

# OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a benefit granted to allow international students in F-1 status to gain off-campus work experience for a maximum of 12 months per academic level. OPT provides an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge obtained in an academic program to a practical work experience in the US.

This employment opportunity must be directly related to your major field of study. Eligible students may apply for "pre-completion OPT " (before completion of program) and/or "post-completion OPT " (after completion of program). Students do not need a job offer in order to apply for OPT . OPT requires the student to have authorization from USCIS before beginning employment. This authorization may take up to 3 months to obtain.

F-1 students who received a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math) field may apply for a single 17-month extension of their 12-month OPT period.

## Application Process

- If you are considering applying for Optional Practical Training, but need more information, you are welcome to discuss your plans with an adviser at OIP. Make an appointment or stop in during walk-in hours.
- If you have decided to apply for a period of optional practical training, please gather all of the items listed on the OPT application form
- Email Patti Lausch at [plausch@brynmawr.edu](mailto:plausch@brynmawr.edu) or call OIP at X7390 to arrange an appointment to process your application. Please allow **one hour** for the appointment