



## Steps to Legal Permanent Residence via Employment Sponsorship

Processing times for each stage of the petitioning process vary widely. The ISSO cannot predict processing times into the future, so our estimates regarding timing are always tentative. Generally, however, from start to finish, the path to permanent residence can take anywhere from 1 year to 3 years, depending upon filing methods available.

### **EB1 Option; Outstanding Professor/Research Scholar**

Must have a minimum of 3 years of experience, post degree.

### **PERM: Department of Labor (DOL)**

Typically filed for those with minimum 20% teaching duties. Date of job offer can be no more than 18 months old (3 month document prep time before filing)

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#### Step 1

ISSO files the I-140 petition (\$580) with USCIS along with evidence that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the category. Decision can be expedited (15 days) with additional fee of \$1225 - otherwise 4-12 months is the typical range for decision.

ISSO files the Labor Certification Petition with the DOL (no fee). Processing can take 6-12 months, longer is case is selected for random audit.

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#### Step 2

Applicant files the Adjustment Petition\* with USCIS. Fee \$1070 per adult (less for children). The Adjustment petition includes Form I-485, and other forms of documentation. Processing time averages 8 – 12 months.

On receipt of the approved Labor Certification, Cornell files an I-140 petition under category “*Advanced Degree Holders*” with USCIS along with the original approved petition from the DOL. Filing fee \$580. Decision can be expedited (15 days) with additional fee of \$1225 - otherwise 4-12 months is the typical range for decision.

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#### Step 3:

Applicant files the Adjustment Petition\* with USCIS. The Adjustment petition includes Form I-485, and other forms of documentation. Fee \$1070 per adult (less for children). Processing time averages 8 – 12 months.

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\*The Adjustment Petition may be filed concurrently with the I-140 petition. If the applicant wishes to do this, the I-140 receipt will be scanned and sent to the applicant for this purpose. The ISSO cannot mail the I-485 petition with Cornell’s I-140 petition. I-140 receipts take approximately 3 weeks to arrive.

