



**Time as a  
Permanent  
Resident**



**Continuous Residence**

# REQUIREMENTS

**TYPE OF APPLICANT**

**If you are at least 18 years old and:**

Served on a vessel operated by the United States  
**or**

**If you:**

Served on a vessel registered in the United States and owned by U.S. citizens or a U.S. corporation.

5 years

5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer.

***NOTE:** If you were out of the country while serving on a vessel, this time out of the country does not break your continuous residence. It is treated just like time spent in the United States.*

**If you are at least 18 years old and:**

Are an employee or an individual under contract to the U.S. Government.

5 years

5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer.

***NOTE:** An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will break your continuous residence. You may keep your continuous residence if you have had at least 1 year of unbroken continuous residence since becoming a Permanent Resident and you get an approved Form N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.*

**If you are at least 18 years old and:**

Are a person who performs ministerial or priestly functions for a religious denomination or an interdenominational organization with a valid presence in the United States.

5 years

5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer.

***NOTE:** An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will break your continuous residence. You may keep your continuous residence if you have had at least 1 year of unbroken continuous residence since becoming a Permanent Resident and you get an approved Form N-470 at any time before applying for naturalization.*

**If you are at least 18 years old and:**

Are employed by one of the following:

- An American institution of research recognized by the Attorney General;
- An American-owned firm or corporation engaged in the development of foreign trade and commerce for the United States; or
- A public international organization of which the United States is a member by law or treaty (if the employment began after you became a Permanent Resident).

5 years

5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer.

***NOTE:** An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will break your continuous residence. You may keep your continuous residence if you have had at least 1 year of unbroken continuous residence since becoming a Permanent Resident and you get an approved Form N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.*

**If you are at least 18 years old and:**

Have been employed for 5 years or more by a U.S. nonprofit organization that principally promotes the interests of the United States abroad through the communications media.

5 years

Not Required

**If you are at least 18 years old and:**

Are the spouse of a U.S. citizen who is one of the following:

- A member of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- An employee or an individual under contract to the U.S. Government;
- An employee of an American institution of research recognized by the Attorney General;
- An employee of an American-owned firm or corporation engaged in the development of foreign trade and commerce for the United States;
- An employee of a public international organization of which the United States is a member by law or treaty; or
- A person who performs ministerial or priestly functions for a religious denomination or an interdenominational organization with a valid presence in the United States

You must be a Permanent Resident at the time of your USCIS interview.

Not Required

**and** You will be proceeding to join your spouse whose work abroad under orders of the qualifying employer will continue for at least 1 year after the date you will be naturalized. Form N-400 should be filed prior to departing.

**Where to go for more information.**

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