

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [New U.S. Immigration Rules Spur More Visa Approvals For STEM Workers](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.science.org/content/article/new-u-s-immigration-rules-spur-more-visa-approvals-stem-workers>

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**Tweet:** 2022 changes to American immigration policy have led to a 30% increase in O-1A visas for foreign nationals "of extraordinary ability" to 4,570, and a 55% increase in STEM EB-2 visas to 70,240.

**Summary:** According to newly released data from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), more foreign-born workers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are enjoying happy endings. The jump comes after USCIS in January 2022 tweaked its guidance criteria relating to two visa categories available to STEM workers. One is the O-1A, a temporary visa for “aliens of extraordinary ability” that often paves the way to a green card. The second, which bestows a green card on those with advanced STEM degrees, governs a subset of an EB-2 (employment-based) visa. The USCIS data, reported exclusively by ScienceInsider, show that the number of O-1A visas awarded in the first year of the revised guidance jumped by almost 30%, to 4,570, and held steady in fiscal year 2023, which ended on 30 September. Similarly, the number of STEM EB-2 visas approved in 2022 after a “national interest” waiver shot up by 55% over 2021, to 70,240, and stayed at that level this year. Related: Third-Country Effects of U.S. Immigration Policy and Top Talent, Elite Colleges, and Migration: Evidence from the Indian Institutes of Technology and The Economics of Inequality in High-Wage Economies

**Primary Topic:** Immigration

**Topics:** Immigration, News article, Workforce

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