

EB-1B Outstanding Researcher or Professor

Experience of finance assistant professor, 2025

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General advice

Who should read this slide



- If you are from any other country except India and China, you don't need to apply for EB1
- You should apply for EB2 which is very straight forward for professors
- US has per country cap for permanent residency visa and it affects larger countries such as India and China. For them EB2 has longer queue and they need to apply for EB1.



- **Do nothing** about this.
- Focus on your PhD, do not worry about immigration.
- Do your best to land a job at a good school.

- Many news sites, Reddit threads, immigration websites, and attorneys are incentivized to heighten your stress.
- There are also many people (think asylum seekers and refugees) who are in a much worse place and who post on those sites.
- The best thing you could do is to **stay calm and be optimistic.**

PS: I was stressed; that didn't help at all :)



It's a long process



- You need **three years experience** to apply for EB1-B
- Most schools would likely apply for you in 4th or 5th year
- **Only your school could apply for EB1-B**, you could apply for EB1-A but that's much harder to get approved.



- Once you apply for any EBs, you get a priority date. The priority dates stay with you for future applications.
- It is better to **apply EB2 early on, so you have a priority date.**
- Once you get EB1 approved, you could use the old priority date to file for permanent residency.

What should you do in those 3-4 years

As you would see in the criteria in next slide, you **should be doing those things as a professor anyhow.**

Knowing these criteria should nudge you to

- do more refereeing
- going more to international conferences
- connecting with international scholars



JUST
BE
YOU

Criteria for outstanding professors and researchers

1. Awards for outstanding achievement
2. Membership in associations which require outstanding achievement
3. Published material in professional publications
4. Judge of scholarly work
5. Research contributions to the field
6. Authorship of scholarly articles

You only need to satisfy **two criteria**. It is wise to claim 3-6; I claimed to satisfy 5 criteria. In each of them if you could show **international recognition** that's better.

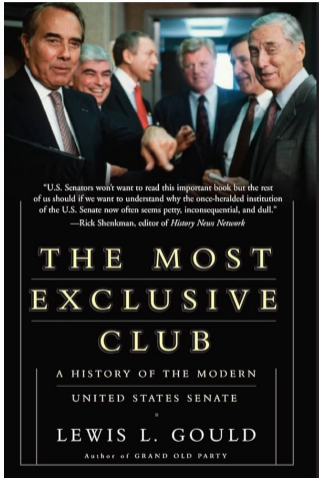
1. Awards for outstanding achievement

- Here you could mention if your paper got any prizes, or
- If your research got included in a grant etc.

My case: I got runner up and finalist prizes, I mentioned them. Most likely I would not have cleared the bar here.



2. Membership in associations



- Here you could talk about any membership that's hard to get - such as NBER, ECGI, etc.
- You cannot write AFA, FMA etc.

I didn't claim this one.

3. Published material in professional publications

Here you could mention:

- Media coverage such as Bloomberg, WSJ, also **law school blogs** such as Harvard Corp Gov etc.
- Citations by **international researchers** - you could show how people outside US are using your research.

My case: I research was featured in bloomberg, wsj, and other blogs around 25 times. I had a total of 136 citations, around 40 of them international



4. Judge of scholarly work



You could mention:

- Conference referee or discussant - you could **highlight international** conferences
- Journal referee work - you could highlight international journals
- Other places you have judged research such as PhD/ postdoc **symposiums at your school**
- If you have been part of PhD committee etc.

My case: Conference referee for 30 papers, discussant 4 times, journal referee for 15 papers, judge at university events.

5. Research contributions to the field

Here you could mention:

- If you have been conference committee member, session chair, discussant
- If schools have invited you for seminar - you could mention **seminars you gave during job market** as well
- If your papers have been part of conferences - do highlight international conferences.

My case: part of three conference committees, went to 8 schools, papers were in 25 conferences



6. Authorship of scholarly articles



You could mention:

- Your papers; **working papers on SSRN, NBER with citations are counted** as full papers
- You need 6-10 letters from professors; half of them needs to be outside US
- You need google scholar citations

This is likely **the most important criteria**, so if you feel you don't have enough papers or citation, better to wait a bit.

Reach out to professors for letters; most of them have already done that for others, so they will likely help you.

My case: 7 papers (2 of them were in journal); I got 4 US and 4 international letters.

Google scholar citations are important. I had 136 citations

- **Let your school's lawyer decide** whether you should file or wait for more citations.
- I think citations **above 40** should be good in finance or other social sciences.

What's next

- My school is asking me to wait more
You should wait a bit, especially if you have less citations.
- Should I hire a lawyer or use school's lawyer
Talk to seniors at your school to kind of see if the lawyers from the school are good. Many schools won't let you use outside lawyers.
- Should I file with premium processing?
Yes, that will make sure you get the results in 15 days, instead of 9-12 months.



Keep cheerful, keep working hard on your research.

- Wait for few years and you could ask your school to apply then
- You could apply yourself as EB-1A later on



Congrats

Congratulations, now you could file form I-485

- Schools usually won't help with this form
- **You could easily file this on your own.** You don't need a lawyer if you have a normal case.
- Look for videos that fill one item at a time, University of Georgia has a nice guide on checklist specific to EB-1B.
- I-485 will likely take 4-8 months to go through.

Good luck