



Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Kibaek Sung (metals and jewelry design MFA) 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.

Eligible Programs

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

> rit.edu/study-stem-designated-degrees



Support

RIT's international students thrive and achieve exceptional success with the support of our International Students and Scholars Office.

> rit.edu/iss





Careers and Co-op

Imergen Rosario (imaging science BS) 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.

RIT's Co-op Legacy

100+ Years of Co-op

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.

High Employment Outcomes

RIT graduates are more inclined to hit the ground running when they have a diploma and a resume with experience. 96% of employers said they would hire their co-op students for a full-time position.

Earn a Full-Time Salary

Students are not charged tuition or fees while on co-op and can earn a full-time salary. This can be used to help offset college expenses, or prepare students for financial independence after graduation.

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.

Extraordinary Partnerships

Industry partnerships provide unmatched opportunities at influential, innovative companies around the globe. With 150,000 alumni worldwide, you'll benefit from a network of professionals ready to advise and support your career aspirations.

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

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

6th Among top schools for co-op or internship programs
U.S. News & World Report, 2025

\$65M⁺

Total earned by RIT students on co-op last year

4,300⁺

Students pursue co-ops annually

2,000⁺

Hiring Organizations in 49 U.S. States and 32 countries

93.4%

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