



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

University Center for International Studies
University of Pittsburgh

EB-1B Recommendation Letter Guide for Scholars

You are required to secure a number of letters of recommendation from experts in your field to support your application for an EB1B permanent resident petition. Following are guidelines to be utilized as you gather these letters:

- You will determine how many letters to secure, but we would not want to submit the application with fewer than 3 or 4. Ideally, we would have 5 – 7.
- The accompanying “EB1B Recommendation Letter Template for Experts” should be given to each expert for their knowledge and assistance in writing the letter.
- If possible, at least one or two letters would be from experts in the field that do not personally know you but would know about your work. If that is not possible, the letters do at least need to come from people outside Pitt. (To be clear: We will submit letters from Pitt colleagues as well, but not ALL your recommendation letters should be from Pitt.)
- The letters should not all sound the same. It is preferable if the expert writes the letters themselves. If you choose to send the expert a draft for review and editing, please be sure to focus each letter on the specific factors that each expert knows best about you (i.e., if you’ve worked together on a project, make sure to focus on that research. The letter can/should also talk about your other accomplishments, but to the extent possible, the letters should be individualized. If you write the draft letters, do not use the same language in every letter.