

O-1 ALIEN OF EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY

The O-1, for aliens of extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, business or athletics, is a nonimmigrant Employment-based visa classification. It requires that the employer file a Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker (Form I-129), along with evidence of the alien's extraordinary ability.

An initial O-1 petition can be filed for up to a 3-year maximum employment period. Subsequent extensions may be for no more than one year at a time. There is no limit to the number of such extensions possible. Individuals who are subject to the two year home country residence requirement under previous J-1/J-2 classification, are eligible to apply for the O-1. Such individuals, however, are not eligible for a change to O-1 status within the US, but must apply for the O-1 visa abroad, and re-enter the US in O-1 status. The Office of International Programs (OIP) will file this application for qualified individuals holding academic positions who may not otherwise qualify for H1B Temporary Worker status.

Qualifications:

- 1) Employment in an academic position (most academic positions require a Ph.D.) Letter must specify the dates for which work authorization is being requested; no more than three years on initial applications, one year on all subsequent petitions.
- 2) A written consultation/advisory opinion from a peer group, or from recognized expert(s), in the field in the alien's area of ability i.e. letters of support from renowned researchers (as evidenced by their curriculum vitae and publication list) that attest to the qualifications and value of work to be done by the O-1 petitioner.
- 3) Evidence that the professor or researcher is recognized nationally and internationally as outstanding in his/her academic field. This evidence should consist of at least three (**more than three recommended**) of the following:
 - Receipt of major prizes or awards for outstanding achievements in the academic field;
 - Membership in academic associations which require outstanding achievements of their members;
 - Participation on a panel, or individually, as the judge of the work of others in the same or an allied field;
 - Citations in professional publications, written by others about the individual's work in the field;
 - Authorship of scholarly books or articles, in journals with international circulation, in the field;
 - Original scientific or scholarly research contributions to the academic field;
 - Evidence of previous employment in a critical or essential capacity for organizations that have a distinguished reputation (e.g. NSF or Department of Defense research grant);
 - Evidence of high salary or other significantly high remuneration for services in relation to others in the field.

Checklist: SUBMIT ALL MATERIALS IN TRIPLICATE (3 COPIES) PLEASE!

- _____ 1) Attached Preference Petition (Form I-129).
- _____ 2) Copy of Ph.D. diploma (Original not required). If the diploma is in a language other than English or Latin, it must be accompanied with a certified translation.
- _____ 3) Supporting letter from recognized experts, from other leaders in the field, and from previous employers attesting to the applicant's qualifications listed above (OIP recommends 6-12 letters).
- _____ 4) Supporting letter from department chair or host professor confirming employment and summarizing the applicant's qualifications.
- _____ 5) Brief statement from department chair or hiring authority confirming employment.
- _____ 6) Complete list and evidence of publications and citations. (Do not submit the entire article. For publications, simply copy the first page of the article showing title, authorship, journal name, and date).
- _____ 7) Curriculum vitae.

Mark/immig/O-1

SAMPLE

The following is a sample table of contents from a successful application packet.

Supporting Documents

Employment Support Letter

Curriculum Vitae

Copy of Ph.D. Diploma

Reference letters

Professor H.C. Wien, Chair, Dept. of Fruit and Vegetable Science, Cornell University, NY

Professor Pedro Sanchez, Director General, International Center for Research in Agroforestry, (ICRAF),
Kenya

Dr. Robert W. Herdt, Director Agricultural Sciences, The Rockefeller Foundation, NY

Dr. Eric R. Stoner, Senior Environmental Advisor, The United States Agency for International Development
(USIAD), Brazil

Dr. Philip Reynolds, Coordinator of the Global Environment Facility, The United Nations Development
Program, NY

Professor Jeffrey Richey, School of Oceanography, University of Washington, WA

Dr. David Thomas, Senior Policy Analyst, ICRAF, Thailand

Dr. Anthony Anderson, Senior Environmental Specialist, The World Bank, Brazil

Professor Stanley Buol, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Dr. John Ingram, Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems Program, England

Professor Thurman Grove, Head – Department of Zoology, NC State University, NC

Dr. Terry Pennington, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England

Professor Jim Lassoie, Chair, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Evidence of applicant's participation as a reviewer for a scholarly journal

Evidence of membership in professional organizations

Citations of the applicant's work

List of peer-reviewed articles

List of peer-reviewed presentations at academic symposiums

Appendix A: Copies of the first pages of peer-reviewed articles

Appendix B: Copies of pages citing the applicant's work