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Thread




Razvan Marinescu 

@RazMarinescu · Mar 14, 2022

I'm happy to freely share my EB-1A application for a US green card, so it can help any of you applying for it. This is the most complete application you will find online. Also wrote a blogpost describing my story and my advice.

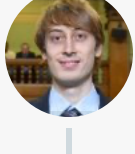
razvanmarinescu.github.io/green-card-i-1...


Here's what I learned: 

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1. You don't need to ask your employer to petition for you. You can self-petition for EB-1A or EB2-NIW. I had to self-petition because my former employer (MIT) was not able to petition for postdocs (they only petition for faculty).

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2. You don't need to be a tenure-track faculty to apply. Actually, many postdocs and even late-stage PhD students can satisfy the EB2-NIW and even EB1 criteria.

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3. EB-1A criteria is more stringent than EB2-NIW, but the advantage is that you can use premium-processing (PP) to get the I-140 approved in 2 weeks. Also, applicants from India/China don't have a backlog on EB-1A.

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4. EB2-NIW criteria is easier to satisfy, but there is no premium-processing. I-140 approval can take 6-10 months.

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5. What is the EB2-NIW criteria? Anyone with a PhD and good publications has a good chance of getting it. Also possible with Bachelors + Masters + 5yrs industry experience, but need to make sure to satisfy all the requirements.

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6. EB1A criteria rules-of-thumb:
Less than 100 citations: Hard to make a case, but still possible: compensate with many ref. letters or patents or leadership or published media about you.
300+ citations: Can make a case just based on publications.


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7. Sometimes, nr. of citations can be field-specific. Applicants in e.g. Humanities can have fewer citations than those in applied CS. You will normalize for this in the application.

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8. You can apply without a lawyer. I applied without a lawyer for I-140 (step 1) and had a lawyer for I-485 (step 2). This is because for I-140, it was entirely about my work, and I was in the best position to write about my work, instead of a lawyer that did not know me

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9. Even if you use a lawyer for I-140, you still do 70-80% of the work. They ask you to fill an 80-page form, write the recommendation letters, you have to contact the professors to write the letters, etc ... Also, it takes much longer to go back&forth with the lawyers.

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10. Some law firms offer to write the recommendation letters, but I don't understand how it works, as they don't know what your interaction was with that letter-writer.

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11. Even if your I-140 application fails, you can re-submit another one later on. You only loose the money&time. For non-immigrant visas like J1, you also loose your non-immigrant status, but that is generally OK if you don't leave the US and keep your job.

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12. If you submit EB-1A on your own, I recommend using premium-processing and NOT submitting concurrently the I-485. Wait until your I-140 gets approved.

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13. Also check EB-1A & EB2-NIW applications of Andrey Solovyev. These are the only other EB1A and EB2-NIW that I found freely online, and they helped me draft my own application. His is in chemistry, while mine is in CS/ML.

andreychemist.github.io

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14. For EB1A, read the Kazarian vs USCIS case on wikipedia. It is a gold mine & very easy to understand. It can tell you there the line is w.r.t the EB1A criteria



en.wikipedia.org
Kazarian v. USCIS - Wikipedia

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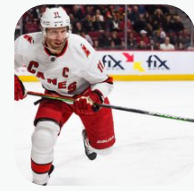
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