

A SUMMARY OF VISA OPTIONS FOR SCHOOLS WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Visa Type	Possible income from US Sources	Eligibility Criteria	Maximum Length of stay in the U.S.	Advantages	Disadvantages	Supporting Documentation	Forms	Educational Study	Dependents
B-1 Visitor for Business	Reimbursement for travel, per-diem, honorarium	Proof of scholarly or business propose of U.S. visit	Six months of entry; renewable to twelve months	Quick and relatively easy to obtain	Strict limitation on payments from U.S. sources	Invitation letter with dates and purpose of visit, proof of adequate funds; evidence of return ticket	None	No Educational Study	Rules are the same for the dependents
B-2 Visitor for Pleasure	Reimbursement for travel, per-diem, honorarium	Evidence of financial support and tourist plans	Six months of entry; renewable to twelve months	Quick and relatively easy to obtain	Strict limitation on payments from U.S. sources	Proof of adequate funds	None	No educational study unless "perspective student notation is on I-94. Required to receive change of status approval prior to attending classes.	No educational study unless "prospective student notation is on I-94. Required to receive change of status approval prior to attending classes.
WT / WB	Reimbursement for travel, per-diem, honorarium	For countries that are designated in the visa waiver program	90 days	No need to visit US embassy/consulate	No extensions or change of status possible	Proof of adequate funds	None	No educational study.	No educational study.
F-1 Student	Employment permitted on and off-campus under certain circumstances. Curricular practical training and 12 months of optional practical training permitted	Admission to academic course of study; evidence of adequate financial support; indication of adequate English or admission to intensive English training program	As long as full-time academic progress continues; must file to extend status if completion of program is delayed	Easy to obtain; easy to move to other status when applicable; not subject to home residence requirement (as opposed to J-1)	Limited to students who meet normal admission requirements for recognized degree program; off-campus work limited; spouse unable to work	Proof of academic admission shown on I-20; evidence of financial support	1) I-20, 2) I-765 for optional practical training	Must enroll full time. 12 hrs undergraduate, 9 hrs graduate with exceptions for assistantships.	F-2 - spouse or children. No employment on or off campus. Can not attend classes unless recreational in nature.
J-1 Exchange Visitor (students)	On-campus assistantship; on and off-campus employment based on economic need with sponsor approval; 18-36 months of academic training depending on educational level.	Admission to academic program with sponsorship (may be non-degree short-term program as well as degree program); evidence of adequate financial support	As long as full-time academic progress continues	Relatively quick and easy to obtain; spouse may work with permission	Subject to 2 year home country residency requirement if funded by US or home government, on skills list, or medical trainee (212(e))	IAP-66 from program sponsor with details of academic objectives and financial support	1) DS-2019	Must enroll full time. 12 hrs undergraduate, 9 hrs graduate with exceptions for assistantships.	J-2 spouse or children. Employment on or off campus with CIS permission. May enroll in classes full or part time.
J-1 Exchange Visitor (Professors and Researchers)	Employment permitted on-campus; off-campus work permit difficult to obtain	University appointment to teach or conduct research; indication of adequate financial support for length of program	Up to three years - waiting on Dept. of State verification for the additional 2 years to total 5 years.	Relatively easy to obtain; spouse may work with permission	Subject to 2 year home country residency requirement if funded by US or home government, on skills list, or medical trainee (212(e))	DS-2019 from program sponsor with details of academic objectives and financial support	1) DS-2019	May attend classes part time. Classes must be incidental to the scholars exchange objective.	J-2 spouse or children. Employment on or off campus with CIS permission.. May enroll in classes full or part time.

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H-1B Temporary Worker in Specialty Occupation	Employment permitted only with petitioning employer(s)	Possession of at least a bachelor's degree (or equivalent experience except where Ph.D. required) and skills; position must be temporary and in a specialty occupation; approval of labor condition application	Three years at entry; renewable for a total of six years	May have a long term intent to immigrate; not subject to home residency requirement (as opposed to J-1)	Must file with both Dept of Labor and INS; employer may incur severe liability under Dept. of Labor rule; H-4 spouse cannot work; employer liable for return transportation costs	Certified copy of highest degree certificate; copy of job contract or agreement; letter attesting to job duties and requirements as well as merit/professional skills	1) Labor Condition Application 2) I-129 with H supplement	May attend classes part-time. Classes must be incidental to the alien's employment and not alien's primary purpose for being in the U.S.	H-4 - spouse or children. No employment on or off campus. May enroll in classes full or part time.
O-1 Alien of Extraordinary Ability	Employment permitted only with petitioning employer(s)	Proof of major scholarly, athletic, or artistic achievement; International recognition	For the length of the event(s), up to three years; extensions possible	Labor condition application required	Requires extensive documentation; employer liable for return transportation costs	Documentation of international recognition; peer consultation where applicable	I-129 with O supplement	Classes must be incidental to the alien's employment. Permission is required from employer.	O-3 spouse or children. No employment on or off campus. May enroll in classes full or part time.
TN	Employment permitted only with petitioning employer(s)	Citizen of Canada or Mexico and offer of professional employment; consult list of qualifying occupations and credential requirements	Up to 1 year admission at entry; indefinite annual renewals	Alternative to H-1B; easier process for Canadians; no time limit; attainable even if have 212(e) requirement	Spouse unable to work; for Mexicans, document is similar to H-1B; renewal annually	Evidence of citizenship; letter of offer; evidence of professional status forms	Canadians at border; None Inside US, I-129 (LCA for Mexicans)	Classes must be incidental to the alien's employment.	TD spouse or children. No employment on or off campus. May enroll in classes full or part time.
Immigrant / Permanent Resident	No restrictions	Professional degree and labor certification for permanent position; international reputation; immediate family member of US citizen or permanent resident; refugee or asylee; Diversity Program	Indefinite; citizenship optional after 5 years (3 years if married to a US citizen)	No need for work permits, extension of stay	Extensive time, effort, documentation needed; most will have to show professional degree and permanent full-time job offer	Labor certification; documentation of international reputation; or proof of immediate relationship to US citizen or permanent resident	1) ETA 750 A&B 2) I-140 3) I-485 packet if will adjust status	May attend classes full or part time.	May attend classes full or part time. May be employed with PR card or EAD.