

## International Offices

Be sure to stop by the International Service Offices in Luther Hall 210-213 for more information. The information in this trifold is limited.

### Contacts:

- Nick Cook - ESL Instructor / International Student Recruiter (507-344-7752) [ncook@blc.edu](mailto:ncook@blc.edu)
- Rachel Kerkow - International Student-Support Specialist (507-344-7898) [rachel.kerkow@blc.edu](mailto:rachel.kerkow@blc.edu)



Let us know if you have any questions!

**Bethany**  
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

### Contact Us :



507-344-7303 (Office)



Luther Hall 208



[careerdevelopment@blc.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@blc.edu)

# International Student – Optional Practical Training (OPT)

**Bethany**  
LUTHERAN COLLEGE



[blc.edu/career-development](http://blc.edu/career-development)

## WHAT IS OPT?

Optional practical training (OPT) is one type of work permission available for eligible F-1 students. It allows students to get real-world work experience directly related to their field of study. You may apply for OPT during your academic program, after your program completion, or a combination of both. You are eligible for 12 months of full-time (FT) OPT per academic level and you do not need a job offer to apply.

## ELIGIBILITY?

The student has been a FT student for one academic year (two semesters) in an SEVP-certified:

\*College \*University  
\*Conservatory \*Seminary

The student has not exceeded 12 months of FT Curricular Practical Training (CPT) authorization. The student has not used OPT at their current academic level.

## WHEN TO APPLY?

You do not need a job offer to apply. We suggest you apply three months from the date you wish to start working. OPT is recommended by DSOs, but final approval is granted by USCIS. USCIS issues the approved OPT with an Employment Authorization Document/Card (EAD) which typically takes approximately 90 days to process.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Fill out the I-765 Form

\*Instructions for I-765 Form\*

2. You will need to include with the I-765 form the following:

\*A copy of your Form I-94 \*Two identical passport-style photographs \*Copies of all your I-20's \*Copy of your Visa \*Copy of your Passport \*Fee of \$410.00  
\*New I-20 with OPT request on it.

3. Please go see the international offices once you have all the paperwork completed above.

## DEADLINES TO KNOW?

- 9 months = Been enrolled and in F-1 status prior to applying.
- 90 days before completion date = Earliest to apply for post-completion OPT.
- 60 days after completion date = Latest to apply for post-completion OPT.
- 30 days = Between receiving OPT recommendation from the Designated School Official (DSO) with signature on the I-20 and sending to and be received by USCIS.
- 90 days = Typical processing time of OPT approval (EAD) by USCIS.

