O-1 Category – Scholars of Extraordinary Ability or Achievement

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1271.html#1

- **O-1 category** requires considerable documentation and is best reserved for the most highly qualified professors, researchers, and artists with a high level of expertise (i.e., top in their field).
- The level of paperwork required for this category is similar to the permanent residency application.
- O-1 permits concurrent employment, but each employer must apply for a separate petition.
- O-1 can be granted for a maximum initial period of three years, with one-year extensions possible indefinitely.
- Dependents (O-3 visa holders) are not permitted to apply for work authorization.
- There are significant employer fees associated with the O-1 Application Process (including the attorney fees – approximately up to $3,500 paid by employer).
- The O-1 applicant coordinates with their UMass Lowell department and an immigration attorney recommended by the International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO) in the preparation of an O-1 petition. The petition is submitted to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services for approval. Processing can take from 6-12 weeks. **All** O-1 petitions must be reviewed and approved by the ISSO.

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