not been received in the mail.</p>	<p>You are in F-1 OPT pending student status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Travel is not recommended.</p>	<p>Your departure from the U.S. prior to the approval of your EAD card will cancel your OPT application. Returning to the U.S. in F-1 student visa status is not an option.</p>
<p>EAD is approved and currently working on Post-Completion OPT. OPT STEM Extension application is pending and Post-Completion OPT end date is in the past.</p>	<p>You are in F-1 OPT student status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Travel is not recommended.</p>	<p>You need to be cautious because you have a pending application with USCIS and are traveling this may cancel your OPT STEM application.</p>

*If your EAD card is approved and it's being mailed to you, you must wait to receive it and have it physically in your possession. Traveling with the idea that a friend or relative can mail the card to you outside the U.S. is not recommended. Only travel once you have your EAD card in your possession.