

Adjusting Status to become a U.S. permanent resident?



1. Your relative or employer files an immigrant petition for you.



2. Determine your petition type:

a. Visas for **immediate relative petitions** (spouses of U.S. citizens, unmarried children under 21 of U.S. citizens, parents of U.S. Citizens) are unlimited and always available. You may file your Form I-485 at the same time your U.S. citizen relative files a Form I-130.

b. Visas for **family-sponsored and employment-based preference petitions** are limited. You will need to consult the U.S. Department of State (DOS) Visa Bulletin to see if you can file your Form I-485. In order to use the Visa Bulletin, you will need to know your **priority date**.

go forward



3. What's my priority Date?

This is the date your relative or employer filed an immigrant petition on your behalf.

or

The date the Department of Labor accepts a labor certification for processing (when applicable).



4. Find out if you can file your I-485: **Check the DOS Visa Bulletin.**

It will explain whether you should use the **Application Final Action Dates** chart or **Dates for Filing Visa Applications** chart to determine when you can file.

1.

Find your visa type in the first column (on the left) of the appropriate chart (Family-sponsored, Employment-based, or Diversity Visa).

2.

Stay in that row and move directly to the right to find the corresponding date under the country of your birth (as listed in the boldface columns across the top).

3.

If the date on the chart is current ("C") or your priority date is earlier than the date on the chart, you may file your adjustment of status application, if otherwise eligible to do so.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Visit the USCIS

"When to File Your Adjustment of Status" page. USCIS will also post the correct chart on this page.