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The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has the following policies and practices in place with regards to requests for H-1B visas.

We will support H-1B status for an alien who has been offered a full-time temporary position as a faculty member, research or other professional staff (<http://adminrecords.ucsd.edu/ppm/docs/200-16.html>) which is critical to our academic or research mission. A job offer of three or more years is required.

The H1-B visa classification is appropriate for an academic appointee who has completed their postdoctoral work and is appointed to a full-time (100%) teaching and/or research position. Titles/series appropriate for sponsorship include:

- Professor
- Professor in Residence
- Adjunct Professor
- Project Scientist
- Associate or Full Specialists

The department will pursue the H1-B visa classification for qualified academics for the period of proposed employment for which funding is security when:

- The position is a tenure-track faculty position;
- The position is in direction support of an academic unit;
- The five-years eligibility for the J-1 visa has been exhausted and the temporary appointment is expected (and funded) to extend beyond that;
- The scholar is currently at another institution in H1-B status; or
- We can only sponsor those titles on PPM 200-16.

Please note that it is not appropriate for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry to seek H1-B visa status for Postdoctoral Scholars under these guidelines. Since University policy considers a Postdoctoral Scholar position to be a “training position” for a period of time up to five years, it is inappropriate to hire Scholars on a visa primarily reserved for appointees in career positions. The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry views the J visa as the visa of choice for Postdoctoral Scholar appointees.

It is also important to consider the Scholar’s eligibility for future employment positions. If the allowable five years of H1-B visa status expires prior to the Scholar having an opportunity to secure a research or teaching position, it is highly unlikely s/he will be able to meet the criteria required for Permanent Residence. It is increasingly important that we select the correct initial visa in order to provide the Scholars with the best opportunity and enough time to meet their career objective. Any request for an exception will require a strong endorsement for the International Center and be directed to Steve Ford for final approval.

To compare J-1 or H-1B visas, please refer to http://ifso.ucsd.edu/_files/ifso/j_h1bcomparison.pdf