

H-1B Information Session

Understanding your H-1 B Employment

A presentation by
the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO)
Faculty and Scholar Services – Morningside & Manhattanville
11/14/2023

Agenda

1. Overview of H-1B Status
2. H-1B Documents
3. Conferences and Lectures
4. International Travel
5. Extension of H-1B Status
6. Forthcoming Stateside H-1B Visa Revalidation
7. Permanent Residence
8. Q&A

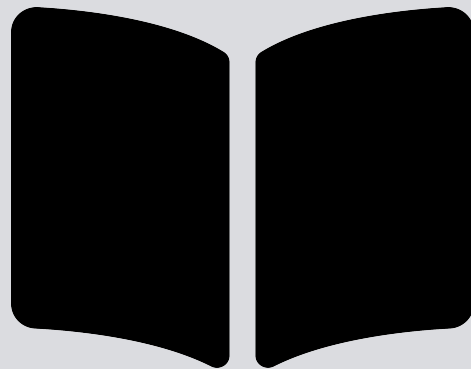
1. H-1B Overview

A grayscale photograph of a person with dark hair tied in a bun, seen from behind, sitting at a desk. They are looking at two computer monitors. The left monitor displays the OANDA website's currency converter. The right monitor shows a web browser with a sidebar menu and a main content area. The desk is cluttered with stacks of papers and a pen holder with several pens. The person is wearing a horizontally striped t-shirt.

Overview of H-1B status

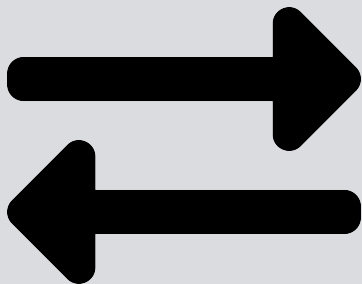


Employment-based visa that allows foreign nationals to work in the United States in a “specialty occupation”



Specialty occupation requires “theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge”

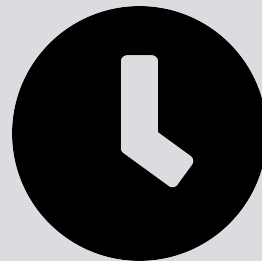
Overview of H-1B status



H-1B visa holder can have dual intent, i.e., may pursue permanent residence while maintaining H-1B status and preserving the ability to travel internationally

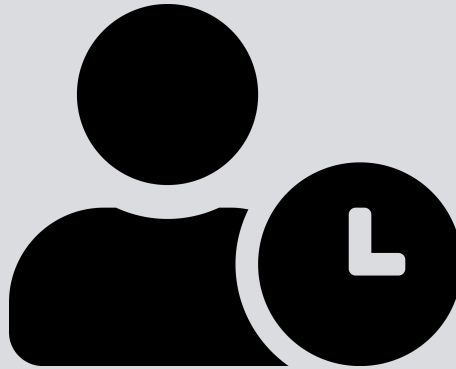


H-1B status is employer-specific and position-specific



Maximum period of 6 years in H-1B status, with limited exceptions

Overview of H-1B status



H-1B status is appropriate for officers of research, officers instruction, and other positions deemed critical to the department or the University

2. H-1B Documents



Approval notice (I-797)

I-94

Entry / admission stamp

H-1B visa stamp

Your responsibilities as an H-1B employee

Contact ISSO if there is any **change** in employment:



Job title



Work location

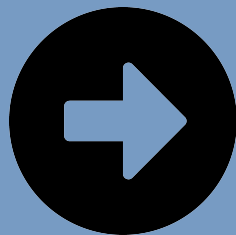


Change in the
source of funds

In some cases, an amended H-1B petition must be filed as per USCIS regulations.

Your responsibilities as an H-1B employee

We understand that there are many kinds of leave (research, medical, etc).



Leaves of absence

Discuss with your ISSO adviser
the terms of the specific leave
in advance so we can advise
accordingly.

Your responsibilities as an H-1B employee

Report change of residential address on Form AR 11 within 10 days of change



Any accompanying family members must each submit Form AR 11



3. Conferences and Lectures

- Time to address any application problems
- Ready to start employment with EAD
- Making address is more relative

Conferences and lectures

You may have opportunities to give lectures at other institutions or conferences.

You cannot receive an honorarium or other remuneration for such activities, although reimbursement for travel and reasonable expenses is allowed.

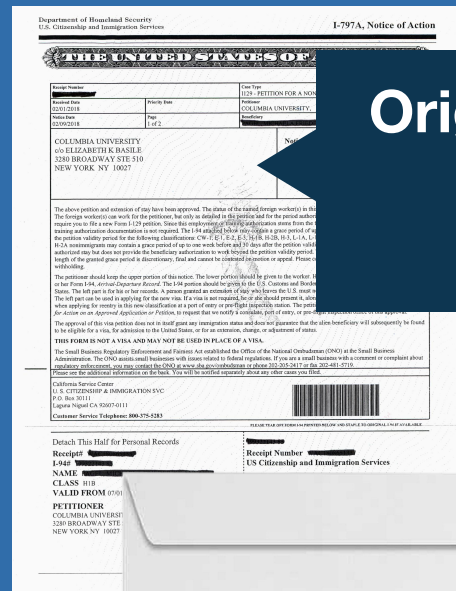


4. International Travel



Every time you travel internationally,
be sure to always have with you:

Unexpired Passport and H-1B visa stamp



Original approval notice Form I-797

**Complete H-1B
packet filed by
ISSO
(recommended)**

Upon Re-Entry

Retrieve your electronic I-94 to confirm you entered in H-1B status and that the “Admit Until Date” is correct.


Electronic I-94 Record



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Most Recent I-94

 **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**
Securing America's Borders

OMB No.
Expiration Date:

Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 123456789
Most Recent Date of Entry: 2016 August 14
Class of Admission: H-1B
Admit Until Date: DIS
Details provided on the I-94 information form:

Last/Surname: Roary
First (Given) Name: Lion
Birth Date: 1784 September 21
Passport Number: 123456789
Country of Issuance: Columbia

[Get Travel History](#)

► Effective April 26, 2013, DHS began automating the admission process. An alien lawfully admitted or paroled into the U.S. is no longer required to be in possession of a preprinted Form I-94. A record of admission printed from the CBP website constitutes a lawful record of admission. See 8 CFR § 1.4(a).

► If an employer, local, state or federal agency requests admission information, present your admission (I-94) number along with any additional required documents requested by that employer or agency.

► Note: For security reasons, we recommend that you close your browser after you have finished retrieving your I-94 number.

If you have any questions or inquiries regarding your I-94, please click here
[Accessible Privacy Notice](#)

https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/record.html

International Travel

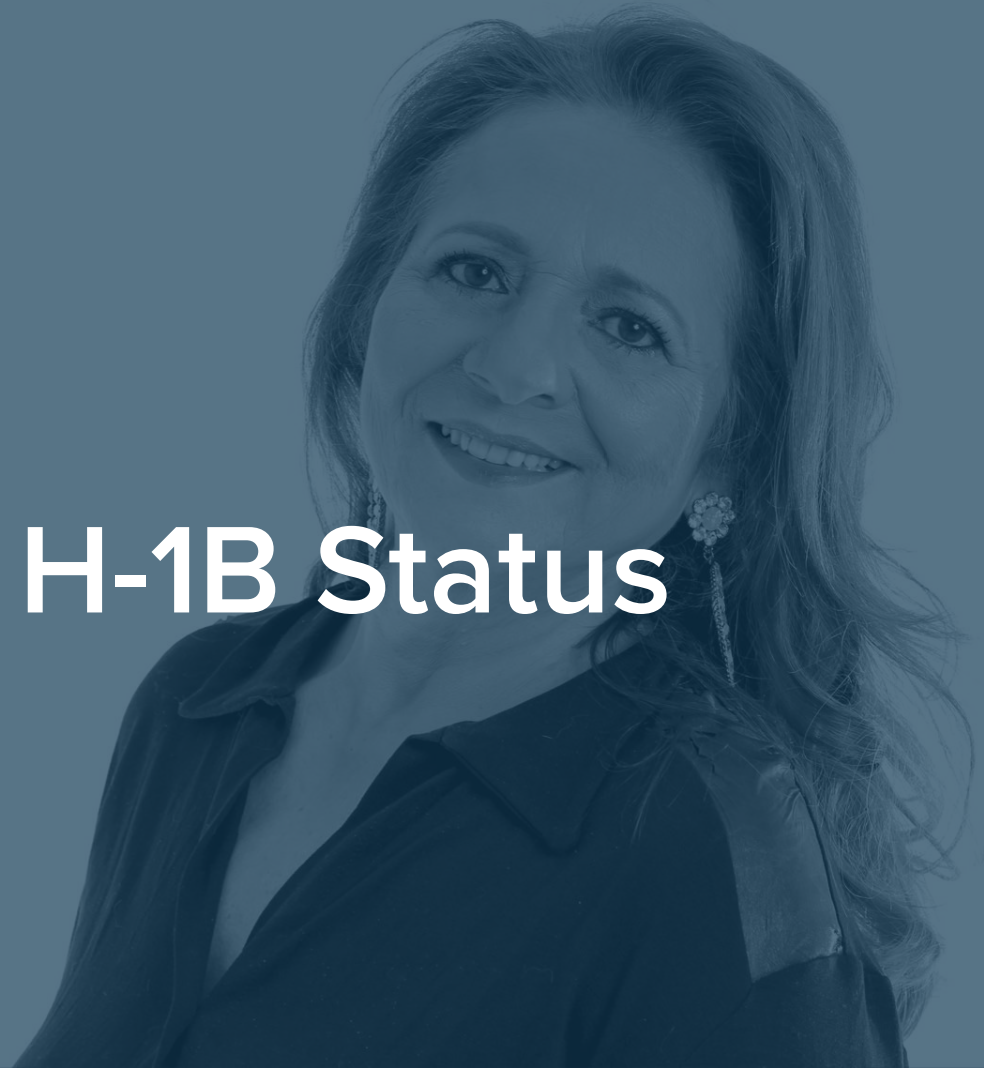
**Refer to our page on documents
you need to return to the US.**



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***Refer to the ISSO website for
guidance on trips of less than 30
days to either Canada or Mexico.**

5. Extension of H-1B Status



Extension of H-1B Status

Extension requests are submitted by your academic department. This can be submitted up to six months before the current stay expires.

- Timely filing of an extension allows for continued employment
- Must be physically present in the U.S. at the time of filing
- Contact your ISSO adviser before you travel internationally, if you have questions

Note: time spent abroad may be “recaptured” to allow for post-6-year extension. We recommend you keep records of all international travel including admission and exit stamps, boarding passes and travel itineraries.

H-1B Grace Period and Loss of Employment

- If your employment ends at the same time as your status expires, then check your I-94 record as it may indicate an additional 10-day grace period
- 60-day grace period permitted in certain circumstances and at the discretion of USCIS
- If you will be leaving Columbia prior to your I-94 expiration, contact ISSO

A blue-tinted background image showing a person's hand raised in the air, suggesting a classroom or meeting setting. The hand is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a whiteboard or screen.

6. Pilot Program: H-1B Stateside Visa Renewal

H-1B Stateside Visa Renewal Pilot Program

Department of State announced the intention to resume stateside renewals of H-1B visas in early 2024.

Tentative details:

- Limited to H-1B visa renewals (first-time H-1B visa applicants not eligible)
- Must be physically in the U.S. when applying
- Must remain in the U.S. while visa renewal is being processed
- Priority may be given to citizens of countries with lengthy consular processing times
- If the visa application must undergo administrative processing, it will be returned and visa can only be obtained abroad

In future, may be expanded to include O-1s population; No current proposal for J-1 or F-1

H-1B Stateside Visa Renewal Pilot Program

Suitable candidates are ones who:

- Plan ahead for future travel (no imminent travel)
- Have an expired H-1B visa or one that will be expiring in 4-6 months
- Can wait, since processing time is unclear

This may not be the best option if:

- Frequent/urgent travel
 - Process to return passport in an emergency remains unclear
- Admissibility triggers, e.g., DUI or record with law enforcement
- Dual-use technology roles (sensitive fields) which may require security clearance/administrative processing
- Nationality/birth country deemed as one of the “countries of concern”

<https://isso.columbia.edu/content/news-highlights>

7. Permanent Residence



Permanent Residence

By the end of six years in H-1B status, you must either depart of the United States or acquire some other status, e.g., permanent residence (green card).

Different ways to apply for permanent residence:

- Family-based
- Employer-based
- Self-petition

For more information on Columbia's permanent residence policy, please refer to our website.



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Questions and Answers



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