

The O-1B visa is for Individuals with an extraordinary ability in the arts or extraordinary achievement in the motion picture or television industry. O-1 petitions may only be filed by a U.S. employer, a U.S. agent, or a foreign employer through a U.S. agent on behalf of the beneficiary. O-1 visas will be granted for the length of time necessary for a particular event, up to a maximum of 3 years, with unlimited extensions in 1-year increments. If your spouse and children under the age of 21 will accompany you or join you later (called “following to join”), they may be eligible to apply for an O-3 nonimmigrant visa that will be subject to the same period of admission and limitations as you. They may not work in the United States under this classification, but they may participate in full-time or part-time study on an O-3 visa.

To qualify for O-1B visa, the applicant can prove distinction by being the nominee or recipient of an important national or international prize such as an Academy Award or Emmy Award, or by submitting documentation of at least three of the following:

- Performed and will perform services as a lead or starring participant in productions or events which have a distinguished reputation as evidenced by critical reviews, advertisements, publicity releases, publications, contracts, or endorsements
- Achieved national or international recognition for achievements, as shown by critical reviews or other published materials by or about the beneficiary in major newspapers, trade journals, magazines, or other publications
- Performed and will perform in a lead, starring, or critical role for organizations and establishments that have a distinguished reputation as evidenced by articles in newspapers, trade journals, publications, or testimonials.
- A record of major commercial or critically acclaimed successes, as shown by such indicators as title, rating or standing in the field, box office receipts, motion picture or television ratings and other occupational achievements reported in trade journals, major newspapers, or other publications
- Received significant recognition for achievements from organizations, critics, government agencies or other recognized experts in the field in

**which the beneficiary is engaged, with the testimonials clearly indicating the author's authority, expertise, and knowledge of the beneficiary's achievements**

- **A high salary or other substantial remuneration for services in relation to others in the field, as shown by contracts or other reliable evidence.**

**If the above standards do not readily apply to the beneficiary's occupation in the arts, the petitioner may submit comparable evidence to establish eligibility (this exception does not apply to the motion picture or television industry).**