



McCandlish Holton
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Outstanding Researcher/Professor

This petition requires employer sponsorship. It is available for universities and for private employers who wish to sponsor outstanding researchers.

Requirements:

- § The first requirement is that the position with a private employer or university must be “permanent” which, in reference to a research position, means either tenured, tenure-track, or for a term of indefinite duration, and in which the employee will ordinarily have an expectation of continued employment unless there is good cause for termination.
- § Second, a petition for an outstanding professor or researcher must be accompanied by evidence that the professor or researcher is recognized internationally as outstanding in the academic field specified in the petition. Such evidence shall consist of at least two of the following:
 - § Documentation of the alien’s receipt of major prizes or awards for outstanding achievement in the academic field;
 - § Documentation of the alien’s membership in associations in the academic field which require outstanding achievements of their members;
 - § Published material in professional publications written by others about the alien’s work in the academic field. Such material shall include the title, date, and author of the material, and any necessary translation;
 - § Evidence of the alien’s participation, either individually or on a panel, as the judge of the work of others in the same or an allied academic field;
 - § Evidence of the alien’s original scientific or scholarly research contributions to the academic field; or

- § Evidence of the alien's authorship of scholarly books or articles (in scholarly journals with international circulation) in the academic field.
- § In addition, there must be evidence that researcher/professor has ***at least three years of experience in teaching and/or research in the academic field***. Experience in teaching or research while working on an advanced degree will only be acceptable if the alien acquired the degree, and if the teaching duties were such that the alien had full responsibility for the class taught or if the research conducted toward the degree has been recognized within the academic field as outstanding. ***Evidence of teaching and/or research experience must be in the form of letter(s) from current or former employer(s) and must include the name, address, and title of the writer, and a specific description of the duties the alien performed.***
- § The employer must submit evidence that the organization has the ability to pay the wage. That is, if the employment is contingent on the receipt of a grant not yet received, or the renewal of a grant soon to expire, the petition will have difficulty. The University generally submits a statement regarding the ability to pay the wage and the source of the wage.
- § If the position is with a private, non-academic employer, the employer must have at least three persons full-time in research positions, and must have achieved documented accomplishments in the field.

Unlike individuals of extraordinary ability, an "outstanding professor or researcher" applicant ***must have a job offer***, but there is no requirement for the prolonged Labor Certification process. Accordingly, permanent residence for an outstanding researcher or ***professor can be obtained reasonably quickly***.