ENTERING THE U.S.
U.S. Visa

- Who needs a visa?
  - A citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the U.S.

- Nonimmigrant visas
  - Temporary travel to the U.S.
  - More than 20 types
  - EVUS

- Immigrant visas
  - Live permanently in the U.S.
U.S. Visa

- Allows access to the U.S. Port of Entry
- Requests DHS/CBP’s permission to enter the U.S.

DHS/CBP
- Authorizes or denies admission to the U.S.
- Immigration and customs
How to Apply

- DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form
  [https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/](https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/)
- Register online: [http://ais.usvisa-info.com](http://ais.usvisa-info.com)
- Pay (in USD) and schedule for the interview online
- Appear in person for the interview
Visa Wizard + Reciprocity

- Helps foreign citizens understand which visa category might be appropriate for their travel
  http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/visa-wizard.html

- Reciprocity Table: length of visa (and fees) based on nationality
  https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/reciprocity-by-country.html
What to Bring to a Visa Interview

- DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form
- Passport valid for at least six months beyond period of stay in the U.S.
- Photo taken within the last six months – no glasses!
- Proof of legal status in Canada
- Related forms and documents based on visa type
- No electronics, large bags, weapons, or illegal substances
Who Can I Bring to the Visa Interview?

- Only applicants with scheduled appointments are allowed to enter the consular section.
- Only people aged 14 – 79 need to appear in person.
- 1 interpreter with gov’t issued ID for non-Chinese languages.
- 1 person allowed with disabled/minor applicants.
What to Expect at the Consulate

- Plan to spend two hours at the Consulate (security check, check-in, interview)
- Demonstrate that you have strong ties outside of the U.S. and will use the visa correctly
- If approved, you will get the visa and passport back in 7 days by mail
- Some visa cases require administrative processing
Can my parents apply for visas in Canada?

- Visitors should generally apply for visas in the country of residence.
- Some visitors may have difficulty demonstrating eligibility in Canada.
- Limited appointment availability; however, visitors may apply at any Consulate in Canada.
What to expect at borders

- Beware of prohibited/restricted items
- CBP enforces laws for 40 government agencies
- Prohibited items include those that would injure
  - Community health
  - Public safety
  - American workers, domestic plants, animal life
  - National interests

Studying in the U.S.

B visa (nonimmigrant visa)
- Short periods of recreational study
- Not for credit toward a degree/academic certificate

J-1 visa (exchange visitor)
- Work-and-study-based exchange visitor programs
  https://j1visa.state.gov/participants

Let’s go for exchange!
Studying in the U.S.

F-1 (student visa)
- University
- College
- Seminary
- Conservatory
- Another academic institutions, incl. language training program
- May seek on-campus job (<20 hours/week)

M-1 (student visa)
- Vocational or other nonacademic institution
- Except for language training program
Studying in the U.S.

Tips:
- Must be first accepted by a SEVP approved school
- Explain why you want to study in the U.S.
- How you plan to financially support yourself
- What your plans are after graduation

http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange.html
Working / living in the U.S.

- Find a job & an employer in the U.S.
- U.S. employer petitions for your employment (DHS)
- Schedule for interview appointment
- Attend visa interview
Working / living in the U.S.

**Tips**

- Show qualification for the position (transcripts, degree)
- Show U.S. employer’s qualification to file a petition
- Demonstrate that you will be paid as petitioned

QUESTIONS?
TRAVEL.STATE.GOV
BUSINESS TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

What type of U.S. visa will you need?
If you are planning business-related travel to the United States on a temporary basis, it is important to have information about the type of nonimmigrant visa you will need for travel. The purpose of your intended travel and other facts regarding your plans will determine what type of visa is required under immigration law. This flyer is a resource that will help you learn about the visa process in general, so that you will better understand the different steps involved.

Business Visitor Visa (B-1) - For business-specific purposes
The chart below is an overview of key groupings of temporary business related travel permitted on business visitor visas (Note: This is not comprehensive. For other travel permitted under a business visitor visa (B-1), reference 9 FAM 41.31.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of Your Travel</th>
<th>About Your Temporary Visit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athlete, professional</td>
<td>a. Receives no salary or income from a U.S. based company/entity, other than prize money for participation in a tournament or sporting event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Athletes or team members who seek to enter the United States as members of a foreign based team in order to compete with another sports team shall be admitted provided:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) The foreign athlete and the foreign sports team have their principal place of business or activity in a foreign country;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) The income of the foreign based team and the salary of its players are principally accrued in a foreign country; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) The foreign-based sports team is a member of an international sports league or the sporting activities involved have an international dimension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Try-outs for a professional team, but cannot remain in the U.S. playing on a U.S. team in this visa category.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business venture, investor seeking investment</td>
<td>Survey potential sites for a business and/or to lease premises in the United States. Cannot remain in the United States to manage business in this visa category.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of Your Travel</td>
<td>About Your Temporary Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference, meeting, trade show, or business event attendee</td>
<td>Will receive no salary or income from a U.S. based company/entity. For scientific, educational, professional or business purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposition or trade show employees of foreign exhibitors at international fairs (excludes government representatives)</td>
<td>Will receive no salary or income from a U.S. based company/entity. Will plan, assemble, dismantle, maintain, or be employed in connection with exhibits at international fairs or expositions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer or speaker</td>
<td>No salary or income from a U.S. based company/entity, other than expenses incidental to the visit. If honorarium will be received, activities can last no longer than nine days at any single institution or organization; payment must be offered by an institution or organization described in INA 212(q); honorarium is for services conducted for the benefit of the institution or entity; and visa applicant will not have accepted such payment or expenses from more than five institutions or organizations over the last six months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Independent research, no salary/income from a U.S. based source, or benefit to U.S. institution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales/selling</td>
<td>Exhibition/taking orders/negotiating and signing contracts for products, which must be produced outside the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service engineer (Commercial, Industrial)</td>
<td>Engineer(s) install, service or repair commercial or industrial equipment or machinery sold by a non-U.S. company to a U.S. buyer, when specifically required by the purchase contract. Installation cannot include construction work, except for supervision or training of U.S. workers to perform construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Participating in a training program that is not designed primarily to provide employment. Will receive no payment or income from a U.S. based company/entity, other than an expense allowance or expense reimbursement related to traveler’s stay.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps - What You Must Do - If your purpose of planned travel and facts about your visit fits within the description above, the next step is to schedule a visa interview appointment and apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad, generally in your country of residence.

How to Apply for a Visa

- Learn more about how to apply for a business visitor visa (B-1).
- Check on visa wait times for an interview appointment.
- Locate a U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide: find out how to pay the visa application fee, make an interview appointment, and learn much more.

Important Note: When applying for a visa, you will need to meet all requirements for the visa for which you are applying. The consular officer at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you will apply for your visa will determine eligibility for a visa, including type of visa required, based on your application, interview, individual facts presented, and on U.S. immigration law.

Business Visa Center (for U.S. companies) – The Department of State Business Visa Center assists businesses located in the United States by providing information about the application process for business visitor visa (B-1) travel to the United States.

Embassy Business Facilitation (for companies abroad) - If you or your company are located overseas, U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide have programs to assist businesses. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate where the visa applicant will be applying is in the best position to provide information about any program they may have to assist businesses in their location. For more information, select Locate a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Seeking Employment or Work in the United States?

If your purpose of planned travel and facts about your visit does not fit within the description above, you will probably need another type of visa. If you are seeking to come to the United States on a temporary basis to work, be employed, and/or be paid by a U.S. based company as a skilled or unskilled worker, you will need a temporary worker type of visa. In these situations, the prospective employer must file with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), on behalf of the foreign prospective employee, a nonimmigrant visa petition accompanied by an approved labor certification.
# U.S. Visas

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of Your Travel</th>
<th>About Your Temporary Visit</th>
<th>Type of Visa</th>
<th>Key Steps – What You Must Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment/work</td>
<td>Payment, income, salary will be paid to you by U.S. based company or business entity.</td>
<td>Temporary Worker Visa (H, L, O, P, Q visas and more)</td>
<td>U.S. employer files petition with USCIS. After petition approval, visa application at U.S. Embassy or Consulate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Practical training through an internship with a U.S. based employer, whether paid or unpaid by that company.</td>
<td>Temporary worker trainee (H-3) or Exchange Visitor (J) visa</td>
<td>H- U.S. employer files petition with USCIS. J – Applicant approval by J sponsor. After above approval, visa application at U.S. Embassy or Consulate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Independent research, will receive U.S. payment, or benefit to U.S. institution</td>
<td>Temporary Worker (H-1B) Visa or Exchange Visitor (J) Visa.</td>
<td>H- U.S. employer files petition with USCIS along with an approved labor certification. J – Applicant approval by J sponsor. After above approval, visa application at U.S. Embassy or Consulate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more about temporary workers in the United States, see the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, [USCIS Website](https://www.uscis.gov), and the Department of State, [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) website. See the Department of Labor information about hiring foreign workers and labor certification required with petitions for some types of temporary workers.

If you are seeking to come to the United States on a permanent basis to work, be employed, and/or be paid by a U.S. based company as a skilled or unskilled worker, you will require an immigrant visa. To learn more, see the [USCIS Website](https://www.uscis.gov) and the Department of State, [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) website.
Cell phones, liquids, consumables, large bags, weapons and recording/electronic devices (e.g. blackberries or cameras) are not allowed in the Consulate. Please leave prohibited items at home or make arrangements for storage prior to arriving at the Consulate.

The Consulate is closed on weekends, and both U.S. and Canadian holidays. Visa services are not available on the third Wednesday of each month.

Information For Canadian Citizens

Canadian citizens generally do not require a visa to enter the United States directly from Canada for the purposes of visiting or studying. See www.travel.state.gov for information on visas, visa-exempt travel to the U.S., and documentary requirements.

All Canadians entering the U.S. require passports. Information on passport requirements is found at: https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/do-i-need-a-visa/.

Intending immigrants, fiancés and investors must obtain a visa in the same manner as other nationalities.

Canadian journalists, temporary workers, performers and NAFTA professionals may present required supporting documents and/or approved petitions directly to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer at a Port of Entry.

Please check information at www.cbp.gov for the latest updates on U.S. entry requirements for Canadians and others. Specific information for Canadian citizens is found at https://help.cbp.gov.

Canadian visitors are generally granted a stay in the U.S. for up to six months at the time of entry. Requests to extend or adjust a stay must be made prior to expiry to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service at www.uscis.gov.

Members of Canada's First Nations and Native Americans born in Canada may travel freely across the U.S./Canada border under the terms of the Jay Treaty. For more information, visit: https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/first-nations-and-native-americans/

Some persons born abroad have a claim to U.S. citizenship. Information is available at https://ca.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/citizenship-claims/


Waivers of inadmissibility can be filed with CBP at Vancouver International Airport or U.S. land border crossings. More information can be found at: https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/760/kw/Waivers%20of%20ineligibility.

NEXUS information: https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/227/kw/NEXUS
Information For Non-Canadian Citizens
( Including Canadian Landed Immigrants)

- For general information on Non-Immigrant Visa categories and requirements, see the Department of State’s website at www.travel.state.gov

- To apply for a Non-Immigrant Visa, request assistance with an application, or to request an expedited appointment, contact https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-ca/niv.

- Visa information: for information regarding a pending visa application, send an e-mail to VancouverNIV@state.gov. General visa inquiries to this mailbox will not be answered.


- Diplomatic Visas (A & G): Email ottawaDipInfo@state.gov. For information on tourist (B1/B2) visas for diplomats accredited to Canada: https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/diplomatic-official-and-international-organization-visas/

- Fiancé (K) Visas are processed for all of Canada in Montreal only. For information, see https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/fiancee/. For case-specific inquiries, email: Montreal-IV-DV@state.gov, vancouverk@state.gov. General visa inquiries to this mailbox will not be answered.

- Immigrant Visas are processed for all of Canada in Montreal only. For case-specific inquiries, e-mail: Montreal-IV-DV@state.gov

- For information about the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) Visa Waiver travel, including who is eligible for visa waiver, visit https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/

- DHS/ICE Departure Verification or Report of Abuse: E-mail: vancouverfpu@state.gov

Please check carefully with official sources of information listed below before applying for a visa or seeking entry into the US:

- U.S. Department of State (DOS): http://travel.state.gov. DOS is responsible for visas, passports and citizen services at U.S. Embassies and Consulates outside of the US.


- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP): www.cbp.gov. CBP is responsible for border control, entry and conditions of stay in the US.

REVISED November 15, 2017