



Paths To Lawful Permanent Resident "Green Card"

Category	Pref	Education	Experience	Self?	Eligibility Requirements	Benefits / Drawbacks
Extraordinary Ability	1	n/a	n/a	Y	Must meet three of the CIS's ten criteria in order to satisfy this requirement: 1. Recognized award 2. Membership in associations limited to outstanding achievers; 3. Articles about you in major publications (title, date, and author, translation) 4. Judge of the work of others in your field of major significance 5. Original contributions to the field 6. Authorship of articles in the field 7. Display of your work at exhibitions 8. Performed in lead role for organizations with distinguished reputation 9. High salary in comparison to others in your field 10. Commercial success (e.g., box office receipts). Must be part of small percentage who have risen to the very top of the field. Simply meeting the criteria is insufficient.	No wait in line for visa number. Ability to self petition. Very high standard.
Outstanding Researcher	1		3 years as researcher or professor (can be while a student)	N	Offer of employment in a full-time research position or as a professor. Employer must be a U.S. university, or private employer who employs at least 3 persons full-time in research positions. Meet two of the CIS's 6 criteria: 1. Major prize or award for outstanding achievement 2. Membership in associations which require outstanding achievements 3. Material in professional publications written by others about your work 4. Judge of the work of others in your field (either as a peer reviewer or otherwise) 5. Scientific or scholarly research contributions to your field 6. Authorship of scholarly books or articles in scholarly journals with international circulation. 7. Must be part of small percentage who have risen to the very top of the field of endeavor. Simply meeting the criteria is insufficient.	No wait in line for visa number.
Multi-National Manager or Executive	1	n/a	1 year outside US for related entity to US petitioner before coming to US	N	Employed outside the United States in the 3 years preceding the petition for at least 1 year by a related firm seeking to enter the US to continue service to that firm. Employment outside the US in a managerial or executive capacity, and with same employer, affiliate, or subsidiary. US employer must have been doing business for at least 1 year. Must be coming to fill a managerial or executive position in US.	No wait in line for visa number
National Interest Waiver	2	MS or BS + 5 years	Exceptional ability if don't have education	Y	1. Seek employment in an area of substantial intrinsic merit 2. Possess unique knowledge, abilities, or experience which sets you apart from your professional peers 3. Will utilize your unique talents in an activity significantly benefiting the field of specialization 4. Proposed benefit will be national in scope 5. National interest would be adversely affected if a Labor Certification were required; have a past record of specific prior achievement which justifies projects of future benefit to the national interest 6. Employment will improve the U.S. economy, education, healthcare, housing, or the environment.	No specific criteria - can be creative in pitching case and formulating strategy. No degree required. Ability to self petition.
Advanced Degree Professional	2	MS or BS + 5 years		N	PERM Labor Certification test of available US workers in the labor market required. Must obtain Prevailing Wage from DOL and, in most circumstances, pay PW upon filing PERM. Must perform required recruitment campaign, with no minimally qualified US worker applicants responding.	No wait in line for visa number if not Indian or Chinese. Employer required
Skilled Worker / Professional	3	BS or equivalent (to continue to qualify for H-1B)		N	PERM Labor Certification test of US labor market required. Must obtain Prevailing Wage from DOL and, in most circumstances, pay PW upon filing PERM. Must perform required recruitment with no minimally qualified US worker applicants.	Long wait in line for Indian and Chinese. Short to moderate wait for all others. Employer required
EB-5 Job Creating Investor	5	n/a	n/a	Y	Invest \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 in a high unemployment or rural area) in a U.S. commercial enterprise. Plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full time jobs for US workers. Must document legal source of funds. Will receive conditional resident status for 2 years. Must be able to document continuing eligibility when 2 year status expires to gain permanent resident status.	Over 1 year wait for approval of initial application. Significant documentation required to obtain approval.
DV Diversity Visa	DV	High school diploma or equiv work experience	Only if no high school diploma	Y	Be a native of a designated low admission country, or the spouse of an individual born in a designated low admission country. Must file during month long window Oct/Nov. Learn of selection following May. Must complete immigration by 30 September following year.	Only 50,000 issued per year. Random "lottery" held every year.