

USCIS Announces Premium Processing and Online Filing Eligibility for F-1 OPT and STEM OPT Applicants

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On March 6, 2023, USCIS [announced](#) that it would begin accepting Form I-907 premium processing requests for F-1 students who have a previously filed and pending Form I-765 employment authorization document (EAD) application in one of the following optional practical training (OPT) categories:

- (c)(3)(A) – Pre-Completion OPT;
- (c)(3)(B) – Post-Completion OPT; or
- (c)(3)(C) – 24-Month Extension of OPT for STEM students.

Starting on April 3, USCIS began accepting premium processing requests from these students when their Form I-907 is filed concurrently with a Form I-765 employment authorization application.

The premium processing filing fee for these newly eligible student categories is \$1,500, which will result in a decision on the application or a request for evidence within 30 calendar days after USCIS receives all prerequisites for the adjudication.

USCIS will accept both online and paper filings of Form I-907 for these F-1 EAD applications. In order to file online, the student must first create an online account on the USCIS [website](#).

This welcome news comes nearly a year after the initial March 29, 2022 USCIS Announcement of New Actions to Reduce Backlogs, Expand Premium Processing, and Provide Relief to Work Permit Holders, as discussed in our prior [alert](#). Based on the stated timeline of goals and the fact that Form I-140 premium processing eligibility has now been fully implemented, we expect that certain I-539 applicants may next be eligible for premium processing.

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