XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE



CORPORATE MOBILITY | UNITED STATES

USA O1 Entrepreneur Visa

No cap, no lottery, no USD 100,000 payment and no per-country queue. For a genuinely strong record, O-1A is now the cleanest fast route into the United States.

TIMELINE

3 months (XIPHIAS average)

XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC
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At a glance

COUNTRY **United States**	ROUTE **Corporate Mobility**
TIMELINE **3 months (XIPHIAS average)**	COMPANY STRUCTURE **Sponsorship or agent-based**
OWNERSHIP **No investment required**	OFFICE **U.S. sponsor or company contract needed**
VISA QUOTA **Unlimited — no annual cap**	BANK ACCOUNT **N/A**
LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**	

Overview

The **USA O1 Entrepreneur Visa** is designed for **exceptional entrepreneurs, founders, and professionals** with extraordinary ability in business, science, arts, or technology. It allows you to **live and work in the U.S. without investment or lottery**, supported by a U.S. sponsor or agent. With strong recognition through awards, media, or expert achievements, O1 visa holders can also **transition to a Green Card** under the **EB1A category**.

Filing fees

Item	Fee
Form I-129 petition, O classification (1 to 25 beneficiaries)	USD 1,055
Asylum Program Fee	USD 600 (USD 300 small employer, nil nonprofit)
Premium processing (optional)	USD 2,965, response within 15 business days

O-1A has no annual cap, no lottery, no wage-weighted selection and no USD 100,000 proclamation payment. A US employer or agent must file the petition. State Department visa fees are paid separately at the consular stage.

Key benefits

- No lottery or quota — O1 visas accepted year-round.
- Ideal for entrepreneurs, founders, artists, and innovators.
- No minimum investment required.
- Can work for multiple employers through a US agent, or for a company you founded.
- Pathway to U.S. Green Card under EB1A category.

Requirements

- Valid U.S. sponsor, agent, or employment contract.
- Proof of extraordinary achievements or recognition in your field.
- Evidence meeting at least three O1 eligibility criteria.
- Valid passport and supporting documentation.
- Ongoing employment or projects in your area of expertise.

When this route may not fit

- No verified achievements or recognition in your field.
- No U.S. sponsor or work offer.
- Incomplete supporting documentation.
- Failure to demonstrate sustained national or international acclaim.

O1 Visa Sponsorship Requirements

- Must show national or international recognition for achievements.
- Requires a valid U.S. employer, agent, or sponsor.
- Strong evidence such as awards, publications, or media coverage boosts approval chances.

How the process works

1. **Eligibility Assessment**
   Evaluate achievements and confirm O1 visa eligibility.
2. **Document Preparation**
   Collect awards, media, recommendation letters, and credentials.
3. **Secure U.S. Sponsorship**
   Obtain a valid U.S. offer or contract from an employer or agent.
4. **File Form I-129**
   Submit petition with evidence of extraordinary ability to USCIS.
5. **Visa Interview**
   Attend consular interview and provide supporting documentation.
6. **Visa Approval**
   Begin work or project in the U.S. under O1 status.

Post-Approval Steps for O1 Visa Holders

- Start working or performing under your approved U.S. sponsor or agent.
- Renew or extend your O1 visa annually to continue work eligibility.
- Keep records of ongoing achievements, publications, and contracts.

- Apply for O3 visas for your spouse and dependent children.
- Consider applying for a Green Card under the EB1A category when eligible.

Questions clients ask

Who can apply for an O1 visa?

Individuals with extraordinary ability in business, science, arts, education, or athletics who are recognized nationally or internationally.

How long is the O1 visa valid?

Initially valid up to 3 years, extendable in 1-year increments.

Is a U.S. sponsor required?

Yes, a U.S. employer, agent, or organization must file your petition.

Can O1 visa holders apply for a Green Card?

Yes, through the EB1A category for extraordinary ability professionals.

Is there an annual cap for O1 visas?

No, there is no quota — petitions are accepted year-round.

Important notes

- O-1A is the route least affected by the 2025 and 2026 restrictions: no annual cap, no lottery, no wage-weighted selection, no USD 100,000 proclamation payment, and no per-country backlog.
- It is a temporary visa, not a green card. It buys you time and presence, and it pairs naturally with an EB-1A or EB-1B petition later.
- The evidentiary bar is real. An employer or agent must file the petition — you cannot self-petition an O-1A.
- The detailed O-1 criteria are set out in 8 CFR 214.2(o). XIPHIAS assesses your record against the current criteria before any petition is filed.

Compliance

- For applicants with extraordinary ability or achievement in science, art, education, business or athletics. A US employer or agent must file an approved petition with USCIS.
- Filing fee: Form I-129 for O classification is USD 1,055 for 1 to 25 beneficiaries, plus the Asylum Program Fee of USD 600 (USD 300 small employer, nil nonprofit).
- Premium processing is available at USD 2,965 with a 15 business day response (fee effective 1 March 2026).
- State Department visa fees, including any reciprocity-based issuance fee for your nationality, are paid at the consular stage.
- No annual cap applies, so there is no registration window to wait for.

Official sources: US Department of State — temporary worker visas; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations — 8 CFR 106.2 (USCIS fee schedule); Federal Register — Adjustment to Premium Processing Fees (effective 1 March 2026).



NEXT STEP

Plan your United States application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **USA O1 Entrepreneur Visa** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

This brochure is produced from the programme information published at www.xiphiasimmigration.ae/corporate/usa/o1-entrepreneur-visa as at 1 October 2026. Rules, fees and processing times are set by the relevant government and can change, and approval is always the authority's decision. Please confirm the current position with us before you apply. XIPHIAS provides immigration consulting and documentation support. It is not a law firm, and nothing in this brochure is legal advice.