

# FAQ: My I-140 Petition is Approved. What's Next?

## Congratulations on the approval of your I-140 petition!

Earning approval of an employment-based immigrant petition from USCIS is a huge milestone. This document helps answer frequently asked questions about the next step in the green card process.

### 1. What happens after my I-140 is approved?

USCIS mails the I-140 Approval Notice (Form I-797) to your employer and attorney. It typically takes 1–3 weeks. We'll email you a courtesy copy to keep in your records.

Next, it is planning for the final step in your green card process—filing for permanent residence, through Adjustment of Status (AOS)(filing I-485 and related documents) or Consular Processing, if it was not done concurrently with the I-140.

The path and timing depend on various factors including strategy and your priority date. See more below.

### 2. How and when will I obtain permanent resident status?

- **If AOS was filed with your I-140 (concurrent filing):**  
USCIS will continue processing your AOS case. You'll get notices for **biometrics** and then **work/travel documents** (I-765/I-131), if they were selected.  
→ ***Don't travel while your travel document is pending—doing so can cancel your AOS.***  
Eventually, you'll be scheduled for an **interview**, and then receive your green card.
- **If I-140 was filed alone (no AOS I-485 yet):**  
You must **wait for your priority date** to become current in the Visa Bulletin. This can take months or years, depending on your category and country. Once current, you can file I-485 (plus work/travel docs) for you and any dependents.  
→ [Check Visa Bulletin](#)  
→ [Which Chart to Use](#)
- **If Consular Processing was selected** (which is uncommon but needed for some cases)  
USCIS will forward your case to the **National Visa Center (NVC)**, who will contact you to

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begin the visa process. You'll complete forms, pay fees, attend an **interview at a U.S. consulate**, and then enter the U.S. with an immigrant visa. Once admitted, USCIS will mail your green card.

### 3. How do priority dates work?

Your **Priority Date (PD)** is:

- For PERM cases: the ETA-9089 filing date
- For NIW or EB-1: the I-140 filing date
- The PD must be **“current”** in the Visa Bulletin or you to file your I-485. Delays (backlogs) can happen based on category and country of birth.
- **Common Categories & PD Notes:**
  - **EB-1 (Extraordinary Ability / Multinational Manager)** – PD is usually current, but not always
  - **EB-2 (Advanced Degree / NIW)** – Often backlogged for India/China
  - **EB-3 (Professional/Skilled Workers)** – Typically backlogged

### 4. What are my responsibilities to stay legal and work authorized? ?

- **Keep your approval notices safe** – they're extremely difficult to replace
- **Notify USCIS of address changes** within 10 days: [Change Address Online](#)
- **Keep your passport valid** – check with your country's consulate for renewal timelines
- **Maintain your status and track your status expiration** – the I-140 approval does not provide work authorization or the right to stay in the U.S. You must maintain an underlying work visa (e.g., H-1B, O-1, L-1) and are responsible for tracking your status validity. Notify your employer and attorney at least 6 months before it ends to allow time for planning and action.
- **Report job changes** – if your role, location, or terms change, let your attorney and employer know right away. It may require updated filings.

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### [Additional Resources](#)

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