

Frequently Asked Questions

How to decide the visa options for potential candidate?

The hiring department contact can submit the [Immigration Pre-process Survey](mailto:askimmigration@uams.edu) to askimmigration@uams.edu to request for an analysis of the visa type options for the potential candidate.

What is the H-1B visa program?

The H-1B visa program is used by U.S. businesses to employ foreign workers in occupations that require theoretical and practical application of highly specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher (or its equivalent), such as scientists, engineers, or computer programmers. See [H1B visa page](#).

Does UAMS sponsor H-1B's?

Yes, if the Department is willing to comply with all the requirements and responsibilities and the individual qualifies for H-1B status. Prospective employees: please note that UAMS departments and divisions may have internal policies regarding H-1B sponsorship; please contact the hiring official regarding H-1B sponsorship options for a specific position.

How long can a Department sponsor an H-1B?

A person may obtain H-1B status for a total of 6 years, but only in 3 year increments. If the person has a labor certification pending for 1 year, or a permanent residency application pending for 1 year, they can have their H-1B status extended beyond the 6 year limit on a yearly basis, until their permanent residency applications have been adjudicated.

What is the Exchange Visitor Program (J-1 Visa)?

The Exchange Visitor Program promotes mutual understanding between the people of the United States (U.S.) and the people of other countries by educational and cultural exchanges, under the provisions of U.S. law. Exchange Programs provide an extremely valuable opportunity to experience the U.S. and our way of life, thereby developing lasting and meaningful relationships.

How long can a Department sponsor a J-1?

For research scholars, the maximum amount of time is 5 years. For short term scholars, the maximum amount of time is 6 months without a possible extension. [View J-1 visa program details](#).

Will UAMS process my permanent residency paperwork?

The Immigration Office does not process permanent residency paperwork in-house, but will work with the immigration attorney chosen to ensure the required paperwork from the employer is obtained. If Departments are interested in sponsoring someone for permanent residency, but is not familiar with the process, the hiring official should prepare a detailed position description and current C.V. for the immigration attorney to review for eligibility and category determination. Current employees in non-immigrant worker, exchange or student visa status seeking employer sponsored permanent residency should contact their hiring official or HR manager regarding departmental sponsorship options. Employees seeking self-petition options are strongly encouraged to obtain an immigration attorney as soon as possible. [View information on Permanent Residency "Greencard" Sponsorship.](#)

What should Foreign National new hires bring with them to Immigration check-in?

- Passport & I-94 Card
- Copies of Immigration Documents, including all previously issued DS-2019 / I-20 Forms and I-797 Notices
- EAD (if applicable)
- Copy of Insurance Policy (J-1 exchange visitors only)
- Local Residence Address and phone number

Where can I find USCIS forms and up-to-date fees?

View all forms, fees and download the current version of the form on the [USCIS](#) website.