



## NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS

Non-immigrant visas are appropriate for individuals coming to the United States for a temporary visit. There are approximately thirty categories of non-immigrant visas, which may be used for employment purposes, personal reasons or in relation to student status. Our office has over 30 years of experience with a wide array of non-immigrant visas from individuals from over 70 countries around the world.

We have provided information regarding the most commonly used non-immigrant visas that our office routinely handles for clients.

**B-1/B-2 visas** are used for those wishing to visit the United States for a brief period for either business or pleasure. This visa is most commonly used for tourists and those wishing to visit the US on business trips. This visa does not allow individuals to engage in productive employment in the US.

**E-1/E-2 visas** are used for treaty traders and investors who are nationals of countries which have entered into treaties or trade agreements with the US. The visa applicant must be a national of the treaty country and may be a manager, executive or employee possessing essential skills who work for a qualifying organization. The individual conducting the trade between the US and treaty nation (E-1) or investing money from abroad in the US business (E-2) may also be admitted in E visa status.

**E-3 visas** are used for Australian nationals coming to the US to work for a US employer in a specialty occupation. The requirements for this status are similar to the H-1B visa requirements listed below.

**F-1 visas** are used for students coming to the United States to engage in a course of study at an established high school, college, university, conservatory or language school.

**H-1B visas** are one of the most commonly used work-authorized visas. To qualify, the petitioning employer must sponsor the employee for a "specialty occupation," or a position requiring the highly specialized knowledge normally acquired through the attainment of a four-year college degree in a specific field of study. The individual must be a professional who is generally eligible for H-1B visas include doctors, engineers, professors, accountants, lawyers, physical therapists, and computer professionals.

**J-1 visas** are used for exchange visitors to the US who are admitted to facilitate an exchange of information between the US and the home country of the J-1 visitor. The J-1 is most commonly used for students, teachers, professors, research scholars, and au pairs for a period of six months to five years, depending on the type of J visa.



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**K visas** are for fiancés or spouses of US citizens. This non-immigrant visa was designed to reunite loved ones by enabling the spouse or fiancé to come to the US to process the green card in lieu of processing through a Consulate overseas.

**L visas** are used for managers, executives, or employees with specialized knowledge who have been employed overseas for a multi-national company for at least one year.

**O-1 visas** are for aliens with “extraordinary ability,” as demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics, or those with an extensively documented record of extraordinary achievement in motion pictures or television.

**P-1 visas** are used for athletes, group entertainers, entertainers or artists under a reciprocal exchange program, or an artist or entertainer in a culturally unique program.

**TN visas** are appropriate for Canadian or Mexican citizens who are members of a profession designated by the North American Free Trade Agreement. At present, over 60 professions have been designated as qualifying for TN status.