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# Immigrant Pathways for Entrepreneur Employment in the United States

Immigrant pathways offer opportunities to work in the United States for a range of reasons on a more permanent basis. They provide lawful permanent residence (Green Card) which can eventually lead to [U.S. citizenship](#).

The lawful permanent resident process involves at least two steps, depending on the employment-based immigrant visa classification sought. An immigrant petition must be filed with USCIS and then, if you are in the United States and eligible, you may file an adjustment of status application with USCIS without departing the United States, or you may file an immigrant visa application with the U.S. Department of State (DOS) outside the United States and go through consular processing.

An approved immigrant visa petition secures your priority date that will determine the order of immigrant visa availability. Your priority date is generally the date the immigrant visa petition was filed on your behalf. You may only file an adjustment of status application, or request a visa through a consulate, once an immigrant visa is immediately available. If an immigrant visa is immediately available when you or your sponsoring employer files the immigrant petition with USCIS, you may file your adjustment application at the same time. You are eligible to apply for employment authorization concurrently with your adjustment application and while your adjustment application is pending.

The availability of an immigrant visa will depend on the employment-based classification being sought and the immigrant's country of chargeability (usually the country of birth).

The USCIS webpages on [Visa Availability and Priority Dates](#) and [Consular Processing](#) provide information about the [DOS Visa Bulletin](#) process and explain how DOS allocates immigrant visas and consular processing generally.

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EB-1A – Extraordinary Ability



EB-2 Employment-Based Second Preference with National Interest Waiver (NIW) - Exceptional ability or advanced degree professional with NIW



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