

O1EB1 — Full Compendium

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Consolidated from O1EB1.com topics; translated and structured by Ivan Piskunov.

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Overview & How to Use This Guide

In Plain English

This compendium consolidates the knowledge base from O1EB1.com into a single reference in American English. It covers O-1, EB-1, EB-2 NIW, and consular processing. Each chapter includes practical checklists, evidence maps, and step-by-step instructions.

Use the Contents to jump to a topic. In the HTML version, click a section's summary to expand the full text. The DOCX version includes all sections expanded for printing.

Community & Tools

The project is community-driven and pairs how-to articles with real-world experience. It also references a free AI helper and active Telegram groups that share attorney feedback, interview experiences, and document checklists.

O-1 Visa

O-1: What It Is

The O-1 is a temporary U.S. employment classification for individuals with extraordinary ability in sciences, business, education, athletics (O-1A), or arts, motion picture/television (O-1B). You must show sustained acclaim through regulatory criteria. A U.S. employer or a qualified agent files Form I-129.

Sponsor Models (Employer vs. Agent)

Employer model: your U.S. company files Form I-129 listing your role, duties, and dates.

Agent model: allowed where engagements involve multiple end-clients or venues. Include proof of agency authority, a master contract, end-client letters, and a dated itinerary covering the petition period.

Eligibility & Criteria (O-1A)

One-time major award (internationally recognized) OR at least three of these: nationally/internationally recognized prizes; membership with achievement-based selection; published material about you; judging the work of others; original contributions of major significance; scholarly articles; leading/critical role; high remuneration; commercial success (arts); exhibitions/showcases (arts).

Final merits: demonstrate sustained acclaim and that you will continue working in the area of extraordinary ability.

Eligibility & Criteria (O-1B Arts / Film & TV)

Show distinction in the arts or extraordinary achievement in motion picture/TV via prominent productions, critical reviews, audience/box office metrics, and leading/critical roles.

Evidence Playbook (O-1)

Awards: prove selectivity and reputation (organizer profile, press, jury).

Media about you: use independent outlets; include full-text copies and basic circulation/traffic stats for context.

Judging: invitations, programs/journal assignments, evidence of completed reviews or scores.

Original contributions: document adoption, measurable impact, standards involvement, or third-party implementation.

High remuneration: compare to market percentiles for your specialty and location; include contracts and tax forms.

Leading/critical role: org charts, KPIs, letters from executives tying outcomes to your role; add external corroboration.

Scholarly articles: copies, indexing/peer-review info, citations/altmetrics if applicable.

O-1 Process — Step by Step

1) Define the role and collect contracts/LOIs; 2) Map evidence to criteria; 3) Draft letters (recommendations, end-client support); 4) Obtain advisory opinions where required; 5) Assemble I-129 with exhibits; 6) File with correct fee(s), then consular visa or start work if changing status in the U.S.

Premium Processing accelerates USCIS adjudication but not consular appointment queues.

Document Checklist (O-1)

- Form I-129 + O Supplement; G-28 if represented; filing fee(s)/I-907 if using Premium Processing.
- Contracts/LOIs; itinerary (for agent cases).
- Advisory opinion(s) if applicable; recommendation letters; evidence exhibits; translations with translator's certification.
- Passport biographic page; current status evidence if filing inside the U.S.

O-1 RFE/NOID Patterns & Fixes

Frequent triggers: generic letters; low-selectivity awards/memberships; gaps in agent itineraries; weak linkage from contributions to industry-wide impact.

Fixes: add independent corroboration, measurable outcomes, and corrected itinerary/contract documentation.

EB-1 (A/B/C)

EB-1 in Plain English

EB-1 is an immigrant category leading to a green card. EB-1A is for individuals of extraordinary ability (self-petition allowed); EB-1B is for outstanding professors/researchers with a qualifying offer; EB-1C is for multinational managers/executives transferring to a U.S. affiliate.

EB-1A — Criteria & Final Merits

Meet at least three of ten regulatory criteria (or a one-time major achievement) and pass the final merits analysis showing sustained acclaim among the small percentage at the top of the field.

EB-1B — Outstanding Professor/Researcher

Requires a qualifying U.S. employer, at least three years of teaching/research, and at least two of six evidentiary categories (major prizes, selective memberships, published material about the work, judging, original research, authorship of scholarly books/articles).

EB-1C — Multinational Manager/Executive

Qualify if you were employed abroad in a managerial/executive capacity by a qualifying organization for at least one of the last three years and will work in a similar capacity for its U.S. entity.

Evidence Playbook (EB-1A/B)

Prioritize independent validation: awards with recognized prestige, peer-review roles, third-party adoption/usage, standards involvement, and measurable outcomes (citations, revenue, users, patents/licensing).

Salary comparisons: use authoritative surveys and apples-to-apples comparators by role, seniority, and geography.

Filing Paths & Timing

Adjustment of Status (I-485) inside the U.S. or Consular Processing outside. If the Visa Bulletin is current for your category and chargeability area, consider concurrent I-140/I-485 filing.

AOS (I-485) — What to Expect

AOS changes status inside the U.S. to permanent resident after an underlying petition approval and visa availability. Typical add-ons: I-765 (work authorization) and I-131 (Advance Parole). Follow current USCIS forms/fees and the Visa Bulletin for timing.

EB-1 FAQ (Common Issues)

USCIS vs. NVC roles; consular vs. AOS flow; SOC code alignment to duties; signature/fee hygiene; document organization; and realistic processing timelines.

EB-2 NIW

NIW in Plain English

EB-2 NIW allows self-petitioning without a job offer or PERM if your proposed endeavor has substantial merit and national importance, you are well positioned to advance it, and on balance it benefits the U.S. to waive the job offer.

Building the Proposed Endeavor

Define problem/solution, beneficiaries, geography, timeline, and public-interest outcomes. Add market/industry evidence, partnerships or pilots, and measurable impact targets.

Evidence Architecture by Prong

Prong 1: industry/government reports, standards, and public benefit metrics.

Prong 2: track record, independent letters, resources/funding, pilots/MOUs/IP.

Prong 3: why waiving PERM accelerates benefit; urgency and labor-market realities.

Business Plan Essentials

Executive summary tied to national benefit; market sizing; go-to-market; regulatory/tech roadmap; KPIs; pro-forma; hiring; partnerships; risks/mitigations.

NIW FAQ & RFE Patterns

Avoid generic projects, unclear U.S. nexus, and soft, non-independent letters. Remedy with quantified pilots/LOIs, specific U.S. stakeholders, and milestone-based execution plans.

Criteria & Evidence (Shared O-1/EB-1)

Awards & Prizes

Explain scope (national vs. international), selection process, organizer reputation, jury credentials, and media coverage. Avoid pay-to-win or purely local awards unless they have demonstrable prestige.

Memberships

Only count associations with achievement-based selection by recognized experts. Provide admission criteria and evidence of vetting.

Published Material About You

Provide complete articles from reputable outlets, with circulation/traffic context and relevance to your field. Short mentions or advertorials carry little weight.

Judging/Peer Review

Show invitations, assignment logs, completed reviews, and criteria. Journal peer review, grant panels, competitions, or thesis committees all qualify if aligned to your field.

Scholarly Articles

Include copies, indexing/peer-review info, and citation/usage indicators. For trade publications, show professional relevance and audience reach.

Leading/Critical Role

Demonstrate that outcomes depended on your role: org charts, KPIs, leadership scope, and third-party corroboration (press, client letters).

High Salary / Remuneration

Use role-specific percentiles from credible surveys. Include contracts, W-2/1099 (or foreign equivalents), and recruiters' letters for context.

Work Plans in the U.S.

For EB-1A, show how your future U.S. work continues your extraordinary track record (projects, employers, clients). Include LOIs or market validation where possible.

Letters of Intent & Recommendations

Purpose: contextualize achievements and impact. Structure: author credentials; basis of knowledge; detailed accomplishments; significance to the field; independent validation. Avoid generic praise.

Self-Help: Drafting, Translating, Assembling

Document Translation

Translate every non-English exhibit in full and add a translator's certification of competence and accuracy. Keep consistent formatting; official extracts from record keepers may be acceptable where complete.

Trusted Translators

Maintain a shortlist of proven translators with turnaround and pricing; request USCIS-ready output with certification pages and consistent headers/footers.

How to Format a Petition

Clean typography, consistent headings, clear exhibit numbering. Print single-sided on Letter size. Avoid staples/binders; use clips only if acceptable. No white-out/highlighters on forms.

Checks & Money Orders

Follow USCIS payee instructions precisely. Keep separate payments per form. For card payments, use the current G-1450 where accepted.

Quality Checklist (RFE-Driven)

Narrative integrity; independent corroboration; criteria mapping; realistic U.S. plan; and accurate, current forms/fees. Validate every claim with verifiable exhibits.

Consular Processing

From Approval to Interview (NVC)

For consular cases, your approved petition moves to NVC. Pay fees, submit DS-260, and upload civil documents. Once documentarily qualified, your case waits in the interview queue.

Interview Day

Arrive early, expect security screening, and bring originals with organized copies. Provide concise, consistent answers aligned with your petition. The officer may retain key documents.

Administrative Processing (221(g)) & TAL

221(g) signals checks or missing items. Follow the sheet's exact instructions. If you touch Technology Alert List fields, prepare a technical dossier (CV, publications, project summaries, funding, non-sensitive use).

221(g) 'Colors' — What They Mean

Posts use colored sheets as internal cues (e.g., blue, yellow, white, pink). Treat the color as a hint—follow the written checklist and deadlines.

I-693 Medical; I-94; After Landing

Complete your medical with the designated physician. After U.S. entry, verify your I-94 class and expiration. Post-arrival: SSN, state ID, banking, employer onboarding.

NVC & I-94 Reference

NVC Document Pack (Example Structure)

Organize by applicant (principal, spouse, child): passports; birth/marriage/divorce certificates with translations; police certificates; photos; financial/support documents as required; post-specific items.

I-94: What to Check

Confirm your class of admission and admit-until date after each entry. Save PDFs/screenshots and correct any errors via CBP Deferred Inspection or counsel.

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