

VISA CATEGORIES FOR PERMANENT WORKERS

DISCLAIMER

The following advice is provided by **Doland & Fraade** for informational purposes only and is intended to be used as a guide prior to consultation with an attorney familiar with your specific legal situation. This is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney.

Extraordinary Ability (EB1)	Persons of Extraordinary Ability may be eligible for this immigrant visa. This allows the alien to bypass the labor certification process and forego the requirement of a job offer.
Outstanding Professor/Researcher (EB1)	This category is for "outstanding" academicians - professors and researchers who can establish a high level/degree of achievement in their fields.
Multinational Executives/Managers (EB1)	This immigrant visa category is designed to facilitate international transfer of executive or managerial personnel within multinational companies.
Advanced Degree Professional (EB2)	This immigrant visa category is for "members of the professions holding advanced degrees," and "aliens of exceptional ability."
Professional Workers (EB3)	This is for individuals who are professionals.
Skilled Workers (EB3)	This is for individuals who are skilled workers.
Nurses/Physical Therapist (EB3)	Provides information on applying for a visa as a nurse or physical therapist. Contains links to CGFNS, ETS, MELAB, and NCSBN.
National Interest Waivers	This immigrant visa category allows a person to apply for permanent residence status (Green Card) and seek a waiver of the offer of employment by establishing that his (her) admission to permanent residence would be in the National Interest.

Immigrant Investor (EB5 Visa)	This is a visa category is designed for those who invest one million dollars in a new enterprise that employs 10 U.S. workers (exclusive of the immigrant, his/her spouse and sons and daughters) or \$500,000 if the investment is in certain rural areas or an area of unemployment of at least 150% of the national average.
Department of Labor Processing Times	Processing dates for labor certification applications. The times for processing labor certification applications vary greatly between regional offices and State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) based upon their workload.
Labor Certification Overview	A labor certification from the U.S. DOL is the necessary first step in most employment-based immigrant visa petitions. This link provides a general overview of the steps involved in this complex process.