



Time as
Permanent
Resident



Continuous Residence

REQUIREMENTS

TYPE OF APPLICANT

<p>If you:</p> <p>Have been a Permanent Resident for the past 5 years and have no special circumstances</p> <p><i>Note: Over 90% of applicants fall into this category.</i></p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Are currently married to and living with a U.S. citizen AND Have been married to and living with that same U.S. citizen for the past 3 years AND Your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for the past 3 years</p>	<p>3 years</p>	<p>3 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Are in the U.S. Armed Forces (or will be filing your application within 6 months of an honorable discharge) AND Have served for at least 1 year</p>	<p>You must be a Permanent Resident on the day of your interview.</p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Were in the U.S. Armed Forces for less than 1 year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>If you:</p> <p>Were in the U.S. Armed Forces for 1 year or more, but you were discharged more than 6 months ago</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>Note: If you were out of the country as part of your service, this time out of the country does not break your "continuous residence." It is treated just like time spent in the United States.</i></p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Performed active duty military service during:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War I (November 11, 1916-April 6, 1917); • World War II (September 1, 1939-December 31, 1946); • Korea (June 25, 1950-July 1, 1955); • Vietnam (February 28, 1961-October 15, 1978); • Persian Gulf (August 2, 1990-April 11, 1991); or • On or after September 11, 2001. 	<p>You are not required to be a Permanent Resident. <i>Note: If you did not enlist or reenlist in the United States or its outlying possessions, you must be a Permanent Resident on the day you file your application.</i></p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Were married to a U.S. citizen who died during a period of honorable active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces</p> <p><i>Note: You must have been married to and living with your U.S. citizen spouse at the time of his/her death.</i></p>	<p>You must be a Permanent Resident on the day of your interview.</p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Are a U.S. national (a non-citizen who owes permanent allegiance to the United States) AND Have become a resident of any State AND Are otherwise qualified for naturalization</p>	<p>You are not required to be a Permanent Resident.</p>	<p>The same requirements as any other applicant for naturalization, depending on your qualifications. <i>Note: Any time you resided in American Samoa or Swains Island counts the same as the time you resided within a State of the United States.</i></p>

Where to go for more information

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Physical Presence in the United States

Time in District or State

Good Moral Character

English & Civics Knowledge

Attachment to the Constitution

	30 months	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	18 months	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	30 months <i>Note: Time in the U.S. Armed Forces counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you were.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	The same requirements as any other applicant for naturalization, depending on your qualifications. <i>Note: Any time you resided in American Samoa or Swains Island counts the same as the time you resided within a State of the United States.</i>	3 months or not required, depending on your qualifications.	Required	Required	Required

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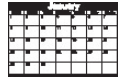
TYPE OF APPLICANT

<p>If you: 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.</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p>If you: Are an employee or an individual under contract to the U.S. Government</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>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 N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.</i></p>
<p>If you: 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</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>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 N-470 at any time before applying for naturalization.</i></p>
<p>If you: 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)</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>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 N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.</i></p>
<p>If you: 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</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you: 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</p> <p>AND Your citizen spouse is working abroad under an employment contract with the qualifying employer for at least 1 year and will continue to be so employed at the time you are naturalized.</p>	<p>You must be a Permanent Resident at the time of your CIS interview</p>	<p>Not Required</p>

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	30 months <i>Note: Time served on the vessel counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you were.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	30 months <i>Note: Time spent in this type of employment counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you are as long as you get an approved N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	30 months <i>Note: Time spent in this type of employment counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you are as long as you get an approved N-470 before you apply for naturalization.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	30 months	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	Not required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
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