

Do you qualify for an “Einstein” Green Card?

Synopsis

You must be able to demonstrate “sustained national or international acclaim” in your field. You do that through one of the two ways. First, either you must have received a one-time national or internationally recognized award. Second, if you do not have such an award, alternatively, you must pass two tests: quantitative and qualitative.



Rajiv Khanna
*Managing Attorney,
Immigration.Com,
Contributor Content*

Khanna is a member of the Virginia and D.C. Bars and the principal of the Law Offices of Rajiv S. Khanna, PC. Since 1993, he has focused his and the firm's practice on employment and business-based immigration and related administrative and federal audits, investigations and litigation. The firm represents individuals and businesses from every major city in the US and internationally.

The most prestigious **green card** category in the USA is reserved for people who possess extraordinary ability in any of the following fields:

- Science
- Arts
- Education
- Business
- Athletics

This category, dubbed “Einstein Visa” by the media, came into focus during the Trump presidency when Melania was alleged to have obtained this visa undeservedly. The Washington Post headlined and noted:

“Questions linger about how Melania Trump, a Slovenian model, scored ‘the Einstein visa’”

[her] credentials included runway shows in Europe, a Camel cigarette billboard ad in Times Square and — in her biggest job at the time — a spot in the swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated, which featured her on the beach in a string bikini, hugging a six-foot inflatable whale.”

Also Read: [Will your B-1 B-2 visas get canceled at the airport?](#)

Melania's credentials aside, if you qualify, you could be placed in the fastest green card category in the USA; much faster than even the investment-based green cards that require almost \$1 Million or more. Further, this category does not require a job or a job offer in the USA. You need to prove only that you will continue to work in the area of your expertise; a burden that can usually be discharged by just a detailed statement from you.

Also Read: [Could multiple H-1B lottery petitions be filed for the same employee?](#)

Does that sound too good to be true? Read on.

You must be able to demonstrate “sustained national or international acclaim” in your field. You do that through one of the two ways.

First, either you must have received a one-time national or internationally recognized award (e.g., Pulitzer, Oscar, Olympic Medal).

Second, if you do not have such an award, alternatively, you must pass two tests: quantitative and qualitative.

At the quantitative level, you must meet at least 3 of the 10 criteria noted below:

- Evidence of receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence
- Evidence of your membership in associations in the field which demand outstanding achievement of their members
- Evidence of published material about you in professional or major trade publications or other major media
- Evidence that you have been asked to judge the work of others, either individually or on a panel
- Evidence of your original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business-related contributions of major significance to the field
- Evidence of your authorship of scholarly articles in professional or major trade publications or other major media
- Evidence that your work has been displayed at artistic exhibitions or showcases
- Evidence of your performance of a leading or critical role in distinguished organizations
- Evidence that you command a high salary or other significantly high remuneration in relation to others in the field
- Evidence of your commercial successes in the performing arts

At the qualitative level, once you have met three out of the above ten criteria, the USCIS analyzes the entire presented evidence. It must be satisfied that you appear to be one of the few who have risen to the top of your field, that is, approximately one of the top 10% in your field nationally or internationally.

Albeit, exceedingly advantageous, this is a difficult category under which to qualify. But if you meet the criteria, the world is your oyster.

If you have any other visa/immigration queries, write to us at nri.economictimes@gmail.com

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