XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE



SKILLED MIGRATION | 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.

JOB OFFER

Not required

FAMILY

Spouse, children up to age 21

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At a glance

COUNTRY **United States**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Employment Based**
TIMELINE **India EB-1 queue: about 3 yr 8 mo (October 2026 Visa Bulletin)**	FAMILY MEMBERS **Spouse, children up to age 21**
JOB OFFER **Not required**	LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**

Overview

The **EB-1A visa** is a U.S. employment-based immigration pathway for individuals with **extraordinary ability** in **science, arts, education, business, or athletics**. It offers a **direct route to permanent residency** through **self-petition**, without the need for employer sponsorship or labor certification.

Eligibility Overview

Applicants must demonstrate that they are among the **top professionals in their field** and meet at least **three of ten USCIS criteria**, or hold a **major internationally recognized award** such as a **Nobel Prize, Olympic medal, or Academy Award**.

Why Choose EB-1A

- **No employer or sponsor required**
- **Faster processing** under the first-preference category
- **Direct Green Card eligibility**
- **Global recognition** of professional excellence

Professional Assistance

Xiphias Immigration offers end-to-end EB-1A support — from **eligibility assessment** and **evidence documentation** to **legal petition drafting** — ensuring every application meets **USCIS's high evidentiary standards**.

Where India actually stands, October 2026

A petition approval is not a green card. After approval you wait for your priority date, and for India that wait is the whole story. From the October 2026 Visa Bulletin:

Category	India final action date	Roughly how far behind	Worldwide
EB-1	01 Feb 2023	3 years 8 months	Current
EB-2	01 Nov 2013	**12 years 11 months**	01 Jan 2025
EB-3	01 Jan 2014	**12 years 9 months**	15 May 2024
EB-5 unreserved	01 Dec 2023	2 years 10 months	Current
EB-5 rural, high-unemployment, infrastructure	**Current**	**No wait**	Current

The Visa Bulletin also warns that some worldwide categories have **retrogressed** to hold issuance within FY2027 limits. Dates move backwards as well as forwards.

We publish this table because you deserve to see it before you commit money, not after.

USCIS filing fees

Item	Fee
Form I-140 immigrant petition	USD 715
Asylum Program Fee, paid with the I-140	USD 600 (USD 300 small employer, nil nonprofit)
Form I-485 adjustment of status, applicants aged 14 and over	USD 1,440
Premium processing on the I-140 (optional)	USD 2,965, response within 15 business days

Fees follow the USCIS fee schedule at 8 CFR 106.2; the premium processing fee took effect on 1 March 2026. Applicants who complete the process at a US consulate pay the State Department's immigrant visa fees at that stage instead of the Form I-485 fee.

When this route may not fit

- Limited or regional recognition without national impact.
- Lack of strong documentation or independent endorsements.
- Failure to show intent to continue work in the field.

Skills, language and points

Job offer: EB-1A allows self-petition; a U.S. job offer or employer sponsorship is not required.

Typical Eligible Fields

- Scientists and researchers with internationally recognized achievements
- Entrepreneurs and business executives with proven industry impact
- Artists, designers, and performers with global recognition
- Professional athletes competing at international levels
- Academics, educators, and inventors with exceptional contributions

How the process works

1. **Evaluate eligibility**
   Determine if your profile meets EB-1A extraordinary ability requirements.

2. **Prepare documentation**
   Gather supporting evidence such as awards, publications, memberships, and recommendation letters.

3 **Submit Form I-140**
File the EB-1A immigrant petition with USCIS; self-petition is allowed.

4 **Proceed with status adjustment or consular processing**
File Form I-485 in the U.S. or DS-260 abroad once the petition is approved.

5 **Attend biometrics and interview**
Complete necessary appointments with USCIS or at a U.S. consulate.

6 **Obtain Green Card**
Receive U.S. permanent residency upon approval of your EB-1A application.

Document checklist

Identity and Civil Documents

- Valid passport and government-issued photo ID
- Birth certificate and proof of civil status

Proof of Extraordinary Ability

- National or international awards and recognition certificates
- Membership in professional associations with selective criteria
- Published articles or media coverage highlighting achievements
- Evidence of judging work or contributions of others
- Proof of original contributions with major impact in the field
- Authorship of scholarly or creative publications
- Evidence of leading or key roles in reputed organizations
- Documents showing high salary or exceptional earnings
- Proof of commercial or artistic success in the performing arts

Supporting Evidence

- Recommendation letters from credible experts in the field
- Proof of intent to continue work in the area of expertise
- Contracts, business plans, or U.S. project evidence supporting future activity

Questions clients ask

What is the EB-1A visa?

EB-1A is a U.S. employment-based immigrant visa for individuals with extraordinary ability in science, arts, education, business, or athletics.

Do I need an employer to apply?

No. EB-1A allows self-petitioning, so applicants can apply without a job offer or employer sponsorship.

What qualifies as extraordinary ability?

Extraordinary ability means being among the top professionals in your field, proven through sustained national or international acclaim.

How long does the EB-1A process take?

With premium processing (USD 2,965), USCIS responds to the I-140 within 15 business days. The green card then depends on the Visa Bulletin: India's EB-1 final action date is 1 February 2023 in the October 2026 bulletin, roughly 3 years 8 months behind, while worldwide EB-1 is Current.

Can family members be included?

Yes. Spouses and unmarried children under 21 can apply as dependents for Green Cards.

How does Xiphias Immigration assist?

Xiphias Immigration provides expert guidance for EB-1A cases, helping prepare evidence, structure petitions, and meet USCIS standards.

Important notes

- India’s EB-1 final action date in the October 2026 Visa Bulletin is 1 February 2023 — roughly 3 years and 8 months behind. India is the worst-placed EB-1 country: worldwide is Current and China sits at 1 July 2023.
- Even so, EB-1 is now the fastest employment-based green card available to Indian nationals by a wide margin — 3 years 8 months against nearly 13 years for EB-2 and EB-3.
- The evidentiary bar is genuinely high. XIPHIAS assesses your record candidly against it before you commit to a petition.

Compliance

- Under 8 CFR 204.5(h) you qualify either with one major internationally recognised award, or by meeting at least three of ten regulatory criteria: lesser nationally or internationally recognised prizes; membership requiring outstanding achievement; published material about you; judging the work of others; original contributions of major significance; scholarly authorship; artistic exhibitions; a leading or critical role for a distinguished organisation; high remuneration; or commercial success in the performing arts.
- No job offer and no labour certification are required, but you must show you intend to continue working in your field in the United States.
- Filing fees: Form I-140 USD 715 plus the Asylum Program Fee of USD 600 (USD 300 small employer, nil nonprofit). Form I-485 is USD 1,440 for applicants aged 14 and over.
- Premium processing costs USD 2,965 (fee effective 1 March 2026).
- Premium processing for EB-1A carries a 15 business day response window.

Official sources: US Department of State — Visa Bulletin for October 2026; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations — 8 CFR 204.5; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations — 8 CFR 106.2 (USCIS fee schedule); Federal Register — Adjustment to Premium Processing Fees (effective 1 March 2026).



XIPHIAS Immigration

NEXT STEP

Plan your United States application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **EB-1A Visa — Extraordinary Ability U.S. Green Card** fits, 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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