

USCIS Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)



U.S. Citizenship
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USCIS Announces Final Phase of Premium Processing Expansion for EB-1 and EB-2 Form I-140 Petitions and Future Expansion for F-1 Students Seeking OPT and Certain Student and Exchange Visitors

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is implementing the final phase of the premium processing expansion for [Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Workers](#), under the EB-1 and EB-2 classifications.

Unlike previous phases of the expansion, this phase applies to new (initial) petitions, in addition to all previously filed Form I-140 petitions under an E13 multinational executive and manager classification or E21 classification as a member of professions with advanced degrees or exceptional ability seeking a national interest waiver (NIW).

Petitioners who wish to request premium processing must file [Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service](#).

Beginning Jan. 30, 2023, we will accept Form I-907 requests for:

- All pending E13 multinational executive and manager petitions and E21 NIW petitions; and
- All initial E13 multinational executive and manager petitions and E21 NIW petitions.

As [previously announced](#), we are expanding premium processing to additional form types as part of our efforts to increase efficiency and reduce burdens to the overall legal immigration system. In March, we will expand premium processing to certain [F-1 students seeking Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#) and F-1 students seeking [STEM OPT extensions](#) who have a pending [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#). In April, we will expand premium processing to F-1 students seeking OPT and F-1 students seeking STEM OPT extensions who are filing an initial Form I-765. We will announce specific dates for each group in February.

As we implement the expansion of premium processing in a phased approach, we will continue working toward premium processing availability of [Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#). We anticipate expanding premium processing for certain student and exchange visitors with pending Form I-539 applications in May and certain student and exchange visitors who are filing initial Form I-539 applications in June. We will make an announcement when we are ready to implement these phases. We will also adhere to the legislative requirement that the expansion of premium processing does not result in an increase in processing times for immigration benefit requests not designated for premium processing or an increase in regular processing of immigration benefit requests so designated.

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