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Securing your Green Card with Peer Review

Green Card applications are made easier with Publons, says a computational materials scientist at the University of Florida. Arthur Wallace* recently secured his Green Card for the United States of America by proving he's an individual with extraordinary ability. He tells us what was involved, how he went about it, and offers tips on boosting your Green Card application with peer review.

Can you tell us what was involved in your Green Card application?

Sure - I needed permanent residency in the USA and so I applied for the Alien with Extraordinary Ability (EB-1A) Green Card. This category has the highest standards of judgment. It meant the application material had to be prepared very carefully and include strong evidence to back it up. The application itself has several components and I was required to demonstrate my credentials in three out of ten categories. I picked and provided evidence for: original scientific contributions of major significance in the field; authorship of scholarly articles; and judging others' work in my field. Publons does an excellent job in verifying and recording peer review, and I found it very helpful in providing sufficient evidence in that third category.

How exactly did you use Publons to provide evidence of this?

I have used Publons for a while now and already added all my reviews to the database. This made things easy: I just downloaded my Verifiable Review Record with the most detailed settings. This gave me a list of all the journals I've reviewed for as well as various statistics on my reviewing habits. I also used the Institution Leaderboard to show that I was one of the top reviewers at my university.

What else was involved in the application process?

I had to fill out a form provided on the immigration services website, write a profile document, and request some recommendation letters from experts in my field. My profile document was about 30 pages long and went into more detail about the three categories I'd chosen.

We have used a pseudonym for the subject of this case study so as not to compromise any sensitive information for US Visa requirements.
United States Flag Photo by Robert Claypool, https://flic.kr/p/d2Vr6J

I outlined my research and the impact it's had on the field, including who's cited it and what it has been used for. I also highlighted the information on my Verifiable Review Record. Adding to this, I noted the specific journals that consistently ask me to review, and details about a conference that I had reviewed for. I gave all this information to the people writing my recommendation letters - three of whom used it to address the high quality and quantity of my reviewing contributions.

Do you have any advice for researchers applying for this same Green Card?

My advice would be to open a Publons account and utilise the valuable information on there. Managing my reviewing contributions has been easy ever since I created an account - it's all in one place. This makes it easier for the person judging your Green Card application, too. They can see what you're doing and analyse the different categories and metrics showing how you compare with others in your field and institution. The average length of your reviews is a good statistic to show, for example. People who are really serious about showing

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their peer review activity in the Green Card application could also make their reviews public (where possible). That's an additional step to show the quality of your reviews.

> *"People who are really serious about showing their peer review activity in the Green Card application could also make their reviews public"*

Have you used your peer review activity for any other applications recently?

I have - in a funding application a few months ago. I wrote a proposal for computational resources and secured around 750,000 compute units from a National Science Foundation-supported platform called XSEDE. This was a very specific funding application but, similar to my Green Card application, I supplied them with my profile identification number. It is also good to include the Publons profile ID on your CV. That potentially makes it convenient for any prospective job employer.

If you have a story you want to share with the Publons community like this, we'd love to hear from you. Email: tom@publons.com

#	INSTITUTION	REVIEWERS	REVIEWS ▼	MERIT	OPENNESS	TOP PUBLONS REVIEWER
1	The University of Queensland	376	5,481	17,217	1.4%	Neal M. Ashkanasy
2	Lund University	117	5,431	16,251	0.4%	Jonas Ranstam
3	Universidade de Lisboa	158	3,646	11,922	3.6%	Mário Costa
4	University College London	261	3,267	10,602	4.8%	Axel Petzold
5	Sapienza University of Rome	181	2,914	8,480	1.1%	Marco Rossi
6	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) The ...	124	2,713	9,456	16.3%	Alessia Paglialonga
7	The University of Melbourne	209	2,682	7,994	0.9%	Nathan Lawrentschuk
8	University of Sydney	192	2,502	7,606	0.7%	Henry Woo
9	CNRS	93	2,494	7,532	0.9%	Michel Thiebaut de Schotten
10	CSIC - Spanish National Research Council	75	2,346	7,336	2.4%	Oscar Gordo
11	University of Cambridge	174	2,344	7,320	4.8%	Fei Jin
12	Columbia University	93	2,227	9,064	17.8%	Gaetano Santulli
13	Universidade de Aveiro	99	2,209	7,049	0.8%	Robert C Pullar
14	Imperial College London	119	2,105	8,338	12.5%	George K. Nikas
15	Monash University	187	1,988	5,878	1.4%	Shibo Kuang

Image: Current leader board for institutions on Publons.com