

## INTERNATIONAL FACULTY & SCHOLARS

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# Applying for Permanent Residency (PR)

## When should I start the employment-based permanent residency process?

If you are interested in applying for employment-based permanent residency through the University of Arizona, you should begin the process no later than the beginning of your 5th year in H-1B status.

If you begin the PR process after your 5th year has started, your case will be referred to one of the approved outside immigration attorneys.

## Who can process a PR petition sponsored by the University of Arizona?

Any employment-based permanent residency petition that lists the University of Arizona as the petitioner must be processed by:

- International Faculty & Scholars (IFS), or
- One of the approved outside immigration attorneys.

If you are applying for permanent residency that is not employment-based (and UA is not the petitioner), you may choose any attorney you wish.

## How do I request to begin the PR process?

1. Email the following to IFS ([uaifs@arizona.edu](mailto:uaifs@arizona.edu)). After reviewing the PR information and identifying the category you may qualify for:
  - An **updated CV**
  - Relevant **research links** (e.g., Google Scholar profile)
2. After information reviewed and best category identified, the employing department then must initiate a service request in the MyGlobal online portal.

If you do not qualify for one of the PR categories processed by IFS, you must consult with one of the approved outside attorneys to proceed.

## 6 Year Maximum in H-1B Status:

H-1B status is limited to 6 years. After you have used your 6 years in H-1B status you are no longer eligible for an extension of your H-1B status and therefore no longer eligible to work. There are very few exceptions to this federal rule. These exceptions are:

## Is there a limit on H-1B status?

Yes. H-1B status is limited to a maximum of six (6) years. Once you have reached the six-year limit, you are no longer eligible for H-1B extensions or continued employment unless you qualify for an exception.

## What are the exceptions to the six-year H-1B limit?

### 1. Pending I-140 for 365 days or more

If your employment-based immigrant petition (Form I-140) has been **pending** with USCIS for **at least 365 days**, you may qualify for H-1B extensions beyond six years.

For this reason, USCIS must receive your Form I-140 no later than the final day of your 5th year in H-1B status.

### 2. Immigrant Visa Bulletin is not current

If your priority date is not current under the Immigrant Visa Bulletin and you are therefore unable to file Form I-485 (Adjustment of Status), you may be eligible for three-year H-1B extensions.

### 3. Time spent outside the United States

If you spent time outside the United States while in H-1B status, you may be able to recapture that time and extend your H-1B status accordingly.

Documentation such as passport stamps, flight records, or travel itineraries is required.

### 4. One-year absence from the United States

If you depart the United States for **at least one full year (365 days)**, your **six-year H-1B clock resets**, and you may again apply for H-1B status to reenter and work in the U.S.

## Questions?

For questions about permanent residency options or H-1B timelines, please contact:

AZ International – International Faculty & Scholars

email: [uaifs@arizona.edu](mailto:uaifs@arizona.edu)

website: <https://international.arizona.edu/ifs>