

USC Permanent Residence Sponsorship Policy

The university actively sponsors faculty and staff for permanent residence where possible, where the hiring unit supports the process, and where the individual and the position qualify. All requests for USC sponsorship of permanent residence must go through the office of Faculty/Staff Visa Services (FSVS). The responsible department administrator and the individual should meet with the FSVS Director to discuss the specific situation and appropriate next steps. To make an appointment, call FSVS at 213-740-5257

Tenured, Tenure-Track and other Instructional Positions

USC will consider sponsoring tenured or tenure-track classroom and some (but not all) lecturer and clinical teaching positions for legal permanent residence sponsorship immediately upon job offer, where the hiring department supports the process. Other criteria include:

- 1) Must be employed at USC in H-1B, O-1, or other working nonimmigrant status allowing “dual intent” (not “single intent” status such as F-1, J-1, TN or OPT).
- 2) The department must be offering a full-time position.
- 3) If the position is grant-funded, the grant must **exceed** 4 years.
- 4) The individual must have no background issues that might disqualify her/him from admission as an immigrant (immigration violations, felonies, etc.).

Other Faculty and Staff

USC will consider sponsoring non-teaching Faculty (including Research Professors) and other Staff seeking USC sponsorship of permanent residence where the hiring department supports the process and the following criteria are met:

- 1) Must have been employed at USC for two (2) years in H-1B, O-1, or other working nonimmigrant status allowing “dual intent” (not “single intent” status such as F-1, J-1, TN or OPT).
- 2) The department must be offering a full-time position.
- 3) If the position is grant-funded, the grant must **exceed** 4 years.
- 4) The individual must have no background issues that might disqualify them from admission as an immigrant (immigration violations, felonies, etc.)

Please note: *Postdoctoral and Fellowship positions do not qualify for permanent residence sponsorship.*

IMPORTANT: The Role of Outside Attorneys and Self-Sponsorship

Outside attorneys are not authorized to prepare PERM Labor Certification, EB-1(2) Outstanding Professor/Researcher Petitions, EB-2 Petitions (based on PERM), or any other type of permanent residence application or petition requiring USC to sponsor the individual.

However, individuals may decide to pursue self-sponsored permanent residence petitions such as EB-1(1) or EB-2 “National Interest Waiver” case independently of the university’s assistance. To that end, FSVS is happy to provide information on working with U.S. immigration attorneys to get the best result.

Signatures at the department and school level on these petitions/applications are not authorized by the university, and will cause the government to deny such requests. If the university becomes aware that an unauthorized petition/application is pending, we reserve the right to withdraw it.