# ONLINE I-765 GUIDE FOR PRE- AND POST-COMPLETION OPT

Tips for Submitting the Online USCIS Application for Employment Authorization



# GUIDE CONTENT

- Overview of OPT application process
- Benefits of filing online
- Filing reminders, quick tips, and format requirements
- Create a USCIS online account
- Completing the form
- Required evidence
- After submitting the form

# OVERVIEW OF OPT APPLICATION PROCESS

Attend an ISSS OPT workshop Complete the OPT Request e-form in ISSS Link and get an OPT I-20 Create a USCIS online account Submit the online I-765 form Wait for EAD card to begin employment on approved OPT start date

# BENEFITS OF FILING ONLINE



Immediate receipt confirmation from USCIS



Send and receive secure messages from USCIS



Respond online to a request for evidence



Access every notice USCIS sends you



Check case status and sign up for alerts



Update your address and contact information



Ask about a typo or missing mail



Pay online with credit or debit card



Access case information any time from any device

# FILING REMINDERS

- **Get an OPT I-20 first!** USCIS <u>denies</u> applications submitted without OPT I-20s. Get your OPT I-20 from ISSS <u>before</u> submitting the I-765 online.
- Do <u>NOT</u> file too early! Post-completion OPT applications may be submitted 90 days before through 60 days after the completion of your program. Pre-completion OPT applications can be submitted 90 days before either completing 1 full academic year or your requested OPT start date.
- File in 30 days! USCIS <u>denies</u> applications submitted after 30 days of the date OPT was recommended in your SEVIS record. Submit your I-765 within 30 days of receiving your new OPT I-20 from ISSS.
- File inside US. OPT eligibility requires physical presence in the US.
- **Do NOT** file both paper and online applications! USCIS <u>denies</u> duplicate applications.
- $\mathbf{X}$  USCIS processing time is the same for paper and online forms. See USCIS processing times <u>here</u>.

# QUICK TIPS

- Online form is designed to work with all browsers, but Chrome is the preferred browser.
- Your answers are automatically saved as you work. You can begin form and return to it later.
- Drafts are saved for 30 days from the last time you worked on the form.
- Changes to online form <u>cannot</u> be made after payment and submission.
- Technical support for online form available through USCIS account or by sending message through USCIS online help form.

# FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

The online form requires several document uploads.

Format requirements for uploads:

• **Photos:** JPEG or PNG

• **Documents:** JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF

• Max file size: 6 MB per file

English translations required for any foreign language documents

No encrypted or password-protected files



# CREATE A USCIS ONLINE ACCOUNT

Go to <a href="https://www.my.uscis.gov">www.my.uscis.gov</a> to create an account. Or sign-in to existing account.

To learn more about creating an account, watch the video embedded on this slide and visit <u>How</u> to Create a USCIS Online Account.



myUSCIS makes immigration simpler

myUSCIS provides a personalized account to help you navigate the immigration process. On myUSCIS, you will find:

- Up-to-date information about the application process for immigration benefits;
- . Tools to help you prepare for filing and help finding citizenship preparation classes; and
- · Information to help explore your immigration options.

Sign up

Try us on mobile

You can use myUSCIS anytime and on any device.

# Completing the Online I-765 Form



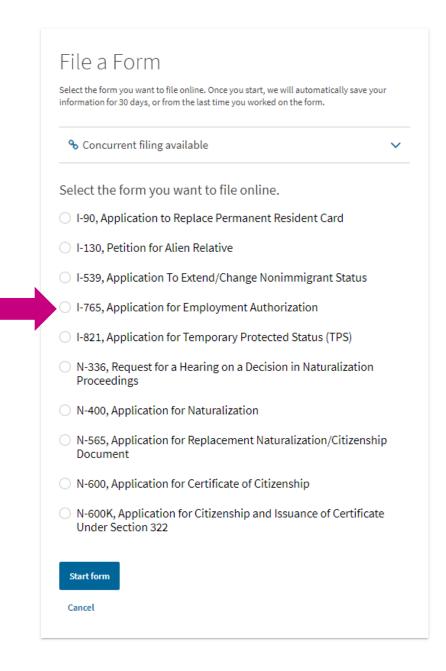
- 1. Login to your USCIS online account.
- 2. Select the **File a form online** tile.

# Select I-765

Select I-765, Application form
Employment Authorization from the list of USCIS online forms.

Click on Start form.

Thoroughly read all provided information before proceeding to form questions.



# Getting Started

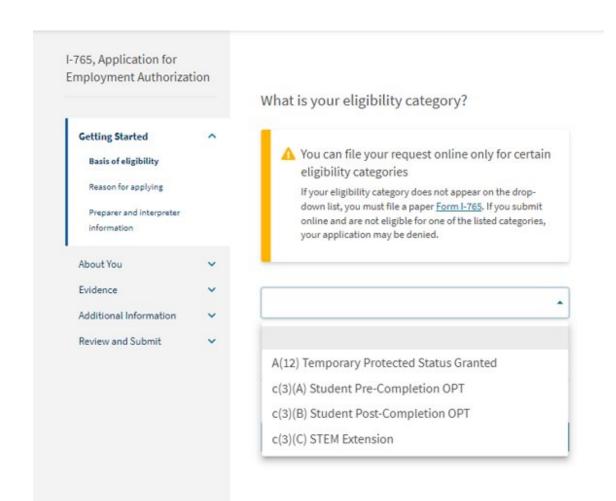
Complete the form in order from the top section, **Getting Started**, to the bottom section, **Review and Submit**.

### **Basis of eligibility**

Select the appropriate eligibility category:

- c(3)(A) for pre-completion OPT; or,
- c(3)(B) for post-completion OPT.

Not sure? Review the <u>OPT workshop</u> or contact your <u>ISSS advisor</u>.

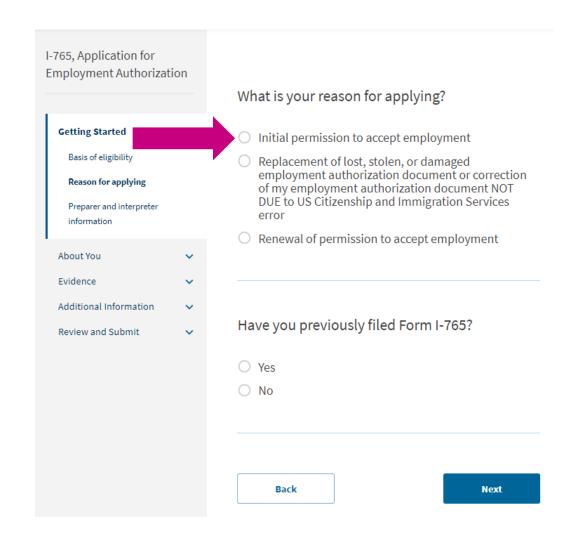


# Getting Started

### **Reason for applying**

Select Initial permission to accept employment.

Indicate whether you previously filed Form I-765.

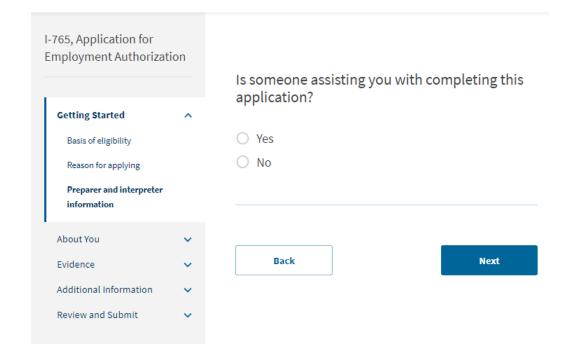


# Getting Started

### **Preparer and interpreter information**

Select **No** unless someone is directly assisting you to complete the form.

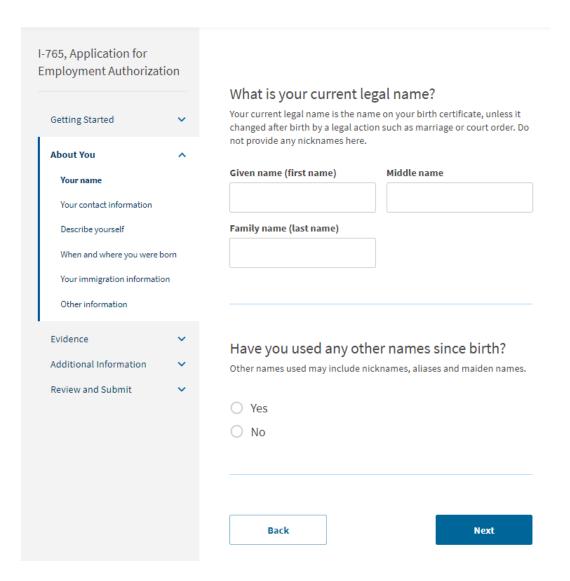
If you select **Yes**, the form will prompt you to provide information about the interpreter or preparer who is assisting you.



### **Your name**

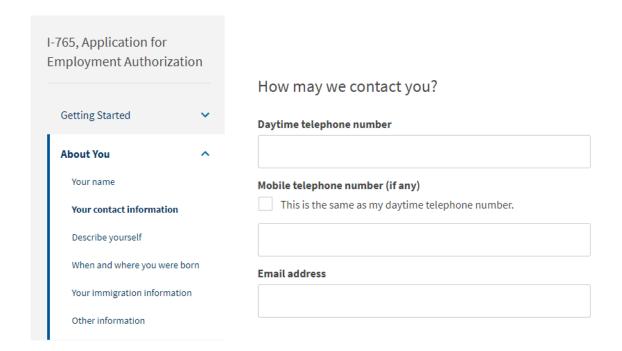
Enter your name exactly as it appears in your passport.

If applicable, report any additional names you may currently use or have used in the past. This may include alternate spellings, nicknames, or alternate name order.



### **Your contact information**

Provide your US phone number and email address.



### Your contact information

**US Mailing Address** 

I-797 notices and your EAD card will be mailed to the address you provide as your current US mailing address.

Enter an address that will be valid and secure to receive mail at least 5 months after filing your I-765.

Enter the name of the person who will accept your mail on your behalf if you will use an address other than your US residential address.

### What is your current U.S. mailing address?

We will use your current mailing address to contact you throughout the application process. We may not be able to contact you if you do not provide a complete and valid address. Please provide a U.S. address only.

# In care of name (if any) Emory ISSS MSC 1784 001 1AV Address line 1 1784 N DECATUR RD NE Street number and name Address line 2 STE 130 Apartment, suite, unit, or floor City or town State ZIP code ATLANTA Georgia 30322-1048

### **Your contact information**

**US Mailing Address** 

You may choose to enter the Emory ISSS Office address as your US mailing address:

Emory ISSS MSC 1784 001 1AV 1784 N. Decatur Rd., Suite 130 Atlanta, GA 30322

Do not list the ISSS address as the place where you physically live in the US.

<u>Note</u>: Emory ISSS is not responsible for documents lost in the mail.

### What is your current U.S. mailing address?

We will use your current mailing address to contact you throughout the application process. We may not be able to contact you if you do not provide a complete and valid address. Please provide a U.S. address only.

# In care of name (if any) Emory ISSS MSC 1784 001 1AV Address line 1 1784 N DECATUR RD NE Street number and name Address line 2 STE 130 Apartment, suite, unit, or floor City or town State ZIP code ATLANTA Georgia 30322-1048

### **Your contact information**

**US Physical Address** 

Provide the US address where you currently live if you listed a different address as your US mailing address.

Your current physical address should match the address listed as your local address in OPUS. Login to your OPUS account and confirm your "local" address is up to date.

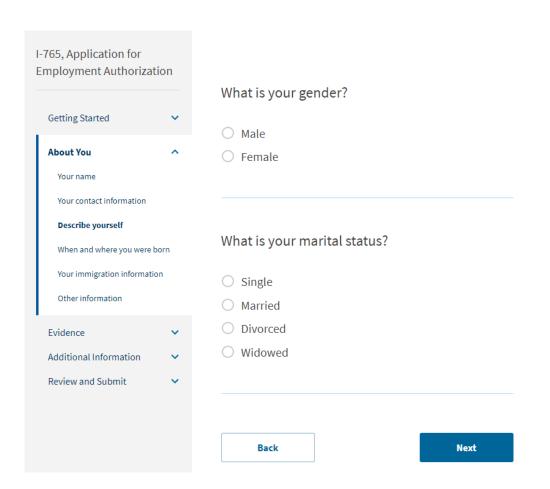
your priyorea	radaress.	
○ Yes		
No		
Where in the	United States	do you live?
Address line 1		
Street number and	name	
Address line 2		
Apartment, suite, u	nit, or floor	
City or town	State	ZIP code
		•
Back		Next

Is your current mailing address the same as

your physical address?

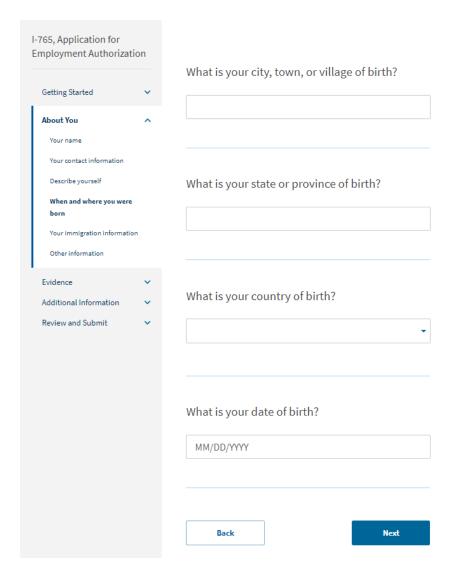
### **Describe yourself**

Select the responses that apply to you.



### When and where you were born

Respond to each question.



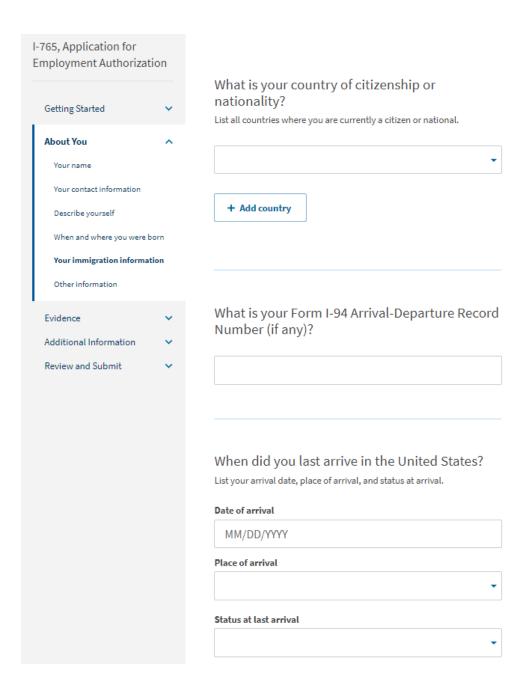
### **Your immigration information**

List all countries where you have citizenship.

Refer to your current I-94\_to answer questions about last arrival in the US.

Access your current I-94 at <a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/">https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/</a>.

If your most recent entry to the US was through a land port of entry, you may have a paper I-94 instead of an electronic I-94.



### **Your immigration information**

Respond to each question.

If you do not have a travel document, do not respond to that question.

What is your t	travel document number (if any)?
What is the extravel docum	xpiration date of your passport or ent?
MM/DD/YYYY	

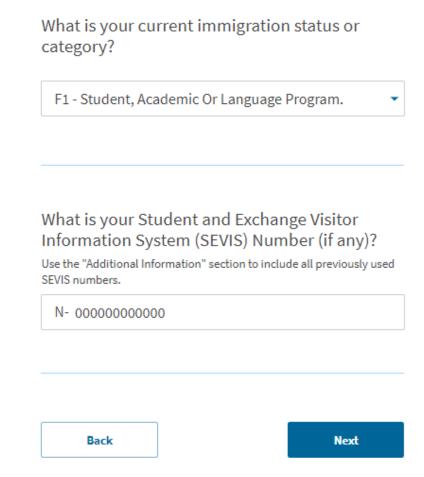
### **Your immigration information**

Select your current immigration status from the dropdown menu.

Your current immigration status must be F-1 to be eligible for OPT.

Your SEVIS Number is located on top left corner of your I-20.

Use the **Additional Information** section to provide any previous SEVIS numbers if applicable.

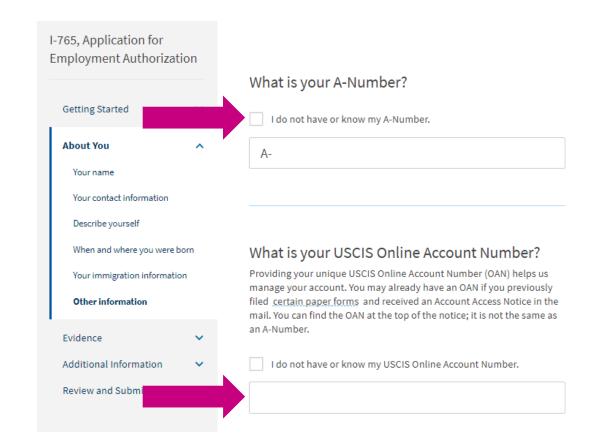


### **Other information**

If you received an EAD in the past, enter the USCIS# from that EAD as your A-Number. Otherwise check the box to indicate you do not have or know your A-Number.

Your Online Account Number (OAN) may auto-populate in this field box.

If not, then enter your OAN or check the box to indicate you do not have or know your USCIS Online Account Number.



### **Other information**

If you have an SSN, answer **Yes** and enter you number.

If you would like the SSA to mail you duplicate SSN card, answer **Yes**. Otherwise answer **No**.

you?
Yes
○ No
What is your Social Security number (if known)?
Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card?
○ Yes
● No
Back Next

Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to

### Other information

If you **do not** have an SSN, answer **No**.

You may choose to allow the SSA to issue you an SSN. Note, SSNs are required for employment in the US. If you choose not to allow the SSA to issue you an SSN now, you will need to apply for one later.

Indicating **Yes** requires agreement to Consent for Disclosure and to enter birth names of your father and mother.

ever officially issued a Social Security card to you?				
○ Yes				
No				
Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card?  • Yes  No				
You must agree to the Consent for Disclosure  If you answer "Yes", you must also answer "Yes" to the  Consent for Disclosure.				

Consent for Disclosure: I authorize disclosure of information from this application to the SSA as required for the purpose of assigning me an SSN and issuing me a Social Security card.



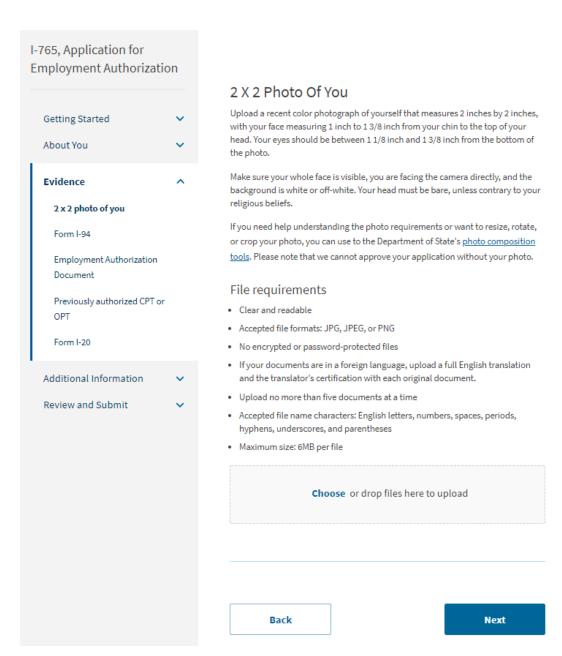


Scan and upload clear and legible copies of required documents.

Refer to <u>Format Requirements slides</u> in this deck for upload requirements including file size and file naming.

### List of required documents:

- US passport-style photo of you
- Current I-94
- Most recently issued passport ID page
- Any EAD cards (front and back)
- Previous CPT and OPT I-20s
- New I-20 with OPT recommendation on page 2

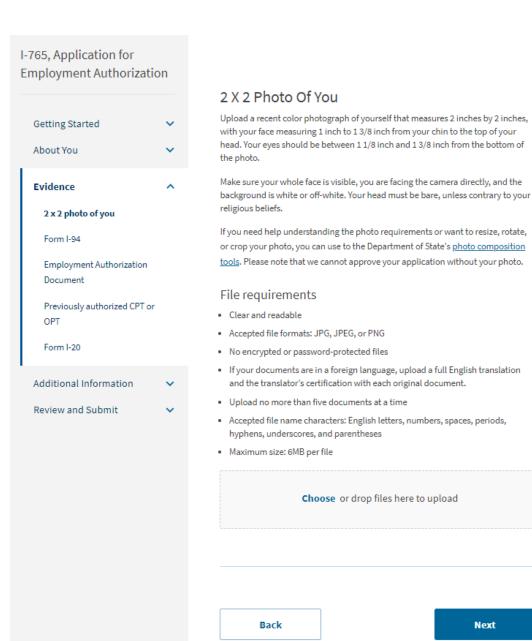


### 2 x 2 photo of you

Upload a recent color photograph of yourself that measures 2 inches by 2 inches and meets the <u>US passport photo specifications</u>.

Use either JPEG or PNG format.

<u>Caution</u>: Do not use the same photo used with other applications or other documents such as visa. Obtain a new photo for this application.

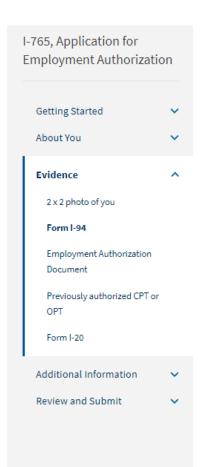


### Form I-94

Upload electronic I-94, I-94 card, or travel document.

Obtain your electronic I-94 at <a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/">https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/</a>.

If your most recent entry to the US was through a land port of entry, you may have a paper I-94 instead of an electronic I-94.



### I-94, Arrival And Departure Record

Upload a copy of one of the following:

- · Your Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record (front and back);
- · A printout of your electronic Form I-94; or
- · Your passport or other travel document.

If you were admitted to the United States by CBP at an airport or seaport after April 30, 2013, CBP may have issued you an electronic Form I-94 instead of a paper Form I-94. You may visit the CBP website to obtain a paper version of an electronic Form I-94. CBP does not charge a fee for this service. Some travelers admitted to the United States at a land border, airport, or seaport, after April 30, 2013, with a passport or travel document, who were issued a paper Form I-94 by CBP, may also be able to obtain a replacement Form I-94 from the CBP website without charge.

If your Form I-94 cannot be obtained from the CBP website, it may be obtained by filing Form I-102, Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Record, with USCIS. USCIS does charge a fee for this service.

### File requirements

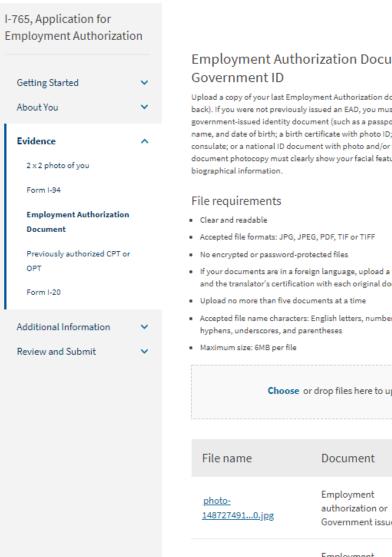
- · Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- · No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- · Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- · Maximum size: 6MB per file

### **Employment Authorization Document**

Upload previously issued EAD card(s) (front and back), if any.

Upload your current passport ID page in this section if you do not have a previously issued EAD.

*Not required:* If you wish to also upload your visa, you may do so here or as **Unsolicited Evidence** in your I-765 case in your *myUSCIS* account after you submit your online I-765.



### **Employment Authorization Document Or**

Upload a copy of your last Employment Authorization document (EAD) (front and back). If you were not previously issued an EAD, you must upload a copy of a government-issued identity document (such as a passport) showing your picture, name, and date of birth; a birth certificate with photo ID; a visa issued by a foreign consulate; or a national ID document with photo and/or fingerprint. The identity document photocopy must clearly show your facial features and contain your

- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- · Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods,

File name	Document	Action
<u>photo-</u> 1487274910.jpg	Employment authorization or Government issue ID	T Delete
<u>photo-</u> 1487274910.jpg	Employment authorization or Government issue ID	<b>□</b> Delete

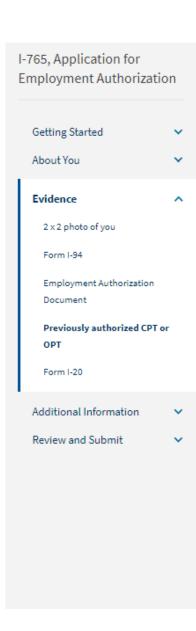
### **Previously authorized CPT or OPT**

Upload any I-20s with previously authorized CPT and/or OPT on page 2.

You will enter the details about previous CPT and/or OPT authorizations later in the **Additional Information** section of the form.

### Recommended but not required:

You may also upload a file containing <u>all</u> <u>other</u> previously issued I-20s as **Unsolicited Evidence** in your I-765 case in your *myUSCIS* account after you submit your online I-765.



### Previously Authorized CPT Or OPT

Upload evidence of any previously authorized CPT or OPT and the academic level at which it was authorized.

### File requirements

- Clear and readable
- · Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 6MB per file

File name	Document	Action
<u>photo-</u> 1554224158.jpg	Previously authorized CPT or OPT	T Delete
chipmunk.jpg	Previously authorized CPT or OPT	T Delete

### Form I-20

Upload your new **OPT I-20** with the <u>OPT recommendation</u> on page 2.

Do <u>NOT</u> upload any other I-20 here – <u>only</u> the new OPT I-20.

Ensure your OPT I-20 is <u>hand signed and</u> <u>dated</u> by you. Digital or electronic student signatures are not accepted.

Do <u>NOT</u> submit the I-765 without your new OPT I-20!

Submit the I-765 within 30 days of ISSS recommending OPT in your SEVIS record.



### I-20, Certificate Of Eligibility For Nonimmigrant Student Status

Upload a copy of the Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status endorsed by the Designated School Official (DSO). For the (c)(3)(B) eligibility category, your DSO must have entered the recommendation for OPT into your SEVIS record within 30 days of you submitting Form I-765. If you fail to do so, we will deny your OPT request. For the (c)(3)(C) eligibility category, the Form I-20 must have been endorsed by the DSO within 60 days of submitting Form I-765.

### File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- · No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 6MB per file

File name	Document	Action
<u>cute chipmunk.jpg</u>	Form I-20	Delete

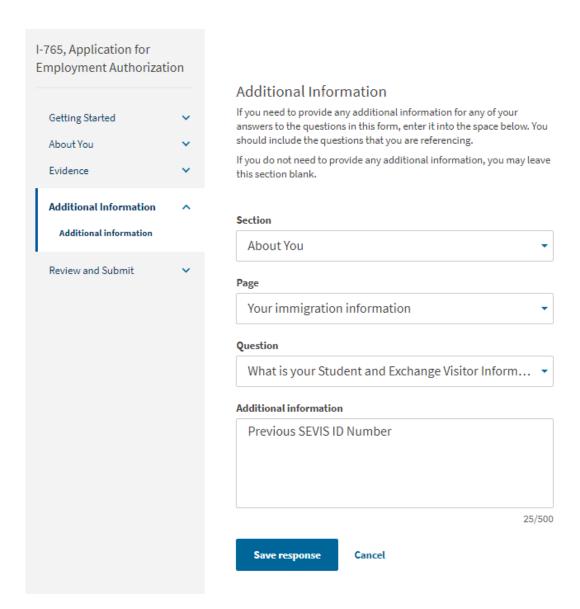
# Additional Information

### **Additional information**

Use this section to provide additional information about any responses to questions in previous sections.

Examples of additional information:

- Previous SEVIS ID number different from your current SEVIS ID number
- Any previous CPT or OPT authorizations

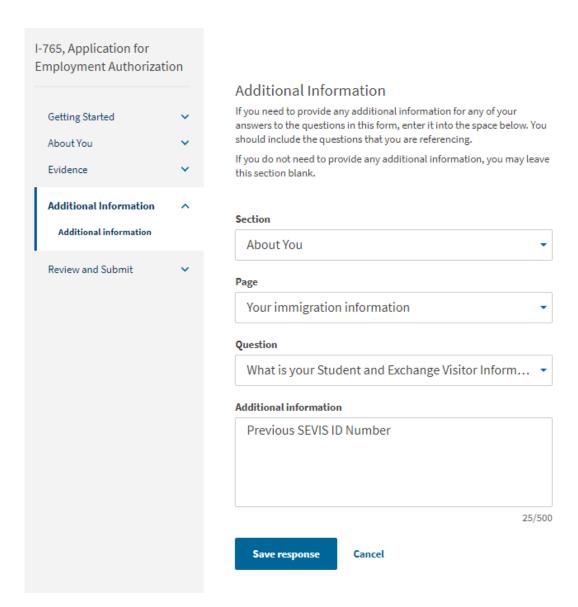


# Additional Information

### **Additional information**

### **Example 1: Previous SEVIS ID number(s)**

- Section: Select About You
- Page: Select Your immigration information
- Question: Select What is your Student and Exchange Visitor Information (SEVIS) Number (if any)?
- Additional information: Enter previous SEVIS
   ID number, name of associated institution,
   degree level, and program dates.

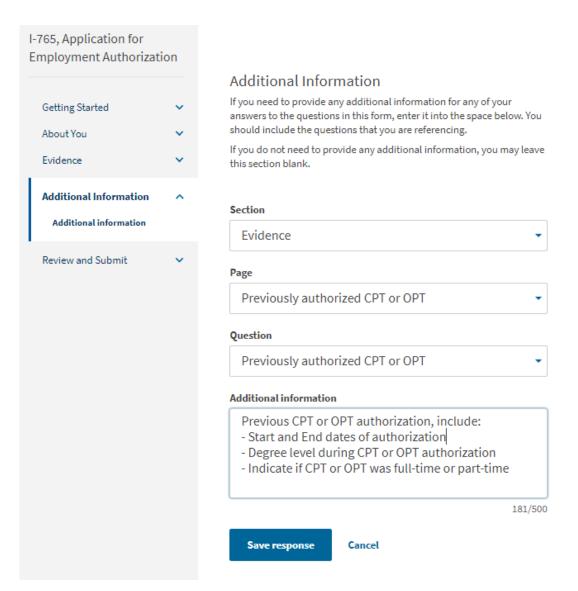


# Additional Information

### **Additional information**

# **Example 2: Previous CPT or OPT authorization**

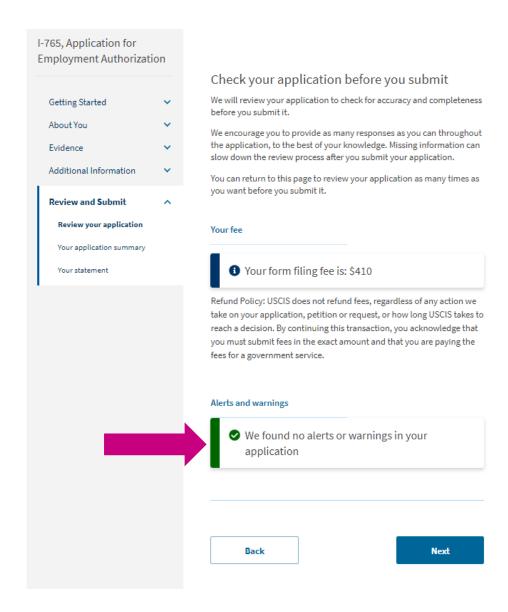
- Section: Select Evidence
- Page: Select Previously authorized CPT or OPT
- Question: Select Previously authorized CPT or OPT
- Additional information: Enter type of authorization (CPT or OPT), dates of authorization, full- or part-time, employer name, degree level, and SEVIS ID.
- Add additional information for each instance of previously authorized CPT and/or OPT.



### **Review your application**

Review any system alerts or warnings and make any needed corrections.

Changes cannot be made after form is submitted.



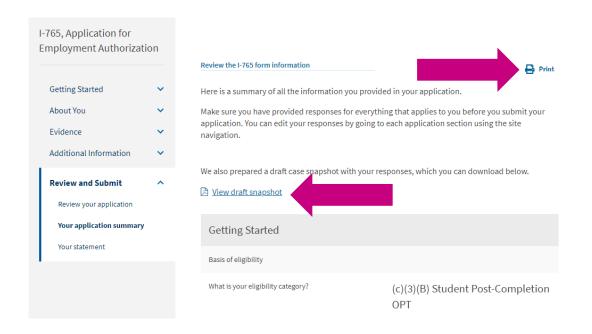
### Your application summary

Review responses and ensure all required fields are completed.

A form summary can be printed.

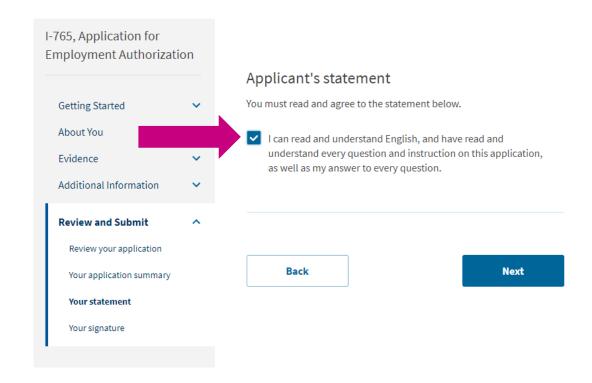
A PDF of I-765 form completed with your responses and a summary of uploaded evidence can be generated by clicking **View draft snapshot**.

Saving a copy of your completed form is strongly recommended.



### **Your statement**

Confirm you understand English and all questions on form.



### **Your signature**

Read and confirm you have read and agree to the applicant's statement.

Provide your digital signature by typing your full legal name.

I understand that USCIS may require me to appear for an appointment to take my biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) and, at that time, if I am required to provide biometrics, I will be required to sign an oath reaffirming that: 1) I reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, my application; and 2) All of this information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing. I certify, under penalty of perjury, that all of the information in my application and any document submitted with it were provided or authorized by me, that I reviewed and understand all of the information contained in, and submitted with, my application and that all of this information is complete, true, and correct. ✓ I have read and agree to the applicant's statement You must provide your digital signature below by typing your full legal name. We may deny your application if you do not completely fill out this application or fail to submit required documents. We will record the date of your signature with your application. GD Back Next

### **Pay and Submit**

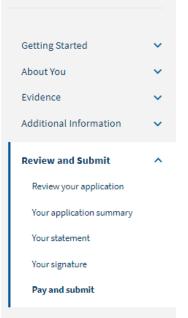
Enter secure government portal, Pay.gov.

Pay application fee by ACH withdrawal from bank account or with a credit or debit card.

Your form is submitted after completing your payment.

Do <u>NOT</u> pay and submit I-765 without new OPT I-20 from ISSS or any other required evidence or information.

Do <u>NOT</u> pay and submit I-765 more than 30 days after ISSS recommended OPT in your SEVIS record.



### Pay for and submit your application

The final step to submit your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, is to pay the required fee.

Your application fee is: \$410.

Refund Policy: By continuing this transaction, you agree that you are paying for a government service and that the filing fee, biometric services fee and all related financial transactions are final and not refundable, regardless of any action USCIS takes on an application, petition or request, or how long USCIS takes to reach a decision. You must submit all fees in the exact amounts.



We will send you to Pay.gov — our safe and secure payment website — to pay your fees and submit your form online.

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Here are the steps in the payment and submission process:

- 1. Provide your billing information on Pay.gov
- 2. Provide your credit card of U.S. bank account information
- 3. Submit your payment

When you have paid your fee, your form will be submitted.

Pay.gov will redirect you to a uscis.gov confirmation screen, which will include your receipt number. Please keep a copy of your receipt number for your records. You can track the status of your application through your USCIS online account.

Pay and submit

# After Submission

Form submission is confirmed immediately upon payment of fee.

Your receipt number is immediately generated in your *myUSCIS* account.

Click **Go to my cases** to see case information including status, history, and documents.

USCIS processing times vary but expect about 90-100 days.

Do **NOT** begin employment before EAD card is received and the approved OPT start date listed on EAD card.

applicant > app\_800@demo.com > 20817a5d-354e-4f72-9439-1a9aba3f5285

### You successfully submitted your I-765

We will contact you if we have any questions or need additional information. You can track the status of your application through your USCIS online account.



# After Submission

### Helpful features of USCIS online account

Your receipt notice is available to print. A hardcopy will be mailed to the mailing address entered in I-765.

Additional notices available through account:

- Biometrics notice if applicable
- Request for Evidence (RFE)
- PDF of submitted I-765 form
- Decision notice

Track the status and history of your application.

Upload additional evidence not requested by USCIS such as copies of all previously issued I-20s.

Sign up through account profile to receive case updates via email or text.

### Your Cases 1-765 Application for Employment Authorization Submitted on April 13, 2021 Receipt # IOE9893688931 View PDF \* Case history Documents Case status **USCIS Notices** File Date Sent Action April 13, 2021 Receipt Notice.pdf Your uploads You may upload additional evidence that you . e may assist USCIS in adjudicating your application, even if the evidence was not specifically requested. USCIS will consider the timeliness and relevance of unrequested evidence when making a decision about your case. File Date added Document Unsolicited evidence Unsolicited evidence is any additional information or evidence that we did not request from you. If you upload evidence that we did not request from you, USCIS will consider the timeliness and relevance of this information when making a decision about your case. Upload evidence

# Additional Resources

### **USCIS**

Benefits of a USCIS Online Account

How to Create a USCIS Online Account

Sign Up for USCIS account

**Tips for Filing Forms Online** 

Technical support with online account

Checklist of Required Initial Evidence for Form I-765

**USCIS Case Processing Times** 

### **ISSS**

Optional Practical Training for F-1 students

**OPT Frequently Asked Questions** 

**OPT Request E-form** 

Find your student advisor

Thank you for using this guide to filing the online I-765.

Please contact <u>your Emory ISSS advisor</u> for additional assistance.

www.isss.emory.edu

Main office: 404.727.3300

isss@emory.edu

