

Immigration Law

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GET YOUR H-1B PETITIONS FILED BY APRIL 1, 2019!

The H-1B visa allows employers to hire foreign nationals to work in professional positions. There are 65,000 new U.S. visas available for employees with a bachelor's degree (or higher) and an additional 20,000 visas for employees with a master's degree (or higher). Since demand for these visas is so great, the Immigration Service uses a lottery system to allocate them. **This year, the Immigration Service is prioritizing H-1B petitions filed for individuals with a master's degree or higher, so the odds of being selected in the lottery are better for those employees who have a master's degree or higher.**

Employers must enter their employees into the H-1B lottery by April 1, 2019. Assuming the same demand as last year, the odds of being selected in the lottery this year are:

- 55% if you have a **master's degree** from a U.S. institution of higher education.
- 34% if you have **only a bachelor's degree** or foreign equivalent.

Filing for an H-1B visa first requires posting a specific notice on the employer's premises, followed by certification of a labor condition application by the Department of Labor, all before filing the petition to the Immigration Service.

Be sure to contact attorney Iosif Sorokin at isorokin@larsonking.com or 651-312-6500 if you have any questions about the information above. *This alert is for informational purposes only.*