# Understanding the EB-1 Requirements for Extraordinary Ability

<http://www.uscis.gov/eir/visa-guide/eb-1-extraordinary-ability/understanding-eb-1-requirements-extraordinary-ability>

**+ 1) How do I show that I have received a nationally or internationally recognized award for excellence in my field?**

Some of the evidence you may submit to demonstrate that the award is a national or internationally recognized award includes:

* A copy or photograph of each prize or award
* Public announcement(s) or articles about the awards
* Documentation verifying the origination, purpose, significance and scope of each award
* The reputation of the organization or panel granting the prizes or awards
* Criteria used to nominate and judge the participants and award winners
* The reputation of the organization or panel granting the prizes or awards
* How many prizes or awards are awarded each year
* Previous winners of each award

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| **Note:** If you have received venture capital funding or have been awarded a grant, you may submit evidence of the funding or grant awarded, including the amount of the funding or grant and the criteria used in awarding the funding or grant. Evidence of other investments, such as those from an accredited angel investor, may also be submitted. |

**+ 2) What evidence can I provide to establish that I am a member of an association which requires outstanding achievements of its members?**

Some of the evidence you may submit to demonstrate that you are a member of an association which requires outstanding achievements of its members includes:

* Documents describing the association’s goals, mission, size, target membership, and standing within the national and international community
* Documents showing the minimum requirements and criteria used for membership in the association
* Evidence of national or international experts who make determinations about membership
* Other relevant requirements for membership

**+ 3) How do I demonstrate that I have participated on a panel or was a judge of the works of others?**

Some of the evidence you may submit to demonstrate that you participated on a panel or judged the works of others includes:

* Documents about the event or panel and the significance of the work judged
* Information about the criteria used to select the individual judges
* An explanation of how and why you received an invitation to be a judge

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| **+ 4) How do I demonstrate that I have made an original scientific, scholarly or business-related contribution of major significance?**  Some of the evidence you may submit to demonstrate that you have made an original scientific, scholarly or business-related contribution of major significance includes:   * Evidence of your work being implemented by others such as: * Objective documentary evidence of the significance of your contribution to the field (e.g. patents, pioneering new technology, etc.) * Documentary evidence that people in the field of endeavor currently consider your work important * Testimony or support letters from experts that discuss your contributions of major significance, which could include:   + Letters of recommendation from prominent investors or CEO’s/founders of distinguished organizations which describe, in detail, your achievements and how they are of a major significance in the field * Evidence that your significant contributions have provoked widespread public commentary in the field of endeavor and have been widely cited * If your business successes are primarily based online, information about website usage/visitor traffic, the number of online purchases or downloads, or other data showing your success and contributions online  |  | | --- | | **Note:** When submitting letters or testimonies, it is best to provide as much detail as possible about your contribution. They should explain, in detail, how the contribution was “original” (not merely replicating the work of others) and how they were of “major” significance. General statements regarding the importance of the endeavors are normally insufficient. | |
| **+ 5) How do I demonstrate authorship of scholarly articles in professional journals or other major media?**  Some of the evidence you may submit, in addition to a copy of the articles, to demonstrate that you have authored articles in professional journals or other major media includes:   * Other articles or documentary evidence (e.g. letters, affidavits) that show the significance and importance of the articles in your field * Evidence that demonstrates the work was primarily created by you * The significance and importance of the professional or major trade publications or other major media in which your scholarly article was published, which may be shown by:   + The publication’s circulation (e.g. local, national or international)   + How often the publication is produced   + The number of citations to your written work |

**+ 6) How do I demonstrate that I have been employed in a critical or essential capacity for an organization that has a distinguished reputation?**

Some of the evidence you may submit to demonstrate that you have been employed in a critical or essential capacity for an organization that has a distinguished reputation includes:

* Letters from current or former employer(s) with specific details regarding your role and how it was critical or essential, with empahsis on the specific accomplishments, how the accomplishments are attributed to you and your role, and why these accomplishments are important
* Documents showing the distinguished reputation of the company or companies where you played a critical or essential role
* Any other documents showing your major contributions in a critical or essential role

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| |  | | --- | | **Notes:**  **1)** If you are able to show that you meet at least 3 of the above regulatory criteria, USCIS will then review all of the evidence in the record in its totality to determine if it is more likely than not that you have sustained national or international acclaim and are one of that small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavor. As such, it is important to show, for example, the significance of the work of others you judged, the significance and importance of the scholarly works you created, and the degree to which the salary or other remuneration you commanded (or will command) was higher than others in your field.  **2)** Certain qualitative factors have been included in the examples above because they are relevant to the final merits determination. The stronger the evidence is in terms of your achievements in the field compared to others, the more efficiently and accurately USCIS can process your petition. | |
| |  | | --- | | **Requirement 2 - You must be able to establish that you are coming to the United States to continue to work in your area of extraordinary ability** |   Some of the evidence you may submit to demonstrate that you are coming to the United States to continue to work in your area of extraordinary ability includes:   * Letters from current or prospective employers * Documents evidencing your prearranged commitments (e.g. contracts) * A statement detailing your plans on how you intend to continue working in your field in the United States | |