



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, Communication & Media Technology, Game Development, Game Programming, Graphic Design, Graphic Design & Digital Media, Industrial Design, Interior Architecture & Design, Interaction & UI/UX, landscape Architecture
 - 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 to school 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