

US Non-Immigrant Quick Reference Chart

VISA/ STATUS	WHO	WHAT	WHEN Duration	How Long (Total Period of Stay Allowed)
B-1 Visitor Business Visitor	Those entering the U.S. to conduct business on behalf of a foreign employer.	Short term business purposes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business negotiations; • Business consultation; • Contract negotiation; • Plant tours; • Market research; and • To attend meetings. 	Up to 6 months on initial entry based on demonstrated need.	Up to 6 months on initial entry, with extension of 6 months on a showing of business necessity.
B-1/B-2 Visa Waiver	Nationals of select countries entering the U.S. temporarily in order to conduct B-1 business of a foreign employer, or to engage in B-2 activities for pleasure.	See those activities listed for B-1, also available to visitors for pleasure.	Up to 90 days.	90 days. Extension of stays or changes of status are not available.
TN Trade NAFTA Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian and Mexican professionals entering the U.S on behalf of a Canadian or Mexican employer to fill a contract for services between a Canadian or Mexican company and a U.S. company. • Canadian or Mexican professionals either working for a U.S. company in the U.S. or working for their Canadian or Mexican company in the US. 	Duties associated with a listed professional position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountants; • Engineers; • Graphic Designers; • Computer Systems Analysts; • Management Consultants. 	1 year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indefinite ability to renew this non-immigrant status. • Once employee makes an application for permanent status, including filing a labor certification application, the TN status will not normally be renewed or extended. Change to another status is recommended.
L-1A/L-1B Intra-company transferee permitting transfer from qualified foreign companies abroad to U.S. company.	<p>Those working as a manager, executive, or with specialized knowledge of the company's products or services.</p> <p>Normally, must have a minimum of 1 year work experience with the company abroad.</p>	<p>Perform services in accordance with activities normally associated with their respective position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive-direct the management of the company, division, etc. • Managers- manage other managers or professionals, or an essential function. • Specialized Knowledge – perform duties relating to their specific area of proprietary expertise. 	Employee is granted the maximum available time as indicated on the approval notice up to a maximum of 3 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-1A – total of 7 years • L-1B – total of 5 years
H-1B For temporary workers in a specialty occupation.	Those working in a "specialty occupation" i.e. an occupation requiring the theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge which requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree or equivalent for entry into the occupation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May work full or part time. • May be employed in more than one H-1B occupation as long as H-1B petition is approved for each employer. 	Initially up to 3 years. Maximum 3 year extension available.	6 years. May be extended beyond 6 years if work is part-time or if employer files labor certification on employee's behalf.
H-3 For a Temporary Trainee	Those joining a U.S. company and participating in a formal company training program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To engage in a training program and receive instruction. 	Trainee may remain in the U.S. for the maximum validity period of the petition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period of time permitted to stay is determined by the length of the program. • Extensions available not to exceed program period.
J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor	Those receiving training or participating in an approved exchange program to teach, study, observe, conduct research, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching; • Receiving training; • Conducting research; • Consulting; or • Demonstrating. 	•J-1 Program dictates length of stay depending on the profession. Can be granted for up to 3 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period of time permitted to stay is determined by the length of the program. • Extensions available; may not exceed program period.