

## **O-1 EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY WORKERS**

**MSEC offers full service  
employment-based  
immigration services.**

The O-1 category allows foreign nationals of extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics to work temporarily in the United States.

### **What foreign workers qualify?**

Foreign workers qualifying as extraordinary ability in science, education, business or athletics must demonstrate a level of expertise indicating that they are one of the small percentage who have risen to the very top of the field of endeavor. To prove extraordinary ability, foreign nationals must submit the following:

- Receipt of a major, internationally recognized award, such as the Nobel Prize, or
- At least three of the following:
  - Receipt of nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor;
  - Membership in associations in the field which require outstanding achievements;
  - Published material in professional or trade publications or major media about the foreign national concerning his or her work in the field;
  - Participation as a judge of the work of others in the field;
  - Scientific, scholarly or business-related contributions of major significance in the field;
  - Authorship of scholarly articles in the field;
  - Employment in a critical or essential capacity for organizations and establishments that have a distinguished reputation;
  - High salary or other remuneration as compared to others in the field;
  - Other comparable evidence.

In addition, the O-1 petition must include a written advisory opinion from an appropriate union, if any exists, describing the foreign national's ability and achievements in the field, and duties to be performed in the US.

### **How long may a foreign national work in the U.S. on an O-1 visa?**

O-1 visas are valid for an initial period of 3 years and are extendable in one year increments.

### **What is the cost to sponsor a foreign worker for an O-1 visa?**

The O-1 requires a \$320 petition filing fee. An additional \$1,000 premium processing fee will result in government action on the petition in 15 days.

**For more information,  
please contact:**

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