

Employment-Based Immigrant Visas and Special Immigrants

1st Preference:

Intracompany transfer of managers or executives may be admitted to the U.S. for permanent residency. They must work for multinational companies with offices in the U.S. and abroad.

Extraordinary ability immigrants in the arts, entertainment, business, sciences, or sports arenas are for those who have risen to the very top of the field of endeavor. They must demonstrate international recognition in the field.

Outstanding researchers or professors in higher education or private research facilities may be sponsored by the institution or company for permanent residency. They must have experience in the position and demonstrate recognition in the field.

2nd Preference:

Exceptional ability immigrants are those who have shown exceptional ability in the field of endeavor.

Advanced degree professionals may be admitted in a Master's level position or above. A labor certification is required, which is a test of the U.S. labor market for available U.S. workers. Some persons may qualify for a waiver of the labor certification for doing work in the national interest – a National Interest Waiver.

3rd Preference:

Professionals with bachelor's degrees and skilled workers may be admitted through the labor certification process and when sponsored by an employer.

4th Preference:

Certain types of categories of Special Immigrants, such as religious workers or battered spouses.

5th Preference Petitions:

Employment creation investors.