

## USCIS Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)



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# USCIS Announces Premium Processing; New Online-Filing Procedures for Certain F-1 Students Seeking OPT or STEM OPT Extensions

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**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced today the expansion of premium processing for certain [F-1 students seeking Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#) and [F-1 students seeking science, technology, engineering, and mathematics \(STEM\) OPT extensions](#) who have a pending [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), and wish to request a premium processing upgrade.

Online filing of [Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service](#), is now also available to F-1 students in these categories. USCIS continues to accept the latest paper version of this form by mail.

“The availability of premium processing for certain F-1 students, in addition to the ease of online filing, will streamline the immigration experience for a great many international students,” said USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou. “The ongoing expansion of online filing is a priority for USCIS as we continue to create operational efficiencies and increase access to the immigration system for stakeholders, applicants, petitioners, requestors, and those we serve.”

Premium processing expansion for certain F-1 students will occur in phases, and students requesting premium processing should not file before these dates:

- **Beginning March 6**, USCIS will accept Form I-907 requests, filed either via paper form or online, for certain F-1 students who already have a **pending** [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), if they are filing under one of the following categories:
  - (c)(3)(A) – Pre-Completion OPT;
  - (c)(3)(B) – Post-Completion OPT; and
  - (c)(3)(C) – 24-Month Extension of OPT for STEM students.
- **Beginning April 3**, USCIS will accept Form I-907 requests, filed either via paper form or online, for F-1 students in the above categories **when filed together with Form I-765**.

USCIS will reject premium processing requests for a pending Form I-765 if received before March 6, and will reject any premium processing request for an initial or concurrently filed Form I-765 that is received before April 3.

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To file Form I-907 online, an applicant must first create a [USCIS online account](#), which provides a convenient and secure method to submit forms, pay fees, and track the status of any pending

USCIS immigration request throughout the adjudication process. There is no cost to set up a USCIS online account, which offers a variety of features, including the ability to communicate with USCIS through a secure inbox and respond to Requests for Evidence online.

Applicants who previously filed a paper Form I-765 and wish to file Form I-907 online to request premium processing should reference the USCIS Account Access Notice they received for the Online Access Code and details on how to link their paper-filed cases to their online account, or they will not be able to file Form I-907 online and will need file a paper Form I-907 with the Chicago lockbox.

As [previously announced](#), the expansion of premium processing is part of USCIS' efforts to increase efficiency and reduce burdens to the overall immigration system, and is being implemented in a phased approach.

The addition of online filing for Form I-907 brings the total number of forms available for online filing to 16. The [Forms Available to File Online](#) page has links to file all of these forms. USCIS continues to accept the latest paper versions of all forms by mail. More than 1.8 million applications, petitions and requests were filed online in FY 2022, a 53% increase from the 1.2 million filed in FY 2021.

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