24-Month STEM Extension Information Sheet

DHS grants a 24-month STEM Extension once per degree (BA/BS/BFA, MA/MFA, PhD) for a total amount of two times throughout a student's academic career. To participate twice, a student must earn a second qualifying degree at a higher education level and participate in an initial period of post-completion OPT.

AAU International Student Services will assist students in filing their STEM Extension application with USCIS. Students are required to review the STEM Extension tutorial before submitting their STEM Extension I-20 Request Form online along with their completed Forms I-765 and I-983 for review *before* AAU International Student Services can recommend a student for the 24-month STEM Extension

Eligibility Criteria:

- Student must apply while on post-completion OPT
- Student must hold Bachelor's degree or a higher degree in STEM qualifying major
    - *AAU's qualifying majors are:* Advanced Architectural Design, Advertising, Advertising & Branded Media Technology, Animation & Visual Effects, Architecture, Architectural Design, Art Education, Communication & Media Technology, Game Development, Game Programming, Graphic Design, Graphic Design & Digital Media, Industrial Design, Interior Architecture & Design, New Media & Web Design
    - Student must have recently completed a degree or has a prior degree at the Bachelor's level or higher in a STEM field
    - Student using prior degree must have received the degree from a SEVP certified and accredited school in the United States within 10 years of filing the 24-month STEM Extension
- Student must have no more than 90 days of unemployment time
- Student must work at least 20 hours per week
- Student's employment must be paid and comparable to the compensation of similarly situated U.S. workers
- Student's employment must be directly related to student's major field of study
- Student's employer must be enrolled in USCIS E-Verify
- Student's employer must sign and complete Form I-983 along with student
- Student's employer must agree with reporting requirements set forth by DHS
- Student cannot be self-employed and cannot apply for 24-month STEM Extension with their own e- verified company

Reporting Requirements:

Students:
- Required to report every 6 months and submit 24-month STEM Extension Employment Report online
- Required to report employment changes within 10 business days, including loss of employment
- Required to submit 24-month STEM Extension Self-Evaluation Report every 12 months online

Employers:
- Required to review the student's annual self-evaluation and sign it to confirm its accuracy
- Required to file a new Form I-983 online with the AAU International Office to report any material changes, or material deviations from the student's formal (initial) training plan
    - *Material changes are:* changes to Employer Identification ID, reduction of student's salary, decrease of student's hours, changes in employer's commitment or student's learning objectives
- Required to report when a student's employment is terminated for any reason before the end of the authorized extension period within 5 business of student's termination or departure online