



Office of International Student & Scholar Services

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O-1 Temporary Workers of Extraordinary Ability

The O-1 visa is an employment based classification that applies to an individual who has extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, or business which has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim and who is coming to the U.S. to work in the area of extraordinary ability. The individual must have “risen to the top of their field.”

An O-1 petition may be approved for an initial period of up to three years with the possibility of one year extensions thereafter. The spouse and dependents of the O-1 are entitled to O-3 classification, and may not be employed.

To establish that the services of an alien of extraordinary ability are required, the employment must be in a capacity that is appropriate for the person with extraordinary abilities due to the complexity of the project in which the O-1 will play a critical role.

A petition for an O-1 alien of extraordinary ability must be accompanied by evidence of sustained national or international acclaim and recognition for achievements in the field of expertise by providing evidence of:

Receipt of a major internationally recognized award, such as the Nobel Prize; or

At least three of the following forms of documentation:

- Documentation of the alien's receipt of nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor (university awards not nationally competitive or significant not sufficient);
- Documentation of the alien's membership in associations in the field for which classification is sought, which require outstanding achievements of their members, as judged by recognized national or international experts in their disciplines or fields (if no outstanding achievement is necessary to be selected for membership, not sufficient);
- Published material about the alien in professional or major trade publications or other major media, relating to the alien's work in the field for which classification is sought. Such evidence shall include the title, date, and author of the material, and any necessary translation (references in footnotes only are not sufficient);
- Evidence of the alien's participation, either individually or on a panel, as a judge of the work of others in the same or an allied field of specification for which classification is sought (as reviewer of peer articles, reviewer of grant applications, Ph.D. referee, etc.);
- Evidence of the alien's original scientific, scholarly, or business-related contributions of major

significance in the field;

- Evidence of the alien's authorship of scholarly articles in the field, in professional journals, or other major media (the more prestigious, the better);
- Evidence of the display of the alien's work in the field at artistic exhibitions or showcases;
- Evidence that the alien has been employed in a critical or essential capacity for organizations or establishments that have a distinguished reputation;
- Evidence that the alien has commanded and now commands a high salary or other remuneration for services, evidenced by contracts or other reliable evidence.

and

Written evidence of consultation with an appropriate peer group, i.e., an association or entity with expertise in that area, and signed by an authorized official of the organization, describing the alien's ability and achievements in the field of endeavor and stating whether the position requires the services of an alien of extraordinary ability.

If you believe it will be possible to present sufficient evidence to qualify for sponsorship for the O-1 classification, the sponsoring Brown University department should contact OISSS at 863-2427 to discuss the procedures and to obtain the appropriate materials.