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Immigration Updates



Guidance for O-1 Petitions with a Focus on STEM Fields

On 07/22/2022, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated its [Policy Manual](#) to provide further guidance on evidence that can be used to support a petition for an O-1A nonimmigrant of extraordinary ability with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

USCIS clarified that being named on a competitive government grant for STEM research can be a positive factor toward demonstrating that a beneficiary is at the top of their field. This evidence is added to the listed examples of evidence that may be submitted to show that an applicant has extraordinary ability in the STEM fields. For more details, please click [HERE](#).

USCIS Implements Next Phase of Premium Processing for Certain Previously Filed EB-1 and EB-2 Form I-140 Petitions

USCIS announced on 09/15/2022 that they started implementing the next phase of the premium processing expansion for certain petitioners who have a pending [Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Workers](#), under the EB-1 and EB-2 classifications.

Similar to the [first phase](#) and [second phase](#) of the expansion, this phase only applies to certain previously filed Form I-140 petitions under an E13 multinational executive and manager classification or E21 classification as a member of professions with advanced degrees or exceptional ability seeking a national interest waiver (NIW).

Petitioners who wish to request a premium processing upgrade must file [Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service](#). For more details, please click [HERE](#).

Parolees Can Now File Form I-765 Online

USCIS announced on 07/28/2022 that certain parolees can now file [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), online, with limited exceptions. Whether applications are submitted by mail or electronically, USCIS is committed to employing technological solutions and efficiencies to reduce processing times.

To file Form I-765 online, eligible applicants must first visit my.uscis.gov to create a USCIS online account. There is no cost to create an account, which offers a variety of features, including the ability to communicate with USCIS about your application through a secure inbox.

The option to file Form I-765 online is only available to certain categories of I-765 applicants – now including parolees. If an applicant submits Form I-765 online to request employment authorization, but is not filing under an eligible employment authorization category, USCIS may deny the application and retain the fee. For more details, please see [HERE](#).

Immigration Virtual Office Hour

Sign up for our virtual office hour if you have any 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 of each month. Sign-up is available all year round at this [LINK](#). The upcoming session is on **December 6th**. Sign up NOW!



Travel packet and Employment Verification Letter

Employees under H-1B visa status can request the travel packets for travel, visa renewal, and other government issues that may arise. A travel packet consists of a copy of the I-129 petition filed for the employee, an employment verification letter, and the original I-797 Approval Notice for their H-1B status.

An Employment Verification Letter (EVL) is a proof of employment. Foreign national employees can request it for travel, visa renewal, driver's license application, or other purposes. This letter contains the foreign national employee's employment status, employment dates, and salary information.

The Travel Packet and EVL requests must be made through the [Immigration Services website](#). Once a request is accepted, it takes **7-10 business days** for the Travel Packet or EVL to be issued. Therefore, the requests should be made at least 2 weeks prior to the date needed.



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, 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.

GloWILD @Little Rock Zoo



Enjoy a whole new light as you partake in one of the largest interactive light festivals. GloWild features dozens of displays and the handcrafted silk-covered lanterns with over fifty-thousand LED lights!

Date: November 3rd - January 7th

Time: 5pm to 9pm

Location: Little Rock Zoo

Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more information.





North Little Rock Sertoma Christmas Parade 2022

Don't miss out on the North Little Rock Sertoma Christmas Parade. The theme of this year is "Beloved Christmas Characters". It is free and open to public.

Date: December 4th (Sunday)

Time: 2pm-3pm

Location: 510 N Main Street, The Agenta Plaza

Click [HERE](#) for more information



Upcoming Holidays

Thursday, November 24 (UAMS Holiday): Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 25 (UAMS Holiday): Day after Thanksgiving

Friday, December 23 (UAMS Holiday): Day before Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

Monday, December 26 (UAMS Holiday): Day after Christmas Day

Saturday, December 31 (UAMS Holiday): New Year Eve



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