



Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Kibaek Sung, a metals and jewelry design major, completed a co-op with Tiffany & Co., as a silversmith on the specialized Tiffany hollowware silversmith team, where he helped craft trophies for major U.S. sports leagues, including the MLB, NBA, and NFL.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is temporary employment directly related to your major area of study, after completion of your degree.

You may apply for 12 months of OPT per degree level plus a possible 24-month extension for those who qualify. OPT authorization must be obtained from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the form of an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). RIT's International Student Services (ISS) Office can assist with obtaining that authorization.

24-Month STEM OPT Extension

Eligible programs allow you to participate in up to 3 years of OPT. You must have earned a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree in a qualifying STEM field (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics).

If you have earned a degree in designated science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, you may apply for a 24-month extension of your post-completion OPT employment authorization if you meet the following requirements:

- > Are an F-1 student who received a STEM degree included on the STEM Designated Degree Program List
- > Are employed by an employer who is enrolled in and is using E-Verify
- > Received an initial grant of post-completion OPT employment authorization based on your STEM degree.

Learn more

RIT's international students thrive and achieve exceptional success



Eligible Programs

RIT offers 100+ STEM-designated programs eligible for OPT Extension



4,412

Students on co-op annually

1.8K

Hiring Organizations in 49 U.S. States and 25 countries

\$68m

Earned by co-op students annually

Imergen Rosario, an imaging science major, created an internal database of lip products while interning at The Estée Lauder Companies. She developed an imaging measurement protocol to characterize pigments under different lighting conditions, sample preparations, and other factors.

5th

Among top schools for co-op or internship programs

U.S. News & World Report, 2024

95%

Employers said they would hire their co-op students for a full-time position

93.4%

RIT grads employed full-time, in grad school, or pursuing alternative plans within six months of graduation

Careers and Co-op

7 Reasons Why RIT Co-op is the Best

100+ Years of Co-op

There's a reason RIT has one of the best university co-op programs in the world. We've been offering a college co-op program for more than 100 years. We value the preparedness and practice a co-op program can offer.

High Employment Outcomes

With a 94% outcome rate, RIT students hit the ground running. By gaining career experience early and often, applying their learning in meaningful ways, and contributing to real-world problems, RIT students build resumes that are full of experiences directly tied to their program and career ambitions.

Earn a Full-Time Salary

You'll earn a full-time salary as you gain experience on co-op. This can be used to support your tuition and help offset college expenses, or it can help to set you up for financial independence after graduation.

No Co-op Fees or Tuition

You won't be charged fees or tuition while on co-op. Your focus should be on gaining hands-on career experience and making valuable industry connections.

4th Oldest, One of the Largest

We're the experts at providing career experience. As the fourth oldest and one of the largest college co-op programs in the world, RIT knows how to help you connect with employers, leverage your experience, and launch careers.

Extraordinary Employer and Alumni Partnerships

Industry partnerships provide unmatched opportunities at influential, innovative companies all over the world. And, with 145,000 alumni working around the globe, you'll benefit from a network of professionals ready to advise and support your career aspirations.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

CPT is a special visa status which allows students to pause their studies and work full-time on their student visa. Students can work full-time anywhere in the U.S. for a maximum of one year. Benefits of this additional year include a deeper development of industry knowledge and greater networking opportunities.

RIT's Outstanding Hiring Partners

We couldn't possibly list all 34,000 of our hiring partners. It's a list that keeps on growing. But here's a sample of some of the places around the world where you might find yourself working.

- > 3M
- > Amazon
- > Apple
- > Deloitte
- > Forbes
- > Google
- > IBM
- > Meta
- > PepsiCo
- > SpaceX
- > Tiffany & Co.
- > Volvo