Form I-90 is the backbone of the green card renewal and replacement process. Understanding it clearly—its cost, timeline, supporting forms, and common pitfalls—can save you time, money, and stress.

This guide breaks down every major part of **Form I-90** for permanent residents who want more than a quick overview. It is especially useful alongside Lunel Law's detailed **Green Card Renewal Timeline** article, which walks through the overall process step-by-step.

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At a Glance: What Form I-90 Does (and Does Not Do)

Form I-90, **Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card**, is used by lawful permanent residents and certain conditional residents to:

- Renew an expiring or expired 10-year green card
- Replace a card that is lost, stolen, damaged, or never received
- Correct errors or update biographic information (e.g., name change)

It does **not**:

- Remove conditions for 2-year conditional residents (that is Form I-751, not I-90)
- Grant permanent residence for the first time

- Apply for U.S. citizenship (that is Form N-400)

For readers still exploring how to get a green card in the first place, see Lunel Law's **"8 Ways to Get a U.S. Green Card"** and **Family-Based Green Cards Guide** for broader context on eligibility and categories.

Preview/Download I-90 Form from USCIS

Who Should Use Form I-90?

Typical situations where I-90 is appropriate:

- Your 10-year green card is expiring within 6 months or has already expired
- Your card was **lost, stolen, mutilated, or destroyed**
- Your card has incorrect data (e.g., USCIS error on your name or date of birth)
- Your name or other biographic information has legally changed
- You never received a card that USCIS says it mailed

Conditional residents (2-year cards) with expiring status need **Form I-751** instead, not I-90. That's a different

process—closer to a new petition than a simple renewal—and often overlaps with family-based issues addressed in Lunel Law's **Family-Based Immigration** practice.

I-90 Filing Fee in 2025: Online vs. Paper

As of 2025, the I-90 filing fees are:

Filing Method	Government Filing Fee	Biometrics Fee	Total
Online	415 USD	0	415
Paper	465 USD	0	465

USCIS reduced the cost of I-90 by **eliminating the separate biometrics fee** on April 1, 2024, and folding costs into the main filing fee. Previously, applicants paid a total of 540 USD (455 USD filing + 85 USD biometrics).

USCIS and multiple fee guidance summaries confirm:

- **Online I-90**: 415 USD
- **Paper I-90**: 465 USD
- **No separate biometrics fee** for most permanent resident card renewals and replacements

Read: Budgeting for Your Immigration Lawyer Fees and Other Expenses

Fee waivers are sometimes available (discussed below).

How Long Does I-90 Take in 2025?

Processing times for Form I-90 in 2025 typically range from **about 4 to 10 months**, depending on:

- USCIS service center workload
- Whether USCIS issues a Request for Evidence (RFE)
- Backlogs affecting overall USCIS caseload

Recent analyses of USCIS data and practitioner reports show:

- Significant backlog growth in 2024–2025, with many cases now taking well over 6 months
- Some straightforward online filings are still processed closer to the lower end of that 4–10-month window

For a step-by-step timeline, head to Lunel Law's **Green Card Renewal Timeline** guide, which already breaks these milestones down in detail.

Filing Options: Online vs. Paper I-90

Online I-90 Filing

To file online, applicants must:

- Create or sign in to a **USCIS online account**
- Select **Form I-90** from the available online forms
- Complete all sections, upload supporting documents, and pay via Pay.gov

Advantages:

- Lower fee (415 USD vs. 465 USD for paper)
- Quicker receipt notice generation and status updates
- Easy upload of supporting evidence and RFE responses

Paper I-90 Filing

Applicants can still download the fillable PDF, print, and mail it with:

- A check, money order, or **credit card authorization (Form G-1450)**
- Physical copies of supporting documents

USCIS requires paper I-90s to be filled out:

- In black ink,
- Legibly, and
- With every question, either answered, marked “N/A,” or “None” where appropriate.

Understanding the Structure of Form I-90 (Section-by-Section)

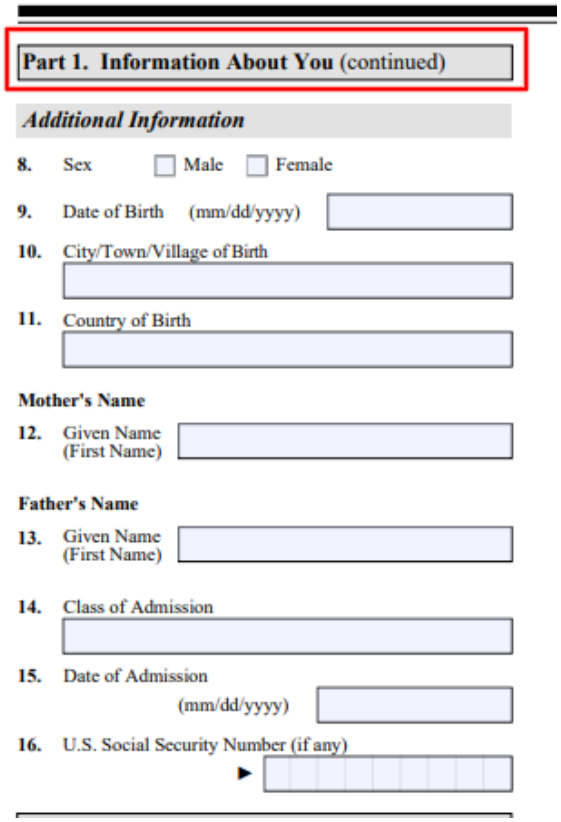
Although the form layout may change slightly between editions, it generally includes:

Part 1 – Information About You

Covers basic biographic details:

- Full legal name and any other names used
- USCIS A-Number, USCIS Online Account Number (if any)

- U.S. mailing address and physical address
- Date and country of birth, gender, and marital status



Part 1. Information About You (continued)

Additional Information

8. Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

9. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

10. City/Town/Village of Birth

11. Country of Birth

Mother's Name

12. Given Name (First Name)

Father's Name

13. Given Name (First Name)

14. Class of Admission

15. Date of Admission (mm/dd/yyyy)

16. U.S. Social Security Number (if any) ▶

Preview the complete form here

Good practice:
Make sure your **“class of admission”** (e.g., IR6, CR1, F2A) matches what appears under “Category” on your current green card. This is an area where many applicants make copying errors.

Lunel Law’s **IR6 Green Card Guide** is a good internal reference for spouses of U.S. citizens trying to understand their category and green card validity.

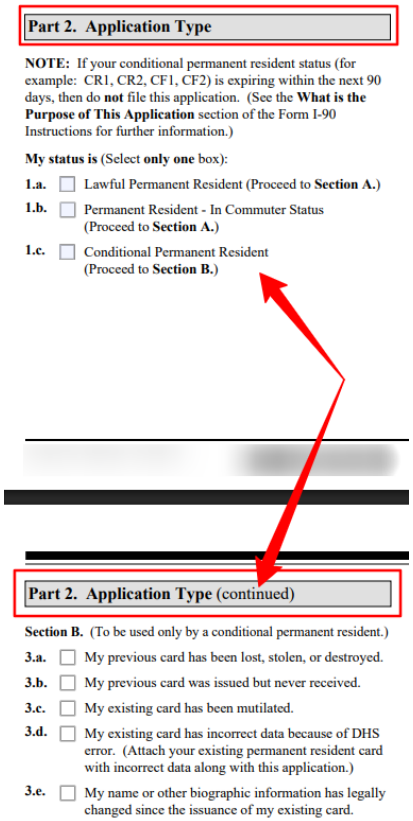
Part 2 – Application Type and Reason for Applying

This section determines:

- Whether you are renewing an expiring 10-year card
- Replacing a lost/stolen/destroyed card
- Correcting USCIS errors
- Updating information due to marriage, divorce, or legal name change

The checked box in this section impacts both:

- Your supporting documents; and
- Whether you owe a filing fee (e.g., USCIS errors or cards never received may be fee-exempt in some scenarios).



Part 2. Application Type

NOTE: If your conditional permanent resident status (for example: CR1, CR2, CF1, CF2) is expiring within the next 90 days, then do **not** file this application. (See the **What is the Purpose of This Application** section of the Form I-90 Instructions for further information.)

My status is (Select **only one** box):

1.a. ☐ Lawful Permanent Resident (Proceed to **Section A.**)

1.b. ☐ Permanent Resident - In Commuter Status (Proceed to **Section A.**)

1.c. ☐ Conditional Permanent Resident (Proceed to **Section B.**)

[redacted]

Part 2. Application Type (continued)

Section B. (To be used only by a conditional permanent resident.)

3.a. ☐ My previous card has been lost, stolen, or destroyed.

3.b. ☐ My previous card was issued but never received.

3.c. ☐ My existing card has been mutilated.

3.d. ☐ My existing card has incorrect data because of DHS error. (Attach your existing permanent resident card with incorrect data along with this application.)

3.e. ☐ My name or other biographic information has legally changed since the issuance of my existing card.

Preview the complete form here

Part 3 – Processing Information

USCIS asks about:

- Where you originally filed your green card application
- Where you were approved (USCIS office or consulate)
- Port of entry and intended residence at the time of admission

Part 3. Processing Information

1. Location where you applied for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status:

2. Location where your immigrant visa was issued or USCIS office where you were granted adjustment of status:

Complete **Item Numbers 3.a.** and **3.a1.** if you entered the United States with an immigrant visa. (If you were granted adjustment of status, proceed to **Item Number 4.**)

3.a. Destination in the United States at time of admission

3.a.1. Port-of-Entry where admitted to the United States: City or Town and State

4. Have you ever been in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings or ordered removed from the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Since you were granted permanent residence, have you ever filed Form I-407, Abandonment by Alien of Status as Lawful Permanent Resident, or otherwise been determined to have abandoned your status? ☐ Yes ☐ No

NOTE: If you answered **"Yes"** to **Item Numbers 4.** or **5.** above, provide a detailed explanation in the space provided in **Part 8. Additional Information**.

Preview the complete form here

Applications with missing or inconsistent processing information can trigger RFEs, slowing your case.

Parts 4–7 – Disability Accommodations, Applicant Statement, Contact Information, and Signature

Here you:

- Request disability accommodations, if needed
- Certify that the information is correct
- Provide your contact info
- Sign and date the form

If you use an **interpreter** or **preparer (such as an attorney)**, they must also complete and sign their dedicated sections.

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Part 8 – Additional Information

Space for explanations if:

- You run out of room in earlier parts
- You need to clarify complex history (multiple addresses, prior cards, etc.)

If more space is needed, USCIS instructions require:

- Separate sheets with your name and A-Number at the top
- Page, part, and item numbers for each extra answer
- Signature and date on each extra sheet.

Supporting Documents Commonly Required

While exact requirements vary depending on your reason for filing, typical supporting evidence includes:

- Copy of your current or expired green card
- Police or government report for lost/stolen cards (when available)

- Marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order for legal name changes
- Passport biographic page or national ID for identity confirmation
- Evidence of USCIS error (if requesting a correction)

USCIS policy updates emphasize that supporting documentation must now be filed **with** the I-90 rather than after the fact, especially for paper filings.

Other Forms Often Used with I-90

In addition to Form I-90 itself, many applicants will encounter:

- **Form G-1145 – E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance**
  To receive text/email alerts when USCIS accepts your I-90.
- **Form G-1450 – Authorization for Credit Card Transactions**
  For paying fees by credit card when filing a paper I-90.
- **Form I-912 – Request for Fee Waiver**
  For applicants who cannot afford the filing fee and qualify based on income, means-tested benefits, or financial hardship.
- **Form N-400 – Application for Naturalization**

For permanent residents transitioning from green cards to U.S. citizenship—optional instead of a new I-90 when your green card is close to expiring and you're eligible for citizenship.

Good Practices When Completing Form I-90

To avoid delays and denials:

- **Match your information** exactly to your existing green card and passport
- Use **N/A** for questions that do not apply and **"None"** for zero answers
- Keep copies of everything: form, supporting documents, and receipt notices
- Use the **online filing** option when possible to reduce mail delays and simplify evidence uploads
- Sign all required sections (applicant and preparer, if any)
- Organize supporting documents with clear labels (e.g., "Name Change – Marriage Certificate")

Common Mistakes to Avoid During the Naturalization Process

Common I-90 Mistakes That Cause Problems

Practitioners and USCIS guidance consistently flag these issues:

- Wrong form: conditional residents filing I-90 instead of I-751
- Missing fee or incorrect payment method
- No supporting documents for name changes, lost/stolen cards, or USCIS error claims
- Inconsistent personal history (addresses, dates) compared to prior filings
- Failure to respond to RFEs by the stated deadline

Serious errors or patterns may risk denials and, in some cases, can intersect with **removal proceedings**. When there are criminal records, prior immigration violations, or complex travel histories, it is wise to consult Lunel Law's **Removal Defense** practice for strategic advice.

What Happens After Filing I-90?

After USCIS receives your I-90:

1. **Receipt Notice (Form I-797C)**

Confirms your case was accepted and often extends your green card's validity **by 24 months** beyond the expiration date on the card when filed properly.

2. **Biometrics Appointment (if required)**
   USCIS may still schedule a biometrics appointment to take fingerprints and photos, even though there is no separate biometrics fee.
3. **Requests for Evidence (RFEs), if needed**
   USCIS will issue an RFE if documentation is missing or inconsistent; you must respond by the deadline.
4. **Decision Notice**
   Approval leads to a **new 10-year green card mailed to your address**, while denials will include reasons and any appeal or motion options.

If your case is badly delayed compared to posted processing times, Lunel Law can help through its **Cases Outside of Processing Times** service page.

Travel and Work While I-90 Is Pending

- **Work**: The combination of your expired (or soon-to-expire) green card and the I-90 receipt notice serves as continuing proof of permanent resident status for employment and I-9 purposes.
- **Travel**: Many airlines and CBP officers accept an expired 10-year green card plus the I-90 extension notice for reentry

to the U.S., though travel always carries some risk during pending cases.

For urgent travel or proof of status, applicants may request a temporary **I-551 (ADIT) stamp** at a USCIS office, which acts as a short-term green card in your passport. This concept is already explained in Lunel Law's **Green Card Renewal Timeline** article and can be cross-linked from this section.

FAQs About Form I-90

1. What is an I-90 form?

Form I-90 is the **Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card**. It is used by permanent residents to renew or replace their green cards, or correct information on them.

2. How much is the filing fee for I-90?

In 2025, the filing fees are:

- 415 USD for **online** filing
- 465 USD for **paper** filing

There is no separate biometrics fee for most I-90 cases.

3. How do I get my I-90 online?

You can:

- Create or log into a **USCIS online account**
- Select Form I-90 and follow step-by-step prompts
- Upload scans of required documents and pay via Pay.gov

4. Is I-90 the same as a green card?

No. The green card is your **physical proof** of permanent residence. Form I-90 is the **application** you file with USCIS to **renew, replace, or correct** that card.

5. What happens after I-90 is approved?

USCIS will:

- Issue an approval notice; and

- Mail a **new 10-year green card** to your address on file.

Your previous card (if still in your possession) becomes invalid, and you should use only the new card going forward.

6. Can I travel while my I-90 is pending?

Generally, yes, if:

- You are a permanent resident; and
- You carry your **expired or expiring green card + I-90 receipt notice** showing the automatic extension of validity.

For extended trips or complex histories, consult an immigration attorney.

7. Why was my I-90 denied?

Common reasons include:

- Filing the wrong form (e.g., using I-90 instead of I-751 for conditional residents)
- Missing or insufficient supporting documents
- Incorrect fees or unpaid fees

- Serious criminal or immigration history affecting eligibility

Denials are a strong signal to seek legal help.

8. Which comes first, biometrics or interview?

Most I-90 cases do **not involve an interview** at all. Typically:

1. USCIS issues your receipt notice.
2. If needed, a **biometrics appointment** is scheduled.
3. USCIS reviews your case and issues a decision.

Interviews are rare for straightforward renewals and more common where there are red flags or complex histories.

9. Is biometrics required for I-90?

USCIS has **eliminated the separate biometrics fee**, but may still require you to attend a biometrics appointment to capture fingerprints, photos, and signature for identity verification and background checks.

So biometrics **may** still occur, but you **no longer pay a separate biometrics fee** for most I-90 filings.

10. When can I apply for I-90?

USCIS guidance and practice allow:

- Filing **up to 6 months before** your 10-year green card expires.
- Filing **any time after expiration** if your card is already expired (though it's better not to wait).

If you are close to qualifying for naturalization, you may consider filing **Form N-400 instead of an I-90** and using the N-400 receipt plus your expired green card as proof of status.

11. How long is a green card valid?

Most standard permanent resident cards are valid for **10 years**, after which you must renew using Form I-90.

Some categories (like certain spouses of U.S. citizens) receive **2-year conditional green cards**, which require Form **I-751** to remove conditions rather than **I-90** at first renewal. Lunel Law's **IR6 Green Card Guide** explains a common 10-year category for spouses where conditions have already been removed.

When to Involve an Immigration Attorney

Form I-90 seems “simple,” but it touches on many deeper issues:

- Extended trips outside the U.S.
- Past criminal charges or immigration violations
- Lost or stolen cards paired with identity or fraud concerns
- Prior denials, RFEs, or removal proceedings

For these scenarios, trusted legal counsel can protect your status and minimize risk.

Lunel Law can help you:

- Select the right form (I-90 vs. I-751 vs. N-400)
- Prepare a clean, accurate, properly supported I-90
- Respond to RFEs or NOIDs
- Address overlap with family-based petitions, removal defense, or naturalization.

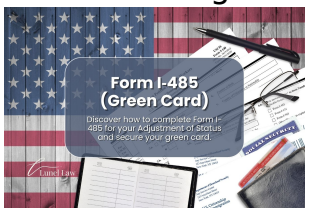
Form I-90 is more than just “paperwork”—it is the bridge between your existing status and secure proof of it. Approaching it with the right information and support can make the process smoother, safer, and more predictable.

Related Posts



[Understanding the Green Card Renewal Timeline (2026 Update)]

Citizenship Green Card
Staying on top of your green card renewal is essential for maintaining lawful U.S. permanent residency. This comprehensive, 2026-updated guide explains every step, recent changes, and key tips for smooth renewal. It also links to Lunel Law's trusted immigration services for personalized guidance. What Is a Green Card and Why […]



Form I-485 (Green Card): A Complete Step-by-Step Guide to Adjustment of Status

Citizenship Family Based Immigration Family Immigration Form Form I-485 Green Card Naturalization
Form I-485, officially called the Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, is the main form you use to apply for a green card from inside the United States. I-485 instructions (PDF) Adjustment of status overview. It's part of a process called "adjustment of status," which lets eligible people [...]



Understanding Form I-130A: A Complete Guide for Marriage-Based Green Cards (2026)

Citizenship Family Based Immigration Family Immigration Family Visa Green Card Naturalization
Form I-130A, officially the Supplemental Information for Spouse Beneficiary, is a key supporting form for U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents sponsoring their foreign spouse for a green card using Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. It provides USCIS with detailed biographic information about the spouse beneficiary, helping verify identity, background, [...]



8 Ways to Get a U.S. Green Card

Immigration Citizenship Visa Asylum Green Card Visa
Obtaining a U.S. green card is a dream for many who seek to live and work permanently in the United States. The green card offers lawful permanent resident status, which comes with many rights and opportunities. Here are eight pathways to secure your green card. 1. Family-Based Immigration One of [...]