

Visa Types for Temporary Visitors

We welcome visitors to the United States, with secure borders and open doors. Most Canadian citizens and many citizens from Visa Waiver Program countries can come to the U.S. without a visa if they meet certain requirements. There are various types of nonimmigrant visas for temporary visitors to travel to the United States, if you are not a U.S. citizen or U.S. lawful permanent resident. The purpose of your intended travel and other facts will determine what type of visa is required under U.S. immigration law. It's important to have information about the type of nonimmigrant visa you will need for travel, and the steps required to apply for the visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad.

Below is a chart of the most common visas issued by the United States of America.

Purpose of Travel to U.S. & Nonimmigrant Visas	Visa Type	Required: Before Applying for Visa*
Athletes, amateur & professional (compete for prize money only)	<u>B-1</u>	(NA)
Au pairs (exchange visitor)	<u>J</u>	SEVIS
Australian professional specialty	<u>E-3</u>	DOL
Border Crossing Card: Mexico	<u>BCC</u>	(NA)
Business visitors	<u>B-1</u>	(NA)
Diplomats and foreign government officials	<u>A</u>	(NA)
Domestic employees or nanny -must be accompanying a foreign national employer	<u>B-1</u>	(NA)
Employees of a designated international organization, and NATO	<u>G1-G5, NATO</u>	(NA)
Exchange visitors	<u>J</u>	SEVIS
Foreign military personnel stationed in the U.S.	<u>A-2, NATO1-6</u>	(NA)
Foreign nationals with extraordinary ability in Sciences, Arts, Education, Business or Athletics	<u>O</u>	USCIS
Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Professionals: Chile, Singapore	<u>H-1B1</u>	DOL
International cultural exchange visitors	<u>Q</u>	USCIS
Intra-company transferees	<u>L</u>	USCIS

Medical treatment, visitors for	<u>B-2</u>	(NA)
Media, journalists	<u>I</u>	(NA)
NAFTA professional workers: Mexico, Canada	<u>TN/TD</u>	(NA)
Nurses coming to health professional shortage areas	<u>H1-C</u>	USCIS
Performing athletes, artists, entertainers	<u>P</u>	USCIS
Physician	<u>J, H-1B</u>	SEVIS
Professor, scholar, teacher (exchange visitor)	<u>J</u>	SEVIS
Religious workers	<u>R</u>	(USCIS)
Specialty occupations in fields requiring highly specialized knowledge	<u>H-1B</u>	DOL then USCIS
Students: academic, vocational	<u>F, M</u>	SEVIS
Temporary agricultural workers	<u>H-2A</u>	DOL then USCIS
Temporary workers performing other services or labor of a temporary or seasonal nature.	<u>H-2B</u>	DOL then USCIS
Tourism, vacation, pleasure visitors	<u>B2</u>	(NA)
Training in a program not primarily for employment	<u>H-3</u>	USCIS
Treaty traders/treaty investors	<u>E</u>	(NA)
Transiting the United States	<u>C</u>	(NA)
Visa Renewals - Available in the U.S.		(NA)

***What the abbreviations (above) mean:**

Before applying for a visa at a U.S. Embassy abroad the following is required:
DOL = The U.S. employer must obtain foreign labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor, prior to filing a petition with USCIS.

USCIS = DHS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) must approve a petition, filed by the U.S. employer (or U.S. citizen, for fiancé petitions)

SEVIS = Program approval entered in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

(NA) = Not Applicable - Means that additional approval by other government agencies is not required prior to applying for a visa at the U.S. Embassy abroad.

Note: Canadian NAFTA Professional workers- Visa not required, apply to CBP at border port-of-entry.

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