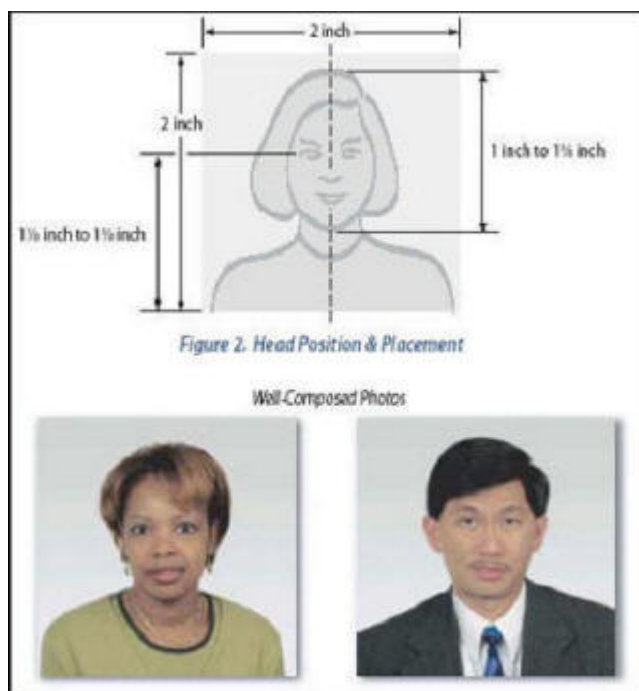


USCIS PHOTO REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

7 Steps to Successful Photos

- 1) Frame subject with full face, front view, and eyes open.
- 2) Make sure photo presents full head from top of hair to bottom of chin; height of head should measure 1 inch to 1-3/8 inches (25 mm to 35 mm).
- 3) Center head within frame.
- 4) Make sure eye height is between 1-1/8 inches to 1-3/8 inches (28 mm to 35 mm) from bottom of photo.
- 5) Photograph subject again a plain white or off-white background.
- 6) Position subject and lighting so that there are no distracting shadows on the face of background.
- 7) Encourage the subject to have a natural expression.



Many students ask if they are allowed to travel outside of the United States while waiting for their OPT to be approved. If you are traveling outside of the US while waiting for your OPT to be approved AND after your degree completion, this is somewhat risky. If you decide to take this risk, you will need to take the following items with you:

- passport (valid for six months from the date of your re-entry)
- signed I-20 (remember that each travel signature is valid for only 6 months during the period of OPT)
- valid F-1 visa stamp
- I-797C (receipt notice from USCIS for the OPT application)

*According to DHS, traveling back to the US while your OPT is pending is permitted in order to search for employment (more information under 2.O. and 2.P. on the SEVP FAQ page). However, it is still the discretion of the authorities at the border as to whether they actually allow you to re-enter.