



An O-1 visa is approved for a maximum of three years for a specific performance, film shoot or tour. Extensions for continuing or completing the same activity must be requested on a new Form I-129 and may be approved in one-year increments.

O-2

For essential support personnel (including performers) accompanying the O-1 performer of extraordinary ability or achievement

You qualify for an O-2 visa if you do not have a lead, starring or critical creative role but are nonetheless an integral part of the performance, motion picture or television production. The O-2 person(s) are "essential support personnel" of the O-1 alien performer. While this seems the same as described for an O-1, the "extraordinary ability" is less stringent. For the O-2 you must submit documented evidence demonstrating that you possess "critical skills and experience" based on a **long-standing working relationship with the O-1 artist** and/or perform an essential role that cannot be readily performed by other persons.

TIP

Because the criteria are so strict for O-1, if there are aliens accompanying the O-1, from the petitioner's standpoint it is easier, more efficient and safer to put all other personnel on an O-2 petition.

Personnel accompanying performers on an O-2 classification include accompanying musicians, backstage assistants, stage technicians, lighting and sound engineers and others who may not qualify for O-1 visas individually.

The O-2 petition must be a **separate petition** from the one used to request the O-1 visa, and must be submitted to the USINS in conjunction with the O-1 visa petition.

The duration of the O-2 visa will be the same as the accompanying O-1, up to a maximum of three years for the event, specific performance, film shoot or tour. Extensions for continuing or completing the same activity must be requested on a new Form I-129 and may be approved in one-year increments.

P-1

Members of an internationally recognized entertainment group
(music ensembles, dance and theatre companies, circus troupes)

The definition of an "internationally recognized entertainment group" is similar to that for an O-1 (extraordinary ability/distinction), but even more stringent. It is the reputation of the group (musical ensemble, dance or theatre company or circus) that must be demonstrated, not the individual achievements of its members. The group must be acclaimed in more than its home country.

A group can demonstrate *international recognition* with at least three of the following:

1. significant award(s), prize(s), recordings, videos, films;
2. has achieved recognition outside its home country;
3. has performed and will perform in venues and events having a distinguished reputation;
4. has received international recognition from critics, governments, organizations;
5. has commanded, or now commands, a high salary or other substantial remuneration for services in relation to others in the field.