



CASE SCENARIO	WHAT IS MY STATUS?	CAN I TRAVEL?	WHAT KIND OF DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO TRAVEL?	WHAT LEVEL OF RISK IS INVOLVED FOR REENTRY TO THE US?
I mailed out my OPT application to the USCIS office. The end date of my I-20 is in the future. If you received your EAD card prior to your program end date (on the I-20), you will travel with your I-20 as an enrolled student. Keep your EAD card in a safe place.	As an enrolled student you are in an F1 student status until the end date of your I-20.	Yes. You are still an F1 student (who is enrolled) because your I-20 ends in the future.	Valid I-20 form properly endorsed for travel, valid F1 student visa, valid passport and proof of enrollment. NOTE: If your visa is nearing its expiration date, you might want to consider renewing it. Renewing a visa while on OPT is risky.	Visa issuance and re-entry to the U.S. is at the discretion of the USCIBP. The IC cannot guarantee re-entry. However, you can minimize any kind of problems by entering the U.S. a few weeks prior to the end date of your I-20.
I mailed out my application for OPT to the USCIS office. The end date of my I-20 has passed. EAD card <u>not</u> approved yet.	OPT Pending Status. You are still in F1 status with OPT pending.	Absolutely NO!	Travel is not recommended.	Your departure from the U.S. prior to the approval of your EAD card will cancel your OPT application. Returning to the U.S. in F1 student visa status is not an option.
My EAD card was approved*. My I-20 has expired. I don't have a job offer yet.	You are in an extension of your F1 student status.	Maybe	Your EAD card, valid I-20 form properly endorsed for travel, valid F1 student visa, valid passport. Technically you need a job offer in order to return to the U.S.	You need to be cautious. You technically don't have a job to return to. Entrance to the U.S. will be up to the immigration officer's discretion.
EAD card is approved*. I have a job offer and I have a letter stating the offer with specific dates.	F1 student visa status.	Yes	Your EAD card. Your valid I-20 form properly endorsed for travel and your employment offer letter on original employer letter head	You have all the necessary conditions to travel. Reentry to the U.S. is determined by USCIBP.
EAD card is approved. I am currently working. I will be renewing my F1 visa while I am overseas	You are on an extension of your F1 student status	Maybe	Your EAD card. Your valid I-20 form properly endorsed for travel, valid passport and letter confirming employment. Documents required for renewing your F1 visa.	You need to be cautious. You technically are no longer a student. You are in an extension of your F1 student visa. It is up to the discretion of the U.S. consulate where you apply to grant you a student visa.

*If your EAD card is approved and it's being mailed to you, you must wait to receive it and have it with you. Traveling with the idea that a friend or relative can mail the card to you outside the U.S. is irresponsible. Only travel once you have your EAD card in your possession.