

O-1 VISA QUICK-START GUIDE: 7 STEPS YOU CAN TAKE RIGHT NOW TO JUMPSTART YOUR AMERICAN DREAM

ACTION ITEM #7. WRITE SOME ARTICLES: "AUTHORSHIP OF 'SCHOLARLY ARTICLES' IN THE FIELD."



Yay. The last one! Also the shortest and the sweetest. This category requires "authorship of scholarly articles in professional journals or other major media in the field for which classification is sought."

- These articles have to be written or co-written by you. They have to show you as the author.
- They have to be on a topic in your field of endeavor.
- They actually have to be published, not just sitting in a drawer, preferably in "professional journals or other major media," the more technical and/or prestigious the better.

- USCIS likes articles that are "scholarly." This means that they're written by and for

experts. They cite references with sources. Ideally, they're peer-reviewed.

- There's no length requirement.
- The article copies need to be provenanced like other media items, showing the publication name, the country, the full article title, the publication date, the authors (including you), and a footer for online printouts showing the site name, URL, and print date.

For other, more academic O-1 disciplines, like professional scientists and researchers, this category's a really big deal. In those specialties, the "scholarly articles" category is actually THE major source of substantive evidence for the O-1 applicant. There are extensive requirements about the number of articles written, the prestige of the publications, the number of times the articles are cited, and the reach or influence of the research results reported in the articles.

That's really not the situation we're tackling here. It requires a completely different approach, and a different set of O-1 action items, than what you do if you're growing a business.

For founders, entrepreneurs, and other businesspeople who aren't trying to qualify in academic disciplines, USCIS is incredibly lenient and generous in what it allows as "scholarly articles."

Write some articles about technical topics in your field. Cite some references. Aim them at a professional audience of your peers. Get them published in the most prestigious, well-known publications possible. They don't have to be long. There are entire universes of articles published online about IT topics that would be perfect for this.

Write as many of these as you possibly can, collect them, and provenance them.

If you've also written other things in your field, like a blog or a popular column, include those things too.

Whatever you do, if it's properly documented and provenanced, it will count.

That's all there is to it. Action Item #7, Write Some Articles.

And guess what? YOU'RE DONE. 7 huge action items for your successful O-1 petition. Do you feel extraordinary? You should. Congratulations!