How to Get UC Irvine School of Medicine Sponsorship for Permanent Resident Status

The Options for UC Irvine School of Medicine Scholars and Faculty

At UC Irvine, the campus Office of Academic Personnel represents the university in filing permanent resident applications on behalf of faculty members on a non-immigrant visa. Two most commonly used categories are “Outstanding Professors and Researchers” and “Labor Certification for Teaching Faculty” (Special Handling).

Outstanding Professors and Researchers

1. The professor or researcher must have at least 3 year years of teaching or research experience in an academic area;
2. A permanent*, full-time position (see who is eligible below);
3. Provide the evidence that the professor or researcher is recognized internationally as outstanding in their academic field: This evidence shall consist of at least two of the following:
   • Receipt of major prizes or awards for outstanding achievements in the academic field;
   • Membership in associations in the academic field which require outstanding achievements of their members;
   • Participation on a panel, or individually, as the judge of the work of others in the same or an allied academic field;
   • Published material in professional publications written by others about the individual's work in the academic field;
   • Authorship of scholarly books or articles, in scholarly journals with international circulation, in the academic field;
   • Original scientific or scholarly research contributions to the academic field.

Labor Certification for Teaching Faculty (Special Handling)

U.S. immigration law permits the University to obtain permanent residence for foreign nationals employed in full-time faculty teaching positions (tenure-track or tenured) via a process known as labor certification with special handling. This process requires only that the University demonstrate that the decision to hire the foreign national resulted from a full and fair recruitment process in which the foreign national was found to be the best qualified applicant for the position.

To be eligible for this type of petition, the following conditions must be met:

• Teaching must be a part of the foreign national’s job duties.
• Applications must be filed within 18 months of the date of selection. The Department of Labor will accept the date of the offer letter as the “selection” date.
• The employer must have conducted a competitive recruitment and selection process (i.e. national search), and be able to document and documentation must clearly show that the foreign national was the most qualified applicant.

Information for the Hiring Department

Who’s eligible*?

• Professor (Tenure-track) Series
• Clinical X Series (eg. Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics)
• In Residence Series (eg. Professor in Residence)
• Adjunct Series (eg. Assistant Adjunct Professor)
• Professional Research Series (eg. Assistant Research; Associate Research; Research)
• Health Sciences Clinical Series (with the exception of Instructor)

What requires for sponsoring a teaching or research faculty?

• The department or unit appointing the faculty member initiates and approves sponsorship and prepares a written letter of support that attests to having at least three years of funding in place for the sponsored position with the reasonable likelihood of continued funding including an account and fund number.
• The faculty member and the chair complete the Sponsorship Authorization Request Form for Regular Rank faculty (AP 85) http://www.ap.uci.edu/Forms/APforms/UCI-AP-85.doc or for Other than Regular Rank faculty (AP 86) http://www.ap.uci.edu/Forms/APforms/UCI-AP-86.doc.
• The department submits the letter, the AP 85 or AP 86 form, and the faculty member’s CV to the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
• The Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs reviews the application and, if approved, signs the AP 85 or AP 86 form and submits the entire application to campus Office of Academic Personnel.
• Campus Office of Academic Personnel reviews the application and, if approved, sends the application to the immigration attorney.