

# Non-Immigrant Visa Classification Chart

The following information is primarily taken from Immigration Classifications and Legal Employment of Foreign Nationals in the United States: *An All-inclusive, Easy-to-use, Quick Reference Chart*. The complete chart from NAFSA provides easy reference to study and work authorization options for various visa classifications. It is recommended that you purchase the chart if you deal with various visa classifications on a regular basis.

## Foreign Nationals Who May Be Lawfully Employed and/or Study in the U.S. with Certain Restrictions

Non-Immigrant Visa Classification Chart	
Visa Class	Description
A-1 A-2	<p><b>Foreign Diplomatic Personnel:</b> Individuals in the U.S. as employees of a foreign government, e.g., ambassador, minister, diplomat, or consular officer.</p> <p><b>Dependent of A-1/A-2 Visa Holder:</b> Immediate family members of foreign government official. (Dependents also carry A-1 / A-2 status.)</p> <p>All work (on or off-campus) must be first approved by the Department of State by using form I-566. An Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card from the INS is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in <b>full- or part-time study</b>.</li> </ul>
A-3	<p><b>Employee of Foreign Government Official:</b> Attendants, servants, or personal employees of foreign government officials.</p>
B-1	<p><b>Visitor for Business:</b> Individual in the U.S. for a short time to engage in business activities such as negotiating contracts for overseas employees, consulting with business associates, attending professional conferences, or conducting independent research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May <b>not</b> engage in any employment in the U.S., including salaried work or services performed on an independent basis. Incidental part-time study is allowed.</li> </ul>
B-2	<p><b>Visitor for Tourism:</b> Individuals in the U.S. for travel, tourism, or recreation. No employment is allowed. Reimbursement of expenses is prohibited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incidental part-time study is allowed. May also enroll in short-term English language courses if the course of study is under 18 hours per week (part-time) and of "short duration."</li> </ul> <p><b>Prospective Student or Prospective Scholar:</b> Individuals who enter the <i>U.S. indicating a clear intent to study here</i> or to change to J-1 Exchange Visitor Status. Consulate notation on visa page indicates "Prospective" status. Individual must apply for a change of status</p>

	<p>before the expiration date on I-94.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in full-time study. May not work including the time in which the application for a change of status is pending.</li> </ul>
<b>Visa Waiver</b>	<p><b>Waiver for Business (VWB) and Tourism (VWT):</b> Individual permitted to enter the U.S. without a visa for a stay limited to 90 days. Available only to citizens of countries designated by the D.S. State Department. No extension or change of status is allowed for this category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work and study restrictions are the same as B-1/B-2 counterparts.</li> </ul>
<b>C-1</b>	<p><b>Aliens in Transit:</b> Individuals in transit from one country to another "stopping over" in the U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No study allowed</li> </ul>
<b>C-2</b>	
<b>C-3</b>	
<b>C-4</b>	
<b>D-1</b>	<p><b>Alien Crewman:</b> Crew members employed on a vessel or aircraft who are in the U.S. on "stopovers."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No study allowed</li> </ul>
<b>D-2</b>	
<b>E-1</b>	<p><b>Treaty Trader:</b> Individual in the U.S. to conduct trade under a treaty between their country and the U.S., and key employees of companies trading under such treaty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-1 dependents may engage in <b>part-or full-time study</b>. No employment is allowed for dependents.</li> </ul>
<b>E-2</b>	<p><b>Treaty Investor:</b> Individuals in the U.S. to develop or direct the operations of an enterprise in which they have invested substantial investments. Must be based on a treaty between visa holder's country and the U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-2 dependents may engage in <b>part or full-time study</b>. No employment is allowed for dependents.</li> </ul>
<b>F-1</b>	<p><b>Student:</b> Individual in the U.S. engaging in a full course of academic or language study in an accredited educational program.</p>
<b>F-2</b>	<p><b>Dependent of F-1 Visa Holder:</b> Spouse and/ or children of an F-1 student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part- or full-time study. No employment is allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>G-1</b>	<p><b>Representative of International Organization:</b> Individuals in the U.S. as representatives of an international organization (e.g., the United Nations) and their dependents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependents may engage in part- or full-time study. All work (on- or off-campus) for dependents must be first approved by the Department of State by using form I-566. An Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card from the INS is required.</li> </ul>
<b>G-2</b>	
<b>G-3</b>	
<b>G-4</b>	
<b>G-5</b>	<p><b>Personal Employee of G-1, G-2, G-3, or G-4 Visa Holder</b></p>
<b>H-1A</b>	<p><b>Registered Nurse:</b> Individuals in the U.S. to perform professional nursing services for a specific employer for a fixed period.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study while maintaining H visa status.</li> </ul>
<b>H-1B</b>	<p><b>Temporary Worker in a Specialty Occupation:</b> Individuals in the U.S. to perform professional services in a specific position for a fixed period of time.; Employment authorization is granted for an initial period of up to 3 years. Extensions for an additional 3 years are possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study while maintaining H visa status.</li> </ul>
<b>H-2A</b>	<p><b>Temporary agricultural worker.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study while maintaining H visa status.</li> </ul>
<b>H-2B</b>	<p><b>Skilled or Unskilled Worker:</b> Individuals in the U.S. in a temporary position for which a shortage of U.S. workers exists, working for a specific employer for a fixed period of time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study while maintaining H visa status.</li> </ul>
<b>H-3</b>	<p><b>Trainee:</b> Individuals in the U.S. for a temporary period to participate in as training program provided by a specific employer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study while maintaining H visa status.</li> </ul>
<b>H-4</b>	<p><b>Dependent of H Visa Holder:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in full- or part-time study.</li> <li>• No employment allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>I</b>	<p><b>Representative of Foreign Information Media:</b> Individuals in the U.S. as journalists or representatives of international media and their dependents.</p>
<b>J-1</b>	<p><b>Exchange Visitor (Student):</b> Individuals in the U.S. as exchange visitors for the primary purpose of studying at an academic institution under the auspices of the United States Information Agency and a Designated Program Sponsor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must maintain full-time study unless authorized by Responsible Officer (RO) of Designated Program Sponsor.</li> <li>• May be employed on the campus of the school in which they are enrolled to a maximum of 20 hours per week with prior written authorization from the RO of their Designated Program.</li> <li>• May work off-campus under limited circumstances provided they have obtained prior written authorization from the RO.</li> <li>• Employment does not require additional permission from INS or an EAD.</li> <li>• Eligible for 18 months of academic training following completion of their program (36 months for postdoctoral training).</li> </ul> <p><b>Exchange Visitor (Short-term Scholar, Professor, Researcher, or Specialist):</b> Individuals in the U.S. as visiting researchers or professors under the auspices of the United States Information Agency and a Designated Program Sponsor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible to receive payment from the organization listed on Form IAP-66 as the source of funds and/or the Designated Program Sponsor for a period of validity as stated on the IAP-66.</li> <li>• Under limited circumstances, may receive compensation from other institutions provided prior written authorization from the RO of their Designated Program has been secured.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IAP-66 authorizes the above stated employment. An Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card is not required.</li> </ul>
<b>J-1</b>	<b>Au Pair:</b> Individuals in the U.S. under the auspices of the United States Information Agency and a Designated Program Sponsor to serve as a live-in child-care provider for a host family.
<b>J-2</b>	<b>Dependent of J-1 Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part- or full-time study.</li> <li>Eligible to apply to INS for work authorization. Once the EAD is issued by INS, the J-2 may work for any employer.</li> <li>Employer must reverify employment authorization after expiration date on EAD.</li> <li>Employment cannot be needed for the financial support of J-1 visa holder.</li> <li>It must be for purposes unrelated to basic support.</li> </ul>
<b>L-1</b>	<b>Intracompany Transferee:</b> Individuals in the U.S. who have been transferred from a subsidiary, affiliate, or branch office overseas to the U.S. to work in an executive, managerial, or specialist capacity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part-time study.</li> </ul>
<b>L-2</b>	<b>Dependent of L-1 Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part- or full-time study.</li> <li>No employment allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>M-1</b>	<b>Vocational Student:</b> Individuals in the U.S. enrolled in a vocational school or program in the U.S. Must study full-time unless authorized by Designated School Official (DSO). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be employed for practical training in field related to major following completion of studies for a <b>maximum of 6 months</b>.</li> <li>EAD card from INS required.</li> </ul>
<b>M-2</b>	<b>Dependent of M-1 Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part- or full-time studies.</li> <li>No employment allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>NATO 1-6</b>	<b>NATO Personnel:</b> Individuals in the U.S. as members of the armed services of the nations of NATO, staff members, attendants, servants, and personal employees of NATO personnel.
<b>O-1</b>	<b>Person of Extraordinary Ability:</b> Individual of extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics who are in the U.S. to work for a sponsoring employer or organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part-time study while maintaining O status.</li> </ul>
<b>O-2</b>	<b>Accompanying Personnel of O-1 Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part-time study while maintaining O status.</li> </ul>
<b>O-3</b>	<b>Dependent of O-1 and O-2 Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part- or full-time study.</li> <li>No employment allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>P-1</b>	<b>Internationally Recognized Athlete, Entertainment Group, or Essential Support Personnel:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May engage in part-time study while maintaining P status.</li> </ul>
<b>P-2</b>	<b>Artist or Entertainer Under a Reciprocal Exchange Program:</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study while maintaining P status.</li> </ul>
<b>P-3</b>	<b>Artist or Entertainer in a Culturally Unique Program:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study while maintaining P status.</li> </ul>
<b>P-4</b>	<b>Dependents of P-1, P-2, or P-3 Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part- or full-time study.</li> <li>• No employment allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Participant in an International Cultural Exchange Program</b>
<b>R-1</b>	<b>Religious Worker:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study.</li> </ul>
<b>R-2</b>	<b>Dependent of a R-1 Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part- or full-time study. No employment is allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>TN</b>	<b>Trade NAFTA:</b> Professionals from Canada or Mexico who enter the U.S. under the NAFTA agreements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part-time study.</li> </ul>
<b>TD</b>	<b>Dependents of TN Visa Holder:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May engage in part- or full-time study.</li> <li>• No employment is allowed.</li> </ul>