# H-1B Processing Timelines & Fees

**McCormick Customer Service Center**

## New H-1B’s:

H-1B Beneficiaries that are new to the H-1B visa status (change of status from an F-1 or J-1 visa), or out of the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Processing Time:</th>
<th>8 months, best case scenario</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All visa fees must be paid by PI and can only be billed to non-sponsored chartstrings.</td>
<td>$1675 for regular processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Premium Processing can be paid by the scholar in exceptional cases and with approval from the International Office</em></td>
<td>$2900 if PI pays for Premium Processing*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete description of timeline and fees, please see below:

- **2-3 weeks**: complete H-1B application at CSC, appointment approved by PI/Department/VPR/Dean, beneficiary turns in paperwork in timely manner, process USCIS fees with NU Financials
  - Note the responsiveness of H-1B Beneficiary and PI are critical in order to meet this 2-3 week timeline
- **3 months**: application at International Office, Prevailing Wage submitted to US Department of Labor (DOL) to ensure salary meets the DOL’s standards
  - Note the application can take up to 60 days at the Department of Labor alone. Northwestern does **not** have control over this stage of the process and cannot apply any sort of expedited processing.
  - COSTS at NU International Office:
    - $850 upon receipt of application
- **3-4 months**: application at USCIS for Approval Notice, which is what a new H-1B needs to work at NU.
  - This is the portion of the application where the H-1B beneficiary should **not** travel out of the U.S.
  - COSTS at USCIS:
    - Application fee for all H-1B applicants: $325
    - Fraud Fee for those new to the H-1B visa status: $500
    - *Premium Processing at an additional $1225 will cut this portion of the timeline down from 3-4 months to 2-3 weeks, making the total process 5 months.*
      - The Premium Processing fee is paid by the PI. It can only be paid by the scholar if there are extenuating circumstances and it must be approved by the International office.

## Extension/Amendments:

H-1B Beneficiaries that already have an H-1B visa and are extending and/or amending their status for an appointment. NOTE “amendments” include changes to title, salary, site of activity and job description.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Processing Time:</th>
<th>5 months, best case scenario</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs:</strong></td>
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<td>All visa fees must be paid by PI and can only be billed to non-sponsored chartstrings</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2400 if PI pays for Premium Processing*</td>
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For a complete description of timeline and fees, please see below:

- **2-3 weeks**: complete H-1B application at CSC, appointment approved by PI/Department/VPR/Dean, beneficiary turns in paperwork in timely manner, process USCIS fees with NU Financials
  - Note the responsiveness of H-1B Beneficiary and PI are critical in order to meet this 2-3 week timeline
- **3 months**: application at International Office, Prevailing Wage submitted to US Department of Labor (DOL) to ensure salary meets the DOL’s standards
  - Note the application can take up to 60 days at the Department of Labor alone. Northwestern does **not** have control over this stage of the process and cannot apply any sort of expedited processing.
  - COSTS at NU International Office:
    - $850 upon receipt of application
- **2-3 weeks**: application at USCIS for Receipt Notice, which is what an H-1B Extension/Amendment needs to work at NU.
  - This is the portion of the application where the H-1B beneficiary should **not** travel out of the U.S.
  - COSTS at USCIS:
    - Application fee for all H-1B applicants: $325
**Change of Employer:**

H-1B Beneficiaries that already have an H-1B visa through their current U.S. employer and are transferring to Northwestern

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For a complete description of timeline and fees, please see below:

- **2-3 weeks:** complete H-1B application at CSC, appointment approved by PI/Dept/VPR/Dean, beneficiary turns in paperwork in timely manner, process USCIS fees with NU Financials
  - Note the responsiveness of H-1B Beneficiary and PI are critical in order to meet this 2-3 week timeline
- **3 months:** application at International Office, Prevailing Wage submitted to US Department of Labor (DOL) to ensure salary meets the DOL’s standards
  - Note the application can take up to 60 days at the Department of Labor alone. Northwestern does not have control over this stage of the process and cannot apply any sort of expedited processing.
  - COSTS at NU International Office:
    - $850 upon receipt of application
- **2-3 weeks:** application at USCIS for Receipt Notice, which is what an H-1B Change of Employer needs to work at NU.
  - This is the portion of the application where the H-1B beneficiary should not travel out of the U.S.
  - COSTS at USCIS:
    - Application fee for all H-1B applicants: $325
    - Fraud Fee for Change of Employer applicants: $500
    - *Premium Processing at an additional $1225 ensures the beneficiary will receive their Receipt and Approval Notice in 2-3 weeks.
      - The Premium Processing fee is paid by the PI. It can only be paid by the scholar if there are extenuating circumstances and it must be approved by the International Office