

What is the NIW-EB2 Program?

- The EB-2 NIW is a USA visa under the Employment Category that allows a person to request permanent residency in the U.S. through a Green Card on the basis that the person will bring a benefit to the country. What's the benefit you can bring? Well...that you are a pilot! 😊
- There is a huge pilot shortage in the USA as many pilots took early retirement last year or switched careers due to Covid-19. Therefore, there is a strong argument for the national interest of the country for foreign pilots to come to America.
- The EB-2 National Interest Waiver (EB-2 NIW) program grants pilots with certain experience levels and academic backgrounds with the right to legal and permanent residence in the US through a Green Card!
- Many pilots have been successful in receiving the USA Green Card, and we want more pilots to know about this program to help our country with its pilot shortage!
- Foreign pilots can request for a USA Green Card without even needing a job offer in the US!

Am I eligible to apply?

- In order to qualify for the program, you must meet one of the below criteria:
 - Bachelor Degree in Aviation + 5 years of full-time experience as a pilot and/or instructor
 - Or, if you do not have a Bachelor Degree in Aviation, then we need to demonstrate that you have exceptional ability as a pilot/instructor.

How long does it take?

- Once the application is prepared and submitted to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, it takes approximately 10-18 months for decision to be made.

If it can take almost a year, will there still be jobs in the USA?

- Yes, yes, yes!!
- We attended the FAPA Pilot Career Fair recently and spoke with a few airlines, and they all confirmed they take USA Green Card holders!
- In fact, **we specifically asked airlines "if a pilot starts his NIW-EB2 USA green card process now and it took 24 months to obtain his/her USA Green Card, will there still be jobs with your airline?" Each airline answered, "definitely!"**

What is our prediction?

- Based on seminars, conversations, and industry conferences we are attending, we believe the USA pilot shortage is only going to get worse. That's why we believe USA pilot salaries will soon be the highest in the country and will continue to increase to help attract more and more foreign pilots from overseas.

How do I apply?

- If you meet the qualifications and/or have more questions, one option is to reach out to **Ms. Fernanda Cortes**. Her WhatsApp is +1-407-491-8200 and her email is fcortes@cortesimmigration.com
- She is an attorney in a law firm that specializes in getting USA Green Cards.

How much does it cost?

- The application for EB-2 NIW requires extensive documentation and preparation of a petition
- The cost for the whole process, which includes legal representation for approximately 2 years is US \$12,750
- Payment can be made in installments

How do I make payment?

- We are pleased to advise that Cortes Immigration will work with you to make a fair and simple payment plan.

What if I don't get approved?

- If you do not get approved the first time, then your application is prepared and submitted for a second time and there is no extra cost to you!
- Many people have been approved the second time!

I want to arrive in the USA earlier. Is this possible?

- Yes, it is, and this is called Adjustment of Status.
- An immigration lawyer, such as Ms. Fernanda Cortes, can tell you more about this, but in summary you would need to be able to come to the USA with a visa (example, a tourist visa or student visa. ESTA status does not count). After staying here for 90 days, you can then request adjustment of status for request for work and travel authorization while the process is pending. Due to Covid-19, current authorizations are taking around 6 months, but still much shorter than 10-18 months!

Do I need a job in the USA to get my USA Green Card?

- No, you do not!
- Once you have the USA Green Card, you can get a job or you can choose to simply live here.

How do I find a job in the USA after receiving the USA Green Card?

- FCI will be happy to help suggest and show you multiple job opportunities in the USA!
- Barring any unforeseen events, the demand for pilots in the USA will stay very high for the next 5-10 years.

Are there nationality restrictions?

- There are no nationality restrictions, but given the popularity of moving to the USA by Indian and Chinese nationals, there is a maximum limit on how many USA Green Cards will be issued to Indian and Chinese nationals per year. Therefore, there is currently a waitlist for these two countries only.
- If you get approved for a USA Green Card, then your wait time to enter into the country if you are Indian and Chinese are as follows:
 - China: approximately 3 years
 - India: approximately 10 years