Documents required in Support of O-1 Petition

Written Advisory Opinion Requirement

As required by 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(o)(5), consultation regarding the nature of the work to be done and the alien’s qualifications with an appropriate U.S. peer group.

- Please provide letters written in support of the O-1 Petition by experts in your field, all of which attest to your extraordinary ability in the field of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Evidence that you are recognized as an alien of extraordinary ability in the field of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Please provide evidence that you meet at least three or more of the following criteria:

- Documentation of the beneficiary's receipt of nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor;
  
  - Prizes and Awards » Receipt of major prizes or awards for outstanding achievement in the academic field. » Relevant considerations include the criteria, number of awardees, and limits on competition (such as whether limited to employees of only one institution). » Documentation should include a copy of the prize or award and a translation of the document, if it is not written in English. » An expert letter can explain the significance of awards; a letter should explain the criteria for the award or prize and the significance of the award/prize on a national or international level.
  
  - Grants » Include competitive grants of high amounts or major grant awards which indicate outstanding work; many are based on prior outstanding achievements and are carefully peer-reviewed. » Relevant considerations include the criteria, number of awardees, and limits on competition (such as whether limited to employees of only one institution) » An expert letter can explain the significance of grants; a letter should explain the criteria for the grant and the significance of the grant on a national or international level.
  
  - Other Considerations » Student prizes, awards, and fellowships do not meet this criterion: teaching assistant awards, dean’s list, elected student leader positions,
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examination scores, travel grants, and even research grants are not acceptable evidence. » USCIS reads “major” to mean “international”

- **Documentation of the beneficiary’s membership in associations in the field for which classification is sought, which require outstanding achievements of their members, as judged by recognized national or international experts in their disciplines or fields;**
  
  - Memberships in associations in the academic field that require outstanding achievements of their members, requires nomination or election and/or are extremely restrictive in their membership requirements. » Documentation should include proof of membership in the form of a membership card, proof of payment or dues, etc. » Evidence must include the criteria for membership and/or the steps that must be taken to become a member, and. » Include statistics on membership; the total number of members of each association, the number of applicants, etc.

  - Other Considerations » Professional associations in which membership is granted for the payment of a membership fee are not acceptable evidence » Membership requirements based on employment or activity in a given field, minimum education or experience, standardized test scores, grade point average, recommendations by colleagues or current members, or payment of dues do not satisfy this criterion.

- **Published material in professional or major trade publications or major media about the beneficiary, relating to the beneficiary’s work in the field for which classification is sought, which must include the title, date, and author of such published material, and any necessary translation;**
  
  - Evidence Sub-Categories and Criteria » Include organized list of publications and copies. » Documentation should include the date and author of such published material and any necessary translations.

  - Reviews of the beneficiary’s work » Publications reviewing the work of the beneficiary in detail.

  - Research continuing from (or inspired by) the beneficiary’s work » Research that directly uses technology or theories developed by the beneficiary.
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- Other Considerations » Establish the publications’ circulation, intended audience, and show title, author, and date » Standard academic citations (especially passing citations) do not suffice

- Evidence of the beneficiary's participation on a panel, or individually, as a judge of the work of others in the same or in an allied field of specialization for which classification is sought;
  - Evidence Sub-Categories and Criteria » Participation on a panel or individually as a judge of the work of others in the same or allied field. » Documentation must include a complete list of all journals, conferences, etc. for which you have participated in a reviewer role.
  - Journal Review » Documentation may include review articles written by the beneficiary and published in professional journals » Documentation should include evidence that the beneficiary completed the requested task; letters of invitation may not be sufficient to demonstrate that the beneficiary agreed and completed the task. » Include proof that the review was actually completed, not just the invitation
  - Editorial Board » Letters from journal editorial review boards acknowledging that you have served as a reviewer of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals
  - Conference Panel » Conference panels or conference organizing committees (reviewing submissions/proposals) » Documentation should include letters of invitation and conference programs with your name and role highlighted.
  - Other Committees » Letters or other written documentation attesting that you have served as a judge of a scientific competition » Letters from universities attesting that you have served on dissertation or thesis committees
  - Other Considerations » Reviewing once or twice might not pass the final merits determination.
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- Evidence of the beneficiary’s original scientific, scholarly, or business-related contributions of major significance in the field;
  - Proof of participation in professional conferences and meetings » Copies of the conference agenda or program with alien’s name and contribution. » Must include a complete list of all participation in professional conferences and meetings. » Include evidence that demonstrates the importance of each conference and/or the prestigious nature of the conference.
  - Approved patents may serve as evidence of original scientific research » Patents should be considered evidence of an original contribution, but may not be very helpful at Step 2 unless widely used » Include a copy of the approved patent » Include testimony or other evidence that the patent is used and/or demonstrates the importance of the patent
  - Footnoted acknowledgment of data from the beneficiary’s publications » Citations and footnotes from the beneficiary’s publications. Must include citation report from an online source (GoogleScholar, SciFinder, or the Web of Science) » Citation record can help USCIS understand that the field has acknowledged the research detailed in the article and perhaps elevate it to an original research contribution

- Evidence of the beneficiary’s authorship of scholarly articles in the field, in professional journals, or other major media;
  - Evidence Sub-Categories and Examples » Evidence of scholarly books or articles, in scholarly journals with international circulation in the academic field » Must include a complete list of all publications to date.
  - Books » Books you have authored and published. » Include copies of the cover page of each book, with English translations as appropriate » Include copy of book cover and title page » Include any additional information about the circulation of the book
  - Book Chapters » Book chapters you have authored and published. » Include copies of the cover page of each article, book chapter or book, with English translations as appropriate.
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- Journal Articles » Journal articles you have authored and published. » Include copies of the cover page of each article, with English translations as appropriate, with your name highlighted. » ISI ranks journals, and many journals rank most downloaded articles » In cases where you are not the primary author of articles, provide documentation in the form of a letter(s) from the primary author(s) that advises whether your involvement in the article(s) included any notable function within either the research or writing teams (leadership, control, design, etc.).

- Other Considerations » Establish that circulation is international and intended audience (often journals’ websites provide such data) Expert opinion letters can discuss significance of publications

- Evidence that the beneficiary has been employed in a critical or essential capacity for organizations and establishments that have a distinguished reputation; or

- Some examples would include a senior faculty or senior research position for a distinguished academic department or program, a senior research position for a distinguished non-academic institution or company, a principal or named investigator for a department, institution, or business that received a merit-based government award, such as an academic research or Small Business Innovation Research, a member of a key committee within a distinguished organization, a founder or co-founder of, or contributor of intellectual property to, a startup business that has a distinguished reputation, or a critical or essential supporting role for a distinguished organization or a distinguished division of an institution or company, as explained in detail by the director or a principal investigator of the relevant organization or division.

- Evidence that the beneficiary has either commanded a high salary or will command a high salary or other remuneration for services, as evidenced by contracts or other reliable evidence.