

VISA CLASSIFICATIONS

Visa Class	Explanation of Visa	Valid Term	Extensions Possible?	Policy
A-1	Ambassadors, public ministers or career diplomats and their immediate family members.	No time limitation.	No need to apply for extensions as long as the Secretary of State continues to recognize holder as member of diplomatic category.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien (with verification holder doesn't have diplomatic immunity)
A-2	Other accredited officials or employees of foreign governments and their immediate family members	No time limitation.	No need to apply for extensions as long as the Secretary of State continues to recognize holder as member of diplomatic category.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien (with verification holder doesn't have diplomatic immunity)
A-3	Support staff of A1 or A-2 holders	Initial period up to three years.	Yes - increments of two years. No maximum.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien (with verification holder doesn't have diplomatic immunity)
B-1	Business visitors - exploratory business. Cannot receive salary/compensation in cash while in the US	Maximum 12 months.	Yes - increments or no more than 6 months per request. No absolute maximum.	Currently allowed as Foreign National (eligible for 2nd homes only)
B-2	Tourist visitors - Pleasure or medical 'treatment' (Often times used by Canadian citizens for second homes)	Initial period one year. (Upon entry, usually given six month term which can be renewed for another six months).	Yes - increments or no more than 6 months per request. No absolute maximum.	Currently allowed as Foreign National (eligible for 2nd homes only)
C-1	Foreign travelers in immediate and continuous transit through the US	No specific term - very short-term.	No	Not currently allowed.
E-1	Treaty Trader	Initial period of one year (6 months for Mexican nationals)	Yes - usually one year increments. Status can be maintained for any number of years indefinitely.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien
E-2	Treaty Traders or Investors - used by treaty investor, spouse and children	Initial period of one year (6 months for Mexican nationals)	Yes - usually one year increments. Status can be maintained for any number of years indefinitely.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
F-1	Academic or language students - Cannot be employed. Must be sponsored by school	Length of curriculum.	Yes - can be extended if school/institution corroborates there is a need to stay.	Not currently allowed.
F-2	Immediate family members of F-1 holders	Length of curriculum.	Follows F-1 holder.	Not currently allowed.
G-1	Designated principal resident representatives of foreign government coming to US to work for international organization, their student members and immediate family members	Indefinitely	May remain in the US as long as the Secretary of State continues to recognize holder.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien (with verification holder doesn't have diplomatic immunity)
G-2	Other accredited representatives of foreign governments coming to US to work for an international organization & their immediate family members	Indefinitely	May remain in the US as long as the Secretary of State continues to recognize holder.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien (with verification holder doesn't have diplomatic immunity)
G-3	Representatives of foreign government & immediate family members who would ordinarily qualify for G-1 or G-2 visas except that governments are not members of an international organization	Indefinitely	May remain in the US as long as the Secretary of State continues to recognize holder.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien (with verification holder doesn't have diplomatic immunity)
G-4	Officers or employees of international organizations and their immediate family members	Indefinitely	May remain in the US as long as the Secretary of State continues to recognize holder.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien (with verification holder doesn't have diplomatic immunity)
G-5	Support staff of G-1 to G-4 holders	Initial period up to three years.	Yes - increments of two years. No maximum.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien
H-1B	Temporary workers - persons working in specialty occupations requiring at least a bachelor's degree or it's equivalent in on-job experience; distinguished fashion models	Initial period up to three years.	Yes - Maximum term of 6 years with all extensions.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien
H-2A	Temporary agricultural workers coming to US to fill positions which a temporary shortage of American workers has been recognized by US Department of Agriculture.	Initial period up to one year or the period of time the labor certification is valid.	Yes - Maximum term of three years with all extensions.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
H-2B	Temporary workers of various kinds coming to US to perform jobs for which there is a shortage of available qualified American workers	Initial period up to one year or the period of time the labor certification is valid.	Yes - Maximum term of three years with all extensions.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
H-3	Temporary trainees of a foreign corporation with a division of the corporation located in the US	Initial period up to one year or the period of time the labor certification is valid.	Yes - Maximum term of three years with all extensions.	Currently allowed as Foreign National

H-4	Immediate family members of H visa holders (No employment allowed)	Initial period up to one year or the period of time the labor certification is valid.	Follows H family member.	Not currently allowed.
I	Representative of the foreign press coming to the US solely in that capacity and their immediate family members	Initial period 12 months.	Renewable annually. No maximum.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
J-1	Exchange visitors/trainees - for study	Normal maximum 18 months - can go as high as 3 years.	Yes - May apply for a change of status provided home country permits. Many countries require a two-year "at home" period to utilize skills learned in US before change of status is possible. Usually extended for maximum of 2 years.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
J-2	Immediate family members of J-1 holders	Valid for duration of J-1's visa.	Follows J-1 holder.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
K-1	Fiance(e) of US citizens coming to the US for the purpose of getting married	90 days	Must be married within 90 days of entry into country	Not currently allowed.
K-2	Minor, unmarried children of K-1 visa holder	90 days	Follows K-1 holder.	Not currently allowed.
L-1	Intra-company transferee - professional employees whose company's main office ins in a foreign country	New business: up to one year. Existing business: up to three years.	Yes - Existing business: two year extensions for a total of five years for employees and up to seven years for executives/managers.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien
L-2	Immediate family members of L-1 holders (No employment allowed)	New business: up to one year. Existing business: up to three years.	Yes - Existing business: two year extensions for a total of five years for employees and up to seven years for executives/managers.	Not currently allowed.
M-1	Vocational or other nonacademic students (other than language students)	Lesser of 12 months or length of time required to complete program of study.	Yes - Period of practical training. Not to exceed six months.	Not currently allowed.
M-2	Immediate family members of M-1 holders	Lesser of 12 months or length of time required to complete program of study.	Yes - Period of practical training. Not to exceed six months.	Not currently allowed.
O-1	Persons of extraordinary ability in sciences, arts, education, business or athletics	Duration required to complete event or activity - must not exceed 3 years.	Yes - one year increments. No absolute maximum.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
O-2	Essential staff of O-1 holders	Duration required to complete event or activity - must not exceed 3 years.	Yes - one year increments. No absolute maximum.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
O-3	Immediate family members of O-1 & O-2 holders	Duration required to complete event or activity - must not exceed 3 years.	Follows O family member.	Not currently allowed.
P-1	Internationally recognized athletes and entertainers and their essential support staff	Individual athlete: up to 5 years. Athletic & entertainment groups: up to one year.	Yes. Individual athletes: extension up to 5 years with maximum stay limited at 10 years. Groups: one year increments. No maximum stated.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
P-2	Entertainers coming to perform in the US through a government recognized exchange program	Individual athlete: up to 5 years. Athletic & entertainment groups: up to one year.	Yes. Individual athletes: extension up to 5 years with maximum stay limited at 10 years. Groups: one year increments. No maximum stated.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
P-3	Artists and entertainers coming to the US in a group for the purpose of presenting culturally unique performances	Individual athlete: up to 5 years. Athletic & entertainment groups: up to one year.	Yes. Individual athletes: extension up to 5 years with maximum stay limited at 10 years. Groups: one year increments. No maximum stated.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
P-4	Immediate family members of P visa holders (No employment allowed)	Individual athlete: up to 5 years. Athletic & entertainment groups: up to one year.	Follows P family member.	Not currently allowed.
Q-1	Exchange visitors to participate in cultural exchange	Lesser of 15 months or duration of the exchange program.	No extensions allowed - can be readmitted under same visa after leaving US for at least one year	Not currently allowed.
Q-2	Immediate family members of Q-1 holders	Lesser of 15 months or duration of the exchange program.	No extensions allowed - can be readmitted under same visa after leaving US for at least one year	Not currently allowed.
R-1	Ministers and other workers of recognized religions	Up to three years.	Yes - extensions of up to two-year increments. Total stay limited to five years.	Currently allowed as Foreign National
S-1	People coming to US to supply critical information to federal or state authorities where it has been determined that their presence in the US is essential to the success of a criminal investigation or prosecution.	Up to three years.	No extensions allowed	Not currently allowed.
S-2	People coming to US to provide critical information to federal authorities or a court, who will be in danger as a result of providing such information, and are eligible to receive a reward for such information.	Up to three years.	No extensions allowed	Not currently allowed.
S-3	Immediate family members of S visa holders	Up to three years.	No extensions allowed	Not currently allowed.
Matricula Consular Card	Photo identification card for <u>UNDOCUMENTED</u> Mexican nationals	Valid for five years.	Can be indefinitely renewed.	Not currently allowed.
TN, NAFTA	Canadian or Mexican citizens for professional or business use	Canadian: Up to one year. Mexican: Up to six months (I94 form can authorize up to one year).	Yes - Canadian: no cap to the number of extensions, but generally assumed the period of stay will range from one to three years. Mexican: no cap to number of extensions, but generally assumed the period of stay will range no more than one to two years.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien
TC, NAFTA	Canadian citizens for professional or business use	Up to one year.	Yes - renewed annually for term of position.	Currently allowed as non-permanent resident alien