Dear Student,

By now most of you have heard the wonderful news that the 17 month OPT STEM extension is now the 24 month OPT STEM extension!

You may ask what does this entail?

The Office of International Services has put together new OPT STEM Instructions and an Application for you to review and refer to for all of your inquiries regarding the 24 month OPT STEM rule; so be sure to read carefully through the important information regarding the new rule. The OPT STEM Instructions and application can also be found on our website when you click on the 'Forms' tab and look under 'Employment Related' forms.

A list of OPT STEM majors at Teachers College is located on the first page of the OPT STEM instructions.

Some highlights of the new rule are below:

As of May 10, 2016 individuals with F-1 status may be eligible to apply for up to 24 months of OPT if they have received a STEM U.S. government designated major in the past ten years.

Also as of May 10, 2016 individuals with F-1 status are eligible to apply for up to 24 months of OPT if they are currently in a STEM U.S. government designated major.

There is a lot of new information on our updated 24 month OPT STEM application so be sure to read through this information very carefully. If after reading you have inquiries be sure to contact our office.

If you believe that you are eligible to apply and you are not sure if you received a STEM U.S. government designated major degree, contact the office of your previous school who issued your previous I-20 form for verification of your degree program and U.S. Department of Education CIP code.

For inquiries you can always contact us at tcintl@tc.columbia.edu or at 212-678-3939.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Office of International Services
Teachers College