

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY & SCHOLARS

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Department Letter of Support O-1 template, edit as needed print on department letterhead

[Date]

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
California Service Center
24000 Avila Rd., Rm. 2302
Laguna Niguel, California 92677

RE: I-129 petition on behalf of [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], (Ph.D., M.D., B.A), DOB mm/dd/yyyy.

Dear Adjudicating Officer:

This letter is submitted in support of the petition of the University of Arizona, to classify [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], a citizen of [COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP] as an O-1 Nonimmigrant of distinguished merit and ability, to serve as a [UNIVERSITY TITLE] for our university on a temporary basis.

The Petitioner

Founded in 1885, the University of Arizona is now the nation's 18th-ranked research institution, with an enrollment of 45,217, faculty and staff of 16,271 and a 391-acre campus. The University of Arizona is a land grant institution, one of a number of federally funded universities created to support colleges of agriculture and conduct research for the public good. In that tradition, the University of Arizona links its educational, research, and public service programs to needs at the local, state, national, and international levels.

The University of Arizona has come to be known as having ivy-league opportunities at a public university price tag: a state institution which offers nationally ranked research, top ranked professors, over 122 majors, and a full range of support services.

The University of Arizona balances a strong research component with an emphasis on teaching—faculty rolls include Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners. Its academic reputation is a drawing card for top students. To the wealth of academic choices, add a progressive campus atmosphere, conference winning basketball and football teams, and myriad recreation opportunities.

The [DEPT NAME] at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona is one the largest research and extension departments in the College of XXXX and is the primary unit on campus offering

undergraduate teaching programs in the applied and basic plant sciences. It is also unique because of the diversity of faculty specialties not normally found in a single academic unit (for the latest News and Semester Updates see the [DEPT NAME] Newsletter). Faculty activities encompass a broad spectrum including agronomy, horticulture, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, and cellular and molecular biology.

The overall goal of the [DEPT NAME] is to help sustain the economic production of plants as used by humans for food, fiber, and improving the quality of life in landscapes and natural environments. Our faculty discovers new knowledge and develops technologies that are of importance to agriculture and the life sciences; and that are taught to students, growers, other researchers, and the general public.

The Position

The University of Arizona, College of XXXX, [DEPT NAME], is offering the position of Associate Professor to [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], a nationally/internationally known and respected [researcher or professor] in the field of XXXX, who will bring extraordinary skills and research experience to this position.

[Include a paragraph or two detailing the job duties more specifically]

The Beneficiary

Dr. [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], a citizen of [COUNTRY], received his undergraduate training and beginning research in Chemical Engineering (CE) at The University of _____, [COUNTRY], on _____. From there, *s/he* proceeded to obtain his advance degrees – M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of _____. During those years *s/he* served as a research assistant and associate. Following the completion of his Ph.D. in [MONTH, YEAR], *s/he* moved on to serve as visiting research associate in the [DEPT NAME]. Upon completion of the experience in [YEAR], *s/he* returned to his home country to apply his knowledge and skills at his alma mater, where *s/he* remained until [YEAR]. As outlined in his enclosed curriculum vitae, [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], has been awarded for his excellence in research from his undergraduate days in T_____, to his graduate studies in S_____ and beyond. Continuing to expand his research base internationally, *s/he* was awarded the _____ Fellowship in [YEAR] by the European Community for a year of sabbatical work on the [DEPT NAME] at the University of _____, in the UK. In [YEAR] *s/he* returned to the US for a period as a visiting scholar.

One of the key indicators of [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], extraordinary contributions in the field of XXXX came when *s/he* was awarded the _____ Award in [YEAR] by the internationally known _____. This award, which was in the field of Applications of Science and

Technology, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon a Latin American Technological Researcher.

International respect of [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], professional opinion can be seen in several letters related to the review of others' work in various international professional journals.

Throughout the last few years [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], has been extraordinarily prolific in his research writing, having 52 articles published in international, peer-reviewed journals and books, as well as 53 articles included in conference proceedings, and 7 more works submitted for publication. In addition, *s/he* has made 53 presentations throughout the world and has submitted 5 more works for presentation internationally.

Terms of Employment

Based on Dr. [NAME]'s professional credentials, the [DEPT NAME] wishes to employ *him/her* for a temporary period of [NUMBER OF YEARS] as a [UNIVERSITY TITLE]. We understand the temporary nature of the O-1 status we seek for [EMPLOYEE'S NAME], and assuming our O-1 petition is approved, we fully intend to comply with all of the regulations regarding employment of individual in O-1 status. [EMPLOYEE'S NAME] will be compensated at the rate of \$[SALARY] per year.

If [EMPLOYEE'S NAME] is dismissed during the validity of *his/her* O-1 status, we will be responsible for the reasonable cost of his return trip home.

Thank you for your courtesy and attention to the processing of this petition.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]

[Department Name]