



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
FOUNDED 1830

TO:
FROM: Nancy Colón
International Taxation Specialist
DATE:
RE: Explanation of the P-1 Visa

The P categories, P-1, P-2 and P-3, are non immigrant visa options for those foreign nationals who will be coming to the US to perform in athletics or entertainment.

To Explain:

1. The P-1 visa is suitable for:
 - a. Internationally recognized athletes or athletic teams entering the U.S. to participate in an event of international standing
 - b. Entertainers and entertainment companies recognized internationally as outstanding to tour the U.S. or participate in events
 - c. Distinguished circus artists who wish to work in the U.S.
 - d. Support personnel of P-1 visa holders
 - e. U.S. agents and companies to bring athletes, athletic teams and their support personnel to participate in events of international standing
 - f. U.S. agents and companies to bring in entertainers and entertainment companies recognized internationally as outstanding to tour the U.S. or participate in events
2. P Visa Categories:
 - a. P-1: Internationally recognized athlete (individual or team) or entertainer (individual or group)
 - b. P-2: Artists or entertainers who will perform under a reciprocal exchange program
 - c. P-3: Artists or entertainers who will perform under a program that is culturally unique
 - d. P-4: A spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21. P-4 visa holders are not allowed to work, but may attend schools or colleges. Servants of a P-1 visa holder may receive a B-1 visa with work authorization.
3. A maximum of 25,000 P-1 visas are issued annually.

*Office of International Taxation
Room G-13
Maryland Hall
University of Richmond
Tel: 804-287-6007
Fax: 804-287-6080
Email: ncolon@richmond.edu*

4. Outstanding athletes may apply for this visa in order to compete in the U.S., either as individuals or as members of an internationally recognized athletic team.
 - a. USCIS has defined “international recognition” as having a high level of achievement in a field evidenced by a degree of skill and recognition substantially above that ordinarily encountered, to the extent that such achievement is renowned, leading, or well-known in more than one country.
 - b. The event the athlete is coming to the US to participate in must have a distinguished reputation and must require the participation of athletes and teams of international recognition.

5. Entertainment groups with an outstanding international reputation can be granted P-1 classification as a unit; however individual entertainers within these groups cannot apply for separate visas.
 - a. The group must be internationally recognized as outstanding in their area, and have a sustained period of achievement no less than one year.
 - b. Additionally, a minimum of 75% of the group’s individual members must have a substantial relationship to the group, generally satisfied by at least one year of membership.
 - c. Internationally recognized means having a high level of achievement in a field evidenced by a degree of skill and recognition substantially above that ordinarily encountered, to the extent that such achievement is renowned, leading, or well known in more than one country. The definition is similar to that of O-1, but more stringent. The reputation of the group, not the individual achievements its members nor the acclaim of a particular production, is paramount.
 - d. To establish international recognition, a petitioner may rely either on documentation of a major, one-time achievement by the group, such as the nomination for, or receipt of, a significant international award or prize, or at least three of the following:
 - i. Has and will perform as leading/starring group in productions/events with distinguished reputations
 - ii. International recognition/acclaim for outstanding achievements
 - iii. Has and will perform as leading/starring group for organizations with distinguished reputations
 - iv. Record of major commercial/critically acclaimed success
 - v. Significant recognition from organizations, critics, governments, other recognized experts
 - vi. Commanded/will command high salary/other substantial remuneration relative to others similarly situated

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