

A SUMMARY OF VISA OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL FACULTY, STAFF & VISITING SCHOLARS AT USC

TYPE OF VISA	POSSIBLE PAYMENT FROM U.S. SOURCES	POSSIBLE TAX STATUS *	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	MAXIMUM LENGTH OF STAY IN THE U.S.	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	U.S. GOVERNMENT FORMS	COST **
B-1 VISITOR FOR BUSINESS	Reimbursement for expenses. Honorarium for academic activity - limited to 9 days at 5 institutions in a 6 month period *	Nonresident	Proof of scholarly or business purpose for U.S. visit (Invitation Letter) submitted to U.S. Consulate and U.S. port of entry	Period indicated on invitation letter up to six months.	Relatively easy to obtain; scholars should allow a minimum of 2 weeks or longer depending upon academic area.	Strict limitation on payments from U.S. sources	Invitation letter with dates and purpose of visit; proof of adequate funds; proof of strong ties to home country & return travel ticket	Visa application Form DS-160 at most U.S. embassies or consulates with fee based on Visa Reciprocity Treaty	Fees vary based on visa sought and reciprocity treaty between U.S. & home country.
B-2 VISITOR FOR PLEASURE (Tourist)	None – (w/ possible exception of <i>unplanned</i> academic activity meeting 9/5/6 rule)*	Normally, no payment from US source allowed. (<i>Possible exception, unplanned, but legit. Academic activity</i>)	Evidence of financial assets to cover cost of trip; tourist plans; strong ties to home country	Six months at entry; renewable to twelve months (with difficulty) from U.S. CIS	Relatively easy to obtain if employed abroad – allow 4 -6 weeks depending on country.	Normally, no payment from U.S. source permitted; limited stay in the U.S.	Proof of adequate funds for visit; evidence of return travel ticket. Letter of invitation from family member in the US.	None from USC unless an <i>unplanned</i> academic activity meeting 9/5/6 rule * Same as above	Same as above
Visa Waiver Program W/B (Waiver/Business) OR W/T (Waiver/Tourist)	WB: see B-1 above WT: see B-2 above	WB: 30% withholding required for payments allowed in B-1 status unless there is a treaty. WT: not applicable	WB: see B-1 above WT: see B-2 above; Only applicable for countries designated for Visa Waiver Program – (see web link for list)	90-day total limit. Not renewable. Cannot change or extend status while in USA	No need to visit U.S. Consulate	WB: see B-1 above WT: see B-2 above No extension or change to different visa status possible	WB: see B-1 above WT: see B-2 above VW Country List at: https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/visa-waiver-program.html	Requires: 1)Citizenship in VW Country 2) Machine readable passport from same 3) ESTA approval to board airline.	ESTA application fee is \$14. Approval generally valid for 2 years.
H-1B TEMPORARY WORKER in A SPECIALTY OCCUPATION	Employment permitted only with petitioning employer(s). Concurrent H's are possible – (i.e., more than one employer - provided each has their own H Approval from US CIS and that work hours are plausible).	Non-resident for Federal & State taxation unless substantial presence test is met. However, FICA withholding is required from day one.	Position must be a specialty occupation; one requiring a bachelor's degree (except where higher degree is the normal requirement). Requires DOL wage determination & Approved DOL Labor Condition Application	Three years at entry; renewable for a maximum total of six years that is cumulative – regardless of the number of employers - unless pending immigrant conditions are met.	<i>May</i> have immigrant intent. Not required to maintain permanent residence abroad; Not required to return home for 2 years (as is true for certain J program participants)	Employer must file with Dept. of Labor and with US CIS. Note employer liability under Dept. of Labor rules. H-4 spouse cannot work. Employer liable for return transportation costs if H-1B employee is terminated prior to ending date on H petition.	Copy of highest degree certificate; copy of job contract or agreement; letter attesting to job duties and educational requirements as well as merit/professional skills needed + DOL wage analysis & Approved Labor Cond. Application.	1) Approved DOL Labor Condition Application 2) I-129 & related forms with documentation that job & person qualify for H status. <i>Fees differ based on application type.</i> 3) I-539 for H-4 dependents (if applicable)	1) No DOL fee 2a) \$460 for H; b) + \$500 for new H petition anti-fraud fee; c) +\$1225 to expedite 3) \$370 for H-4
J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR (PROFESSORS AND RESEARCHERS) Note: Other J categories used for scholar visits: -J-1 Short Term Scholar -J-1 Specialist -J-1 Stud. Research Intern	Campus employment permitted ONLY in academic area listed on visa document. Off campus work permit for occasional lectures or consultations requires prior written approval from J-1 responsible officer and SEVIS entry.	Nonresident for two years	University appointment to teach or conduct research for a limited period of time. Requires proof of adequate financial support and health insurance. *** Combo funding possible	Professor: up to 5 yrs. Research Scholar: up to 5 yrs. Short-term scholar: min. 30 days, up to 6 months (for prof/researchers) Specialists: 1 yr. Stud. Rsch. Intern: 1 yr.	Relatively easy to obtain. Spouse may <i>apply</i> for unrestricted work permission from Immigration upon arrival in U.S. in J-2 status.	1) Subject to 2-year home country residency requirement if funded by U.S. or home government, on Published Skills List, or Medical Trainee. 2) Subject to 2 year out of country rule if RE-entering as a new J Professor or Research Scholar. 3) Requires strong ties to home country for visa.	DS-2019 requires 1) Biographic data with details of academic / professional objectives along with evidence of 2) English lang. skills, 3) Financial support and 4) Health insurance as required by J-1 regs. ***	DS-2019	1) I-901 SEVIS fee \$180 – paid by scholar or department 2) US visa application and reciprocity fees to be paid by scholar.
J-2 EXCHANGE VISITOR (Dependent of J-1 Scholar or Student)	Eligible to apply for work authorization from US CIS; must have approved card in hand to begin.	Non-resident for 2 years, but subject to FICA withholding from the first day of employment.	Must be immediate family of J-1 program principal.	<i>Derivative of</i> and <i>Conditioned</i> upon the duration of program for J-1 principal	Unrestricted work authorization with permission from Immigration.	Subject to same restrictions as J-1 principal; cannot change from J-2 to J-1 status without meeting pre-conditions. Can NOT be degree seeking student	DS-2019; proof of relationship to J-1; proof of financial support; evidence of health insurance.	DS-2019; I-765 to apply for employment authorization from Immigration.	US visa app. fees (see above) \$410 USCIS fee

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J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR (STUDENTS)	On-campus fellowship; on / off campus employment based on economic need (all require J-1 RO approval); 18 mos. post completion Academic Training permitted; 36 mos. for Post-doctoral research.	Nonresident for five years	Admission to academic program with university or government funding (may be non-degree short-term program as well as degree program); evidence of adequate financial support & health insurance.	As long as full-time academic progress continues	Relatively easy to issue document student needs to apply for entry visa.	Subject to 2-year home country residency requirement if funded by U.S. or home government, if field of study appears on Published Skills List, or if in the U.S. as a Medical Trainee.	DS-2019 requires details of academic objectives or academic admission; proof of English language skills & financial support. Evidence of health insurance also required by J-1 Program regs.	DS-2019	1) I-901 SEVIS fee \$180 – paid by student 2) US visa application and reciprocity fees to be paid by student.
F-1 STUDENT	Employment permitted ON-CAMPUS (20 hrs p/wk during academic yr; full time during vacation periods. Off-campus under special circumstances. Curricular practical training & 12 mos of optional practical training permitted with approval.	Non-resident for five years	Admission to academic course of study; evidence of financial support; evidence of adequate English language skills or admission to intensive English language training program. Evidence of strong ties to the home country.	As long as full-time academic progress continues; must file to extend status if completion of program is delayed.	Easy to obtain; easy to move to a different visa status when applicable; not subject to 2-year home country residency requirements (as opposed to J-1).	Limited to students who meet normal admission requirements for recognized degree program; off-campus work limited; spouse unable to work.	Proof of academic admission as shown on I-20; evidence of adequate financial support to cover the full cost of study and living in the US.	1) I-20 2) I-765 for optional practical training and need-based employment	1a) I-901 SEVIS fee \$200 paid by student 1b) US visa application fee and reciprocity fees to be paid by student 2) \$410 for I-765
TN TREATY NATIONAL (Must be a citizen of Canada or Mexico) Dependents of TN employees enter the U.S. in TD status. Dependents are not allowed to work, but spouses may qualify for their own TN and children may attend public school. Length of stay is linked to the TN principal.	Employment permitted only with petitioning employer(s). Concurrent employment in TN status is possible provided both employers have petitioned for the status and are listed on US CIS documents.	Non-resident for 2.5 calendar years with special provisions for claiming dependents; Canada: Exempt if income does not exceed \$10,000 per year or 183 days; Mexico: Resident if meets substantial presence test (approximately two calendar years plus 6 months for FICA purposes).	Occupation must appear on Schedule 2 List in NAFTA Treaty. Additional requirements for Health care workers. Job must be temporary w/ appointments limited to 3 yrs; (renewable). Proof of citizenship in Canada or Mexico; Proof of bachelor's degree + licensure if req'd (except where MA or Ph.D. is required for position).	Up to 3 years at entry. Can be renewed indefinitely provided appointment is for a temporary position, such as a grant funded or adjunct position.	Relatively easy to obtain; (no visa clearance by U.S. consulate required). TN status can be obtained at U.S. Port of Entry. <u>Renewable <i>ad infinitum</i> but only in two-year increments.</u> No home residency requirements.	Status must be renewed before ending date on I-94 Entry/Exit document. TD dependents, including spouse, ineligible to work unless they qualify in their own right for TN status.	Proof of Canadian or Mexican nationality; Copy of highest degree certificate and licensure if required for the job; Offer letter, job contract or agreement; Letter attesting to job duties and requirements with an overview of the educational and licensure requirements and professional skills needed to do the job. <i>Electronic sample available from ISFS.</i>	No form for Canadian citizen applying for TN Entry at designated US port of entry. Form DS-160 required for Mexican citizens applying for TN Entry. I-129 if filing for change of status while in the US or to extend TN status while remaining in the U.S.	\$56 at POE (for Canadian citizens). \$160 for DS-160 \$460 application fee for Stateside requests for change of status to TN or for extensions in TN status. An additional fee of \$370 is required for dependents; international scholar is responsible for this fee.

Please note: This chart provides only a brief overview. For a more detailed explanation, please consult with International Support for Faculty & Staff at 777-0288. * Tax treaties may apply. ** Visa application fees and procedures vary from country to country. * Medical evacuation, repatriation and specific levels of medical insurance coverage are required for J program participants and recommended for all internationals.**

Dependent requirements and benefits vary; please consult with International Support for Faculty & Staff for specific regulations governing each dependent classification. Chart subject to change. Revised 01/2017