

RUTGERS GLOBAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DECEMBER 14, 2020

Q: When processing an H1-B we normally have to take the paper work to Lorraine. Due to Covid-19 how has this changed?

A: The H1B process went online effective in August, so the application will be submitted to my office through a system called Sunapsis. We have and will be offering Sunapsis training for anyone who will be tasked with submitting H1B applications to our office.

Q: For a new TT Assistant Professor who needs Permanent Resident sponsorship, we were previously advised that the PR sponsorship process should be initiated 6 months after the hire date. Has the recommendation from your office now changed to starting the PR sponsorship process 3 months from the faculty member's start date?

A: We would recommend initiating within 3 months of the start date. Because the 18-month clock starts from the date the selection is made and we know that sometimes offers are extended a few months before the actual start date, it is best to start early.

Q: Do the schools/units have to sponsor the Permanent Resident or can the faculty member self-sponsor?

A: It all depends. If the pathway is PERM or Outstanding Prof or Researcher then the faculty must be sponsored by Rutgers. They can self-sponsor under categories which do not require employer-sponsorship. They would work directly with an immigration attorney and pay any fees. In the interest of time, we excluded the self-sponsorship categories from the presentation. If a school has a faculty member who is interested in self-sponsorship, the best place to start for the faculty member is to consult with an external immigration attorney to explore the following self-sponsorship/family-sponsorship options:

- Extraordinary Ability - <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-first-preference-eb-1>
- National Interest Waiver - <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-second-preference-eb-2>
- Family Sponsorship (via Immediate Relative)

These options may not be well-suited for all faculty (as they generally require a certain level of research, publications, etc. or the faculty member may not have a qualifying U.S. relative). However, it never hurts to investigate.

Q: Please to confirm that all of the RBHS schools/units should be moving all applications through Lorraine, correct? Lorraine mentioned the new Sunapsis system, could you review this system.

A: YES for J-1 and H-1B only for now. Karl and I handle all PR cases. I will mention the Sunapsis process, which makes the J-1 and H-1B processes paperless.

Q: Can you type in the website address in the chat box?

A: <https://global.rutgers.edu/all-alerts>

Q: Given the travel proclamations, can we still sponsor foreign nationals for J-1 Research Scholar from Eastern European countries or from UK at this time?

A: Fortunately, the present proclamation banning the issuance of visas does not restrict the issuance of visas for the J1 categories that Rutgers sponsors.