

# H-1B Lottery Not Selected: Your Strategic Path Forward

Missing the H-1B lottery can feel like a setback, but it is not the end of the road. Here is a path forward to maintain status and prepare for future opportunities.

## PHASE 1: CONFIRM YOUR TIMELINE

Before choosing a path, confirm:



- When does the **current status or OPT expire?**
- Is the individual **eligible for STEM OPT?**
- Are there **dependent visa options** through a spouse?
- Does the employer have **offices abroad?**

Timing will help determine which options could work

## PHASE 2: EVALUATE YOUR OPTIONS



### Continue Working (Most Common)

STEM OPT

### Maintain Status Via Education

- F-1 Status including Curricular Practical Training (CPT)\*

\*Credible program and aligned with career.

### Family-Based Options

- H-4 (spouse of H-1B)
- L-2 (spouse of L-1)

### International Strategy

Work abroad → future L-1 or H-1B

### Additional Visa Options

(Less common but possible in certain cases)

Cap-Exempt H-1B • O-1 • L-1



### IMPORTANT TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

60-Day Grace Period to

- Change status
- Transfer schools
- Prepare to depart the U.S.

### KEY TAKEAWAY

With thoughtful planning, many professionals find alternative paths forward.



### FUTURE H-1B OPPORTUNITIES

Many professionals are selected after multiple attempts.

Maintaining lawful status helps keep the next opportunity open.

**Strategy. Patience. Resilience.**  
**That's how this season is navigated.**

This material is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Consult with a qualified immigration attorney for specific guidance.