

Post-Completion Practical Training Information
Sixty (60) Day Post-Completion GRACE PERIOD for F-1 Students

8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(5)(iv)

An F-1 student who has completed a course of study and any authorized practical training following completion of studies will be allowed an additional 60-day period to prepare for departure from the United States or to transfer in accordance with paragraph (f)(8) of this section.

This provision allows an F-1 student to remain in the US for up to 60 days beyond:

- The completion date on Form I-20, or the completion of the program of study, if earlier than the date on Form I-20
- The completion date of any authorized Optional Practical Training (OPT) following completion of studies

Activity during the 60-day post-completion grace period:

The regulations state that the 60-day period may be used to “prepare for departure” from the United States or to “prepare for transfer,” so these two categories are clearly permissible during the 60 days. 60 days after the program completion date or post-completion OPT end date, the student’s SEVIS record will be automatically changed by the SEVIS system from “Active” to “Completed”

Law students who apply for the full year of post-completion practical training must complete all optional practical training within a 14 month period following completion of study. A student authorized to engage in practical training is considered to be in F-1 status for the period authorized, plus 60 days in which to depart from the United States or change status. Employment or re-entry into the US is NOT permitted during the 60-day grace period. Once the EAD work permit is issued, there is NO provision for revoking the length of the employment granted. Law students who wish to begin a new degree program at another school (or at GGU School of Law) prior to the end of the 60 day grace period should contact the GGU School of Law F-1 immigration advisor so that a F-1 student transfer can be initiated or a new GGU School of Law I-20 Form can be made.

SOURCE: NAFSA Association of International Education Adviser’s Manual

Post-Completion Practical Training Information

Traveling Outside the US While On Post-Completion Practical Training

An F-1 student who has an unexpired EAD/work permit issued for post-completion practical training (OPT) and who is otherwise admissible may return to the United States to resume employment after a temporary absence. The EAD must be used in combination with an I-20 endorsed for re-entry by the GGU School of Law International Student Advisor.

Be aware that if you are outside of the US and you do not have a job offer at the time of reentry, you may not be permitted to re-enter. It is NOT recommended that you depart the US until: a) you have received your EAD card and b) you are able to provide evidence of a job offer.

The following items are necessary for re-entry after you have graduated and have applied for post-completion practical training:

1. Valid passport (At least six months until passport expiration)
2. Valid F-1 visa stamp in passport (Visa stamps may only be renewed outside of the United States, ideally in your home country)
3. Original I-20 Form that includes the notation for post-completion practical training on page 3 and that has been signed on page 3 for travel within the past 6 months. Once you have applied for post-completion practical training, this travel endorsement is valid for only SIX (6) months, NOT a year.
4. Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

WARNING! If you are planning to apply for Post Completion Practical Training, do not leave the US until you have done so AND have received your EAD card. Once you have graduated you are required to show your EAD card along with your I-20 Form to the USCIS officials in order to be permitted to re-enter the US. Keep in mind also that if you leave the US after you graduate and have not applied for Post Completion Practical Training, you may lose your eligibility to apply.

5. Evidence of a job offer in the form of a letter from your employer that states that you will be employed by that company for the period indicated on your EAD.
6. Proof of sufficient funds in the form of a bank statement if your employment letter does not specify a salary.

*Please attend one of the practical training workshops at GGU School of Law International Student Services (ISS). Check the GGU Law (ISS) [web site](#) for the dates and times of scheduled workshops. If, after attending the workshop and reading this information sheet, you still have questions, please contact the Foreign Student Advisor at: Jpluebell@ggu.edu