

Guidelines Regarding Sponsorship for U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident Status

Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) authorizes a foreign national to live and work in the U.S. indefinitely. All LPR petitions sponsored by George Mason University are managed by the Office of International Programs & Services (OIPS) and processed by one of the Attorney General's approved immigration attorneys. GMU sponsors EB-1(B) category petitions for Outstanding Professors and Researchers and EB-2 category petitions for teaching faculty within 18 months of initial offer of hire (Special Recruitment Labor Certification). There are other employment-based petitions that allow an individual to self-petition. With regard to these cases, the foreign national may choose to submit a petition on his/her own behalf and/or with the assistance of an attorney, without any employer sponsor. Typical time for someone to receive LPR is about 12-18 months, but can be longer depending on the category of sponsorship and the employee's country of origin.

EB-1(B): Outstanding researchers and professors. This category is appropriate for those who are internationally recognized, have a minimum of three years of experience, and have been offered a tenure-track faculty position or permanent post PhD research position. No labor certification is required

EB-2 PERM (Program Electronic Review Management system) Special Handling: Tenure-track teaching faculty may be eligible for a simplified labor certification process ("Special Handling") if the recruitment process meets Department of Labor requirements and the labor certification can be submitted within 18 months of the initial offer of employment (signing of the contract).