

U.S. NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS®

N.I.V SYMBOL	TYPE OF VISA	BY WHOM USED	PARTICULAR CONDITIONS	PARTICULAR CONDITIONS
A 1, 2, 3	Diplomatic Visa	Members of foreign government, ministers, ambassadors, consuls, diplomats, and their immediate family.		Children of diplomats born in U.S. are LPR's unless they return to home country w/ parents.
B-1	Business Visa	Used for short-term trips to attend conferences, seminars, professional meetings, client negotiations. In certain cases, domestics of temporary workers or Permanent Residents who have resided outside the U.S.	Short-term stay (maximum 6 months). Unlawful to receive salary or to work locally while in the U.S.	Possible to change status or to extend temporary stay while in the U.S. USC & Foreign Nationals may use to bring domestic servants to U.S.
B-2	Tourist Visa	Tourist, short term visit.- 6 months maximum.	Unlawful to receive remuneration or to work while in U.S.	Possible to change status or to extend temporary stay while in the U.S.
VWPP- Visa Waiver Program	Special program for nationals of various countries.	Stay limited to 90 days. No requirement for formal visa application at U.S. Embassy overseas prior to beginning trip.	Unlawful to receive remuneration or to work while in the U.S.	No possibility of changing status or extending stay - unless medical emergency.
C	Transit Visa	For persons transiting U.S. soil only.	Need pre authorization from the airline company	No Adjustment, Employment or Extensions of Stay allowed.
D	Crewman Visa	Used for crewman (air, sea) to enter the U.S. in order to meet up with employer	Stay limited to time required to meet with employer, but not more than 29 days.	No Adjustment of Status allowed.
E-1	Treaty Trader	Used by individuals to conduct substantial international trade (+50%) with country of origin.	Applicant's country must have treaty with U.S.- Requires substantial trade. Usually valid for 5 years, renewable.	Employer specific - Spouse and children given derivative visas to remain in U.S. and study. Spouses MAY work in U.S.
E-2	Treaty Investor	Used by persons coming to U.S. to direct and develop a substantial and non-marginal investment., or by an Executive, manager or a worker with Essential Skills.	Same general conditions as E-1 visa. Requires Substantial, Active investment.	Employer Specific - Spouse and children are given derivative visa to remain in U.S. Spouses MAY work in U.S.
E-3	Australian Free Trade	Limited to Australians in a Professional or Specialty Occupation.	Same General Requirements as H1B Visa – Requires LCA to be filed by U.S. Employer	Valid for 2 years. Renewable. Spouses and children given derivative visas, but not work authorization.
F-1	Student Visa	For students coming to study in U.S. schools both elementary and/or university level.	For elementary level, may not study in U.S. public schools unless limited to 12 months total time, and must reimburse government for cost of education.	Spouse (or parents) may obtain F-2 or B2 visas and may obtain work authorization upon application w/ proof of economic need. Applicants may get Work Auth for 1 year upon graduation from College.

NONIMMIGRANT VISAS

CODE	VISA TYPE	BY WHOM USED	PARTICULAR CONDITIONS	PARTICULAR CONDITIONS
G	International Organization visa	For representatives of International Organizations.		Spouse may obtain G-4 derivative. May apply for work authorization upon application w/ economic need.
H-1B	Specialized Occupation visa	For persons in specialized occupations, models of international renown- Bachelor's degree or higher usually needed.	Valid for up to 6 years. 3 years initially with extension. Employment must be related to education.	Employer specific, but may change employers by filing new application.
H1B1	Chile/Singapore Free Trade	Limited to Chileans or Singaporeans only who are in a professional or specialty occupation.	Very similar to regular H1B visas. Typically requires University degree or equiv.	Valid for up to 18 months and renewable.
H-2B	Project Visa	Temporary worker needed to finalize a definite goal which has beginning and end.	Valid up to 3 years- Must be for temporary, seasonal, or 1 time need.	Employer specific- Must obtain Labor Certification from Dept of Labor first.
H-3	Trainee Visa	To come to U.S. for specific training which is not available in applicant's home country.	Internship must be clearly defined by employer. Internship must be in relation w/ worker's education	Employer specific. Valid for 24 months. No renewals.
I	Media Visa	For journalists, radio, television and other media professionals and their immediate family.	Valid for multiple entries and as long as project continues.	Employer Specific- Spouse may not work.
J-1	Exchange Visitor's visa, or those coming for graduate medical training.	Interns sponsored by companies which adhere to specific exchange program- Governed by USIA- Medical Graduates may remain during course of study.	More flexible than H3 visa. Governed by company and visa period is no more than 18 months (except medical graduates)	For medical graduates, law requires they return to country of origin for at least 2 years after study before getting green card or H visa.
K-1	Fiance/Fiancee of USC Visa	Fiance/Fiancee of U.S. Citizen	Marriage must take place, and adjustment of status application filed, within 90 days of arrival.	May file for work authorization upon arrival and prior to adjustment application.
K-2	Children of Fiance/Fiancée of USC	For the children of Fiance/Fiancee's of USC.	Fiance applications must have been previously filed with INS by USC	Allows children to arrive immediately in US. to await visas.
K-3	Spouse of U.S.C.	For spouses of USC married outside the U.S.	I-129 F & Immigrant Visa application must have been filed previously with INS by USC	Allows spouses to arrive immediately in US to await visas, rather than remain outside U.S.
K-4	Children of Spouse of USC	For Children of Spouse of USC in K-3 status	Same as for K-3	Same as for K-2

NONIMMIGRANT VISAS

CODE	TYPE DE VISA	BY WHOM USED	PARTICULAR CONDITIONS	PARTICULAR CONDITIONS
L-1A	Intra-Company transferee visa.	Used for Executives or Managers to come in an executive or managerial capacity from foreign company to U.S. subsidiary.	Applicant must have worked in foreign entity- in managerial or executive capacity at least 1 of last 3 years.	Employer specific. Stay valid for up to 7 years. Possibility of obtaining green card via preferential category. Spouses MAY work in U.S.
L-1B	Intra-company -Specialized Knowledge visa	For persons w/ specialized knowledge to come from foreign employer to U.S. entity. Not for managerial or executive level people	Must have worked in foreign entity 1 of last 3 years. Companies must be related.	Valid for up to 5 years. No possibility of obtaining green card via preference category. Requires Labor Certification Spouses MAY work in U.S.
M-1	Vocational school visa	For students of technical or vocational schools.	Same requirements as for F-1 visa.	Post graduate work authority limited to 6 months.
O-1	Extraordinary ability aliens	For persons deemed as extraordinary in arts, sciences, business, etc.	Valid for 3 years initially. Requires an advisory opinion regarding extraordinary ability	May be extended for 1 year periods or until project is finished. Spouses given 0-3 visa, but may not work.
P-1, 2, 3	Visa for musical groups, athletes, etc.	Used by athletes & musical groups performing and recognized at international level coming for tour or competition.	If musical group, must have existed for at least 1 year, and 75% of members must have formed part thereof for prior year.	Athletes may be admitted for up to 5 years. Extendable. Others are admitted for time necessary for performance.
Q	Inter-cultural exchange visa.	For persons coming to U.S. for temporary period to take part in international cultural affairs program designated by A.G.	Program must be designed to exhibit or explain customs, traditions of home country	Entry cannot exceed 15 months. Program must have interaction with U.S. public, i.e, public school, museum, etc
R	Religious worker visa.	For members of non-profit religious organizations coming to U.S. for exercise an activity related to such organization or denomination	Person must have been part of denomination or congregation for at least 2 years.	Valid initially for up to 3 years.
S-1	“Informant” Visa	For individuals who have information regarding criminal enterprises and whose presence is required for investigation.	Weight of evidence & necessity to investigation determined by AG in sole discretion	200 visas per year. Valid for up to 3 years. No Change of Status or extension. May adjust, but only if AG gives prior approval.
S-2	“Informant” Visa	Same as S-1, but who will be placed in danger by providing such information.	Requires joint approval by Sect. Of State & AG	50 visas per year. May adjust, but only if AG gives prior approval.

NONIMMIGRANT VISAS

T	Trafficking Visa	For persons who are victims of human trafficking.	Requires a showing of extreme hardship & cooperation with law enforcement.	After 3 years, may Adjust. Victims may apply for NIV's for spouses & children, & minors may apply for visas for their parents.
T/N-1 T/N-2	Trade NAFTA Visa	For Canadians (T/N-1) and Mexicans (T/N-2) to come to U.S. to work for limited periods of time in Professional occupation.	Requires applicant to have University Degree in professions listed in Appendix to NAFTA Treaty & job offer. No self - employment.	Visas issued in 1 Year increments. Mexicans require prior application to INS. Canadians may process at U.S./Canada border directly at Class "A" POE
U	Violence Against Women Act "VAWA" Visa	For persons who are victims of severe physical/mental abuse as victims of a crime, and is helpful to law enforcement in its investigation.		
V	Spouses and Children of Lawful Permanent Residents	For spouses and Children of LPR's whose application have been long pending with INS.	Requires that Immigrant Visa application have been filed and pending at least 3 years as of December 21, 2001.	Allows families to reunite. Work authorization provided. Valid for 2 years, renewable.