



Immigration Updates

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Premium Processing for I-140s and other application types

On March 30, 2022, USCIS announced that it will expand premium processing to additional types of applications to increase efficiency. The premium processing expansion will take place in phases, as described below.

- **Form I-140 Immigrant Petitions**

Beginning June 1, 2022, USCIS began to accept Form I-907, Requests for Premium Processing, for E13 multinational executive and manager petitions received on or before January 1, 2021.

Beginning July 1, 2022, USCIS began to accept Form I-907, Requests for Premium Processing, for E21 NIW petitions received on or before June 1, 2021, and E13 multinational executive and manager petitions received on or before March 1, 2021.

- **Form I-539 Applications to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status**

USCIS intends to expand premium processing to these applications later in the year.

- **Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization**

USCIS intends to expand premium processing to these applications later in the year.

For additional information on the efforts to increase efficiency, visit the [USCIS website](#). For additional information on Premium Processing, visit the [USCIS Premium Processing page](#).

Automatic EAD Extension for 540 Days

On May 3, 2022, USCIS announced a [Temporary Final Rule](#) (TFR) that increased the automatic extension period for employment authorization and Employment Authorization Documents (EADs), available to [certain EAD renewal applicants](#), to up to 540 days. The increase, which became effective on May 4, 2022, will help avoid gaps in employment for noncitizens with pending EAD renewal applications and stabilize the continuity of operations for U.S. employers.

If you have an EAD application pending or plan to file one in the near future, carefully read the [details of the new rule on the USCIS website](#) to determine if you are eligible for this 540-day extension.

Contact the Immigration Services Office at AskImmigration@uams.edu if you have any questions.

Updated Editions of USCIS Forms

USCIS updated several of its forms in June 2022, including Form I-140 Immigrant Petition, I-129 Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, Form I-539 Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, and Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization. Always review the USCIS website for the current form edition date before filing any applications. You can find the current edition of all [USCIS forms on the USCIS website](#).



Our new website is launched 🎉

You can find useful information there including how to hire foreign nationals, eligibilities of different non-immigration visa types, and useful forms. Visit our new website [HERE](#).

Welcome new team member: Joni Custodio Bube

Hello, I am Joni, the newest member of the Immigration Services team at UAMS. Born in the Philippines, I was raised primarily in California. A few of my interests include exploring the outdoors, traveling, enjoying different cultures, sports, music theatre, and most of all, spending time with family and friends.

After receiving my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from the University of Southern California, I worked as an accountant in the aerospace, local government, banking, and public accounting industries in California, Kansas, and Arkansas. I currently hold my CPA license with the state of Arkansas.

Over twenty years ago and by good fortune, I found myself in international education which sparked my passion. Serving and advising international students

attending Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas, for close to fifteen years has been personally rewarding and meaningful. I am excited to expand my immigration knowledge and experience working with the UAMS community and their excellent Immigration Services team.



J-1 Scholar financial requirement

As of August 1, 2022, minimum funding requirements for J-1 Research Scholars and Short-Term Scholars will increase. For all J-1 scholars, the total funding must meet the following:

- J-1 scholar: \$2,600/month, \$31,200/year
- Each J-2 dependent: \$400/month, \$4,800/year

For example, a J-1 scholar with a spouse and two children (three J-2 dependents) would need to show proof of funding to total at least \$3,800/month.

This change will comply with the [new UAMS minimum wage hourly rate](#) of \$15 effective on July 1, 2022. The increase in J-2 dependent required funding is based on the [2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) published by the Department of Health and Human Services.

If your department submits an Intake Form for a J-1 scholar case in the Immigration Tracker portal on or after August 1, 2022, this new funding requirement will apply to your case. If a current J-1 scholar submits an extension form to extend the J-1 status on or after August 1, 2022, this new funding requirement will apply to him or her. Please email AskImmigration@uams.edu if you have any questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

My department submitted an Intake Form in Immigration Tracker for a J-1 scholar case before 08/01/2022. Will the new minimum funding requirement affect my J-1 scholar?

No. If your J-1 Scholar case has been started with our office, the previous funding requirement will apply to them through their initial J-1 period.

I am a current J-1 scholar. I am not requesting an extension of my J-1 status. Do I need to submit any financial documents to meet this new minimum funding requirement?

No. The new minimum funding requirement won't affect you until you request an extension in the future.

Where can I find more information about the J-1 scholar visa?

Please visit our website [HERE](#).

Immigration Virtual Office Hour

Sign up for our virtual office hour if you have immigration-related inquiries, such as when to initiate your H-1B extension petition, what to do if your passport is expiring, or how to start a green card process. All conversations are private. Our Virtual Office Hour is at 2pm-3pm on the first Tuesday each month. Sign-up is available all year round at this [LINK](#). The upcoming sessions are on **July 26th** and **August 16th**. Sign up NOW!



Travel

UAMS Immigration Services recommends that foreign national employees do not travel internationally, especially if you must apply for a visa stamp at a U.S. embassy or consulate, except in emergencies. U.S. Embassies worldwide are currently short-staffed, have very long wait times and processing times for visa applications, and have been frequently issuing administrative processing decisions recently. If you do decide to travel internationally, contact us at AskImmigration@uams.edu.



You should closely monitor any travel warnings or restrictions up until your travel date to determine if there are any additional rules which may apply to you during your trip abroad. For more information about traveling during the pandemic, please review the travel guidelines by the [U.S. Department of State](#).






Foreign national employees should refer to the UAMS Travel Guidelines for any guidelines that apply to them, and continue to follow the updates released by UAMS. They should also consult with their departments to see if there are any other procedures to go through upon their arrival after an international trip.

Address Update

Have you moved recently? Be sure to update your new address in both USCIS and UAMS databases. According to U.S. federal regulation 8 C.F.R. 265.1, all changes of address should be reported to USCIS within 10 days after moving. By updating your address in UAMS systems, it can ensure that you receive important benefits and tax documentation from the Office of Human Resources.

USCIS: Fill out the [AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card](#).

UAMS:

- 1) Login to [Workday](#).
- 2) Click your Profile icon  on the top right-hand corner, then click .
- 3) Choose "Contact" from the profile list on the left.
- 4) Click the scroll down button  and choose "Change My Home Contact Information".
- 5) Click on the pencil  beside the address that you need to change.
- 6) When you complete, click  on the bottom.

Immigration Spotlight

Tips on Maintaining H-1B Status

While the H-1B visa might be the most popular among all the various nonimmigrant visas available through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) to most foreign nationals, it is beneficial for them to know some important factors about H-1B to help maintain their H-1B status.

First of all, H-1B is **employer-specific**, which means if you are on H-1B visa status, you can work only for the employer that filed the petition for you. For example, you can't use the H-1B approval notice which was filed by company A to work for company B. Company B has to file a separate H-1B petition for you to work for them. This also means you can work for multiple employers, as long as you have H-1B approval notices filed by multiple employers.



The second important factor we need to know is that H-1B is also **position-specific**. If there is any SIGNIFICANT changes to your position, such as job title, job responsibilities, salary, worksite, work hours, or any other conditions of employment after you start employment on H-1B status, the employer must submit an amended petition to the USCIS to reflect these changes. Most importantly, these changes are not supposed to happen until your employer has filed the amendment petition. However, if the changes are not significant, an amendment petition will not be needed. Therefore, you must discuss with your employer about these changes in advance and consult Immigration Services to find out if an H-1B amendment petition is needed.

Frequently asked questions

Can an H-1B worker change employers? Can he/she start working for the new employer before receiving the H-1B approval notice filed by the new employer?



Answer: YES. Under H-1B "portability" provisions, nonimmigrants currently in H-1B status with one employer can begin employment with a new employer (or new employment with the same employer) on the latter of: The date USCIS receives a non-frivolous I-129 petition for new H-1B employment from a new employer (or from the same employer for new employment); or The requested start date of such a petition.

This means that the H-1B worker can start employment at the new employer on the requested new employment start date, as long as the new petition is filed before the new employment start date. However, although the new employer and H-1B workers do not have to wait for the new petition to be approved for the new employment to begin, his/her work authorization is automatically terminated if the new petition is denied.

My current H-1B will expire on 08/30/2022, and my employer is going to file an H-1B extension petition for me. Can I continue working after 08/30/2022, if my petition is still pending? Do I need to file my H-1B extension as premium processing?

Answer: YES. You may continue working after 08/30/2022 for up to 240 days, as long as your employer has filed your petition by 08/30/2022. For an H-1B extension, you do not need the approval notice for the extension to continue working after your current H-1B expires. Therefore, you typically do not need to file the extension as premium processing. However, if there is a particular situation that requires premium processing, you should talk with Immigration Services.

In summary, if there will be any changes to your position or any questions about maintaining your H-1B status, please contact Immigration Services at Askimmigration@uams.edu. You can also visit [our website](#) for more information about H-1B visa status.



Upcoming Holiday

**Monday, September 5, 2022 (UAMS Holiday)
Labor Day**



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