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## About O-1 Extraordinary Ability

The O-1 visa is a nonimmigrant employment-based visa classification for individuals of extraordinary ability in sciences, education, business, arts or athletics; or individuals of extraordinary achievement in the motion picture and televisions industries. The O-1 application requires a preponderance of evidence that the individual has extraordinary ability. The evidence submitted must demonstrate that the individual is one of a small percentage who have risen to the very top of the field of endeavor.

At Yale, O-1 sponsorship is for a full-time salaried Yale employee with an academic faculty appointment of Associate Research Scientist or higher, with at least 3 years of funding. Yale affiliates who can demonstrate sustained **extraordinary** national or international acclaim and recognition for achievements in their field can request O-1 sponsorship from OISS. OISS will review how well the individual's achievements meet the USCIS criteria and decide whether Yale sponsorship is possible.

If approved for O-1 sponsorship, the process requires the employer to file a 'Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker' (Form I-129), along with all the supporting documentation that the individual meets the O-1 eligibility criteria. In many cases even if the O-1 application is approved, the individual must travel home, get the O-1 visa, and return to the U.S. before being able to work in O-1 status.

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## Two General Categories of O-1

- For sciences, education, business and athletes
- For the arts and performing arts

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## Qualifications

- Evidence that the applicant is recognized nationally or internationally as extraordinary in their academic field. This evidence must consist of at [least three categories of achievements](#) [1]. In addition each piece of evidence must be accompanied by supporting explanations from independent objective sources.
- Evidence that the employment requires the skills of someone with 'extraordinary ability' as detailed in a faculty support letter and peer group letters.

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**Source URL:** <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/o-1-extraordinary-ability-overview>

### Links

[1] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/other-visa-options/o-1/o-1-eligibility-criteria>