XIPHIAS Immigration

COUNTRY BROCHURE



SKILLED MIGRATION | COUNTRY GUIDE

United States Skilled Migration

Explore EB-1, EB-2, and other U.S. skilled immigration routes to permanent residency.

PROGRAMMES	CAPITAL	CURRENCY	LANGUAGE
7	Washington, D.C.	USD	English

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United States at a glance

CAPITAL **Washington, D.C.**	LANGUAGE **English**
CURRENCY **USD**	TIME ZONE **UTC-5 to UTC-10**
CLIMATE **Varied**	PROGRAMMES WE ADVISE ON **7**
LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**	

Overview

The United States offers multiple employment-based immigration options for skilled professionals, researchers, and executives seeking permanent residency. These include the EB-1 visa for extraordinary achievers, the EB-2 visa for advanced-degree professionals or individuals with exceptional ability, and the L-1 visa for multinational executives and managers. Each pathway provides opportunities to live and work in the U.S. with long-term career growth and Green Card eligibility. Xiphias Immigration supports applicants through eligibility evaluation, document preparation, and strategic petition filing with USCIS.

Key points

- Direct pathways to U.S. permanent residency (Green Card)
- No PERM labor certification required for EB-1 and NIW categories
- Includes EB-1, EB-2, and L-1A subcategories
- Priority processing under EB-1 for top global professionals
- Ideal for researchers, executives, and highly skilled professionals

Programmes in United States



EB-1A Visa — Extraordinary Ability U.S. Green Card

Apply for the U.S. EB-1A Green Card — the extraordinary ability visa for top achievers in science, business, arts, education, or athletics.

India EB-1 queue: about 3 yr 8 mo (October 2026 Visa Bulletin)



EB-1B Visa — Outstanding Professors and Researchers

U.S. Green Card for outstanding professors and internationally recognized researchers.

India EB-1 queue: about 3 yr 8 mo (October 2026 Visa Bulletin)



EB-1C Visa — Multinational Executives & Managers

EB-1C Visa — U.S. Green Card for multinational executives and managers

India EB-1 queue: about 3 yr 8 mo (October 2026 Visa Bulletin)



EB-2 NIW Visa — National Interest Waiver Green Card

A US green card without an employer or labour certification, if your work is in the US national interest. Open to every nationality — how long you then wait depends on your country of birth.

Wait after approval depends on country of birth: about 1 yr 9 mo for most countries (October 2026 Visa Bulletin)



EB-3 Visa — Employment-Based U.S. Green Card

An employer-sponsored green card for skilled workers and professionals. Open, well understood — and for Indian nationals, a queue of roughly thirteen years.

India EB-3 queue: about 12 yr 9 mo (October 2026 Visa Bulletin)



H-1B Visa — Specialty Occupation Work Visa (2026 Rules)

The H-1B still exists, but the rules changed sharply in 2025 and 2026. A USD 100,000 payment now applies to petitions for people outside the United States, and selection is weighted towards higher salaries.

6 months (XIPHIAS average)



J-1 Visa — U.S. Exchange Visitor Program for Study, Training & Research

Experience U.S. education, research, and professional exchange through the J-1 Visa — fostering global collaboration and cultural understanding.

Set by your sponsor and US consulate appointment availability

What is actually open to an Indian national, October 2026

Ranked by the realistic wait for an Indian national:

Route	India position	Verdict
EB-5 set-asides — rural, high unemployment, infrastructure	**Current — no queue**	USD 800,000. The only employment-based route with no India wait, and concurrent I-485 filing is available
O-1A	No queue (nonimmigrant)	No cap, no lottery, no USD 100,000 payment. The cleanest fast route for a strong record
L-1A / L-1B	No queue (nonimmigrant)	Needs a year with the employer group abroad. L-1A feeds EB-1C
EB-1A / EB-1B / EB-1C	01 Feb 2023 — about 3 yr 8 mo	The fastest green card open to Indians without an investment. The evidentiary bar is high
EB-5 unreserved	01 Dec 2023 — about 2 yr 10 mo	USD 1,050,000. Usually worth choosing a set-aside project instead
H-1B	No queue, but heavily restricted	A USD 100,000 payment applies to petitions for people abroad. FY2027 cap closed; next window about March 2027
EB-2 NIW	01 Nov 2013 — about **12 yr 11 mo**	Worth filing to hold a priority date; not a near-term route to a green card
EB-3	01 Jan 2014 — about **12 yr 9 mo**	Holds a priority date; the India queue is long

One thing to be clear about: the E-2 visa

India is not a US treaty country. It appears nowhere in the State Department's treaty countries table, for either E-1 or E-2. An Indian passport holder **cannot obtain an E-2 treaty investor visa on Indian nationality** — at least half the US enterprise must be owned by nationals of a treaty country.

Some Indian families do reach E-2 by first acquiring a qualifying second citizenship, for example Grenada or Turkey. That is a legitimate two-step plan with its own cost and timeline, and we are happy to map it out. An E-2 application on Indian nationality alone is not possible.

{/ restored from the 2019–2026 site /}

US Employment Based Permanent Residence Visa Consultants in Dubai

Employment-Based Permanent Residence

We Represent Small, Medium And Large Companies In Obtaining Permanent Residence For Their Employees Through The Following Categories

- EB-1 Individuals of Extraordinary Ability, Outstanding Professors and Researchers, and Multinational Executives and Managers
- EB-2 Individuals of Exceptional Ability, National Interest Waivers, and Labor Certification (PERM)
- EB-3 Labor Certification (PERM) for Degreed Professionals and Skilled Workers
- EB-4 Ministers and Religious Workers
- EB-5 Immigrant Investors

We also represent professionals interested in permanent residence self-petitions as Individuals of Extraordinary Ability and through National Interest Waivers.

US Employment Based Visa Consultant Services in Dubai, UAE

We Represent Small, Medium And Large Companies And Their Employees In Obtaining Non-Immigrant Visas, Including The Following Types Of Visas

- B-1 After Sales Contract
- B-1 in Lieu of H-1B
- E-3 Visas for Australians
- H-1B Specialty Occupations
- H-1B1 Specialty Occupations for Chileans and Singaporeans
- H-3 Trainees
- J-1 Exchange Visitor
- L-1A Intra-company Transferees for Executives and Managers
- L-1B Intra-company Transferees with Specialized Knowledge
- O-1 Individuals of Extraordinary Ability
- P-1 Professional Athletes
- R-1 Ministers and other Religious Workers
- TN Professionals under the NAFTA Treaty

How the application works

1. **Determine eligibility for EB-1, EB-2, or L-1A based on profile and experience.**
2. **Prepare documentation proving achievements, qualifications, or executive role.**
3. **Submit the appropriate petition (Form I-140 or L-1A application) to USCIS.**
4. **Upon approval, file Form I-485 (Adjustment of Status) or proceed with consular processing.**
5. **Attend biometrics and interview if required.**
6. **Obtain the U.S. Green Card or work authorization after final approval.**

General requirements

- EB-1: Must show extraordinary ability, academic excellence, or executive experience.
- EB-2: Requires an advanced degree or exceptional ability in a professional field.
- L-1A: Must have worked for a multinational company abroad in an executive or managerial role for at least one year.
- Plan to continue professional work in the U.S.
- Meet all health, security, and admissibility standards set by USCIS.

Sectors in demand

- Science
- Technology
- Business Leadership

Questions clients ask

What are the main U.S. employment-based visa categories?

The EB-1, EB-2, and L-1A visas are key employment-based options leading to permanent residency for skilled professionals and executives.

Do I need a job offer?

EB-1A and EB-2 NIW applicants can apply without a U.S. employer, while EB-1B, EB-1C, and L-1A require sponsorship.

Is labor certification required?

No, EB-1 and EB-2 NIW categories are exempt from the PERM process, reducing overall processing time.

How long does the process take?

For an Indian national the Visa Bulletin decides it. As at October 2026, India's final action dates are 1 February 2023 for EB-1 (about 3 years 8 months behind), 1 November 2013 for EB-2 and 1 January 2014 for EB-3. USCIS petition processing times vary by form and service centre; XIPHIAS confirms the current published time when your petition is filed.

Can my family join me?

Yes. Spouses and unmarried children under 21 can apply as dependents and receive Green Cards upon approval.

How does Xiphias Immigration assist?

Xiphias Immigration provides end-to-end guidance — from eligibility evaluation to petition filing and representation before USCIS.

Official sources: US Department of State — Visa Bulletin for October 2026; US Department of State — treaty countries; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations — 8 CFR 204.5; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations — 8 CFR 106.2 (USCIS fee schedule); Federal Register — Proclamation 11069 extending the H-1B entry restriction.



XIPHIAS Immigration

NEXT STEP

Discuss your United States options with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will compare the United States routes that fit you, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

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