

O-1 *Individual Artist or Entertainer with a Demonstrated Record of Extraordinary Ability or Achievement*

You qualify for an O-1 visa if you have received or been nominated for a significant national or international award such as an Academy Award, an Emmy, a Grammy or a Directors Guild Award, or if you have documented evidence (critical reviews, publication releases, playbills, contracts, etc.) of at least three of the following accomplishments. You have:

1. performed, or will perform, a lead or starring role in a production or event having a distinguished reputation;
2. achieved national or international recognition;
3. performed a lead, starring or critical role for organizations that have a distinguished reputation;
4. achieved major commercial or critical success;
5. received significant recognition for achievements from organizations, critics, government agencies or other recognized experts in the field; or
6. commanded, or now command, a high salary or other substantial remuneration for services in relation to others in the field.

Note that O-1 visas are not only for principal creators and performers, but also for other essential persons who have significant creative input or responsibilities, such as directors; set, lighting and sound designers; choreographers; choreologists; conductors; orchestrators; musical language or other coaches; arrangers; musical supervisors; costume designers; make-up artists; and animal trainers.

An O-1 visa is approved for up to 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 I-129 Form and may be approved in one-year increments.

Moreover, there is a special exception for work involving motion picture or television production, where significant production work (including pre- and post-production) is both inside and outside the United States.