H-1B- Specialty Occupation Category

H-1B Information

- The H-1B Specialty Category is only intended for paid positions of a specialty nature (individual must have a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in the field the job is in)
- UML must pay prevailing wage for the position as determined by the Department of Labor.
- This is the visa category most used for long-term faculty positions or tenure-track positions.
- The maximum amount of time on H-1B status is six years (with a maximum initial period of three).
- Concurrent employment is permitted; each employer must apply for a separate H-1B petition.
- Dual intent is allowed in H-1B status (i.e., person can intend to immigrate to US).
- H-4 Dependents are not permitted to apply for work authorization.
- There are significant employer fees associated with the H-1B Application Process (including the attorney fees – approximately up to $3,500 paid by employer).
- The H-1B applicant coordinates with their UMass Lowell department and an immigration attorney recommended by the International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO) in the preparation of an H-1B petition. The petition is submitted to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services for approval. Processing can take from 6-12 weeks. All H-1B petitions must be reviewed and approved by the ISSO.

Grace Period

Please note that as of January 2017, H-1B visa holders will have a 60-day grace period if their H-1B employment is terminated. This grace period can be used to find a new employer, change visa status or depart the US to avoid being considered “out of status”

Contact the International Students & Scholars Office at isso@uml.edu for additional information on the internal UMass Lowell process.