



U.S. Non-Immigrant Business Visa Options

Visa	Agency Initial Processing Time (weeks) ¹	Requirements	Initial Maximum Validity (years)	Principal Venue	Personal Cap (years)	Spousal Work Auth	Immigrant Intent Presumption ²
H-1B	12	Professional job in "Specialty Occupation." 4-yr University degree (or equivalent). Pay "Prevailing Wage."	3	CIS Service Center	6	N	None
H-1 B1	3 - 4	H1B for Chile/Singapore	1	Dos Consulate Abroad	None	N	Strong
E-3	3 - 4	Australian citizen with Professional job in "Specialty Occupation." 4-yr University degree (or equivalent). Pay "Prevailing Wage."	2	DOS Consulate Australia Or other country	None	Y	Weak
J-1³	4 - 6	Practical Trainee with articulated Training Program No Required wage	1.5	Sponsor organization & DOS consulate abroad	1.5	Y	Strong
O-1	4 - 6	Outstanding Individual Top of field. Meet at least 3 of 8 criteria.	3	CIS Service Center	None	N	Weak
TN³	1 - 4	Trade NAFTA Professional Canadian or Mexican citizen with a NAFTA scheduled job offer	3	Canadians: CBP @ border Mexicans: USCIS, then DOS for visa	None	N	Medium
E-1/2³	4 - 6	Traders/Investors Listed Treaty country; substantial investment: 100K+ substantial trade executive/managerial job or essential skills	5	DOS consulate abroad	None	Y	Weak
L-1	4 - 6	Intracompany transferee one year prior foreign employment; Multinational entity; executive/managerial job or specialized knowledge	1 for US start-up / 3 for established US company	USCIS Service Center; If Canadian, CBP	7 for executive/managers; 5 for specialized knowledge employees	Y	None

¹Times vary constantly. Check Service Center processing time reports at emvisa.com or call CIS directly at the phone number located on receipt notices.

²Most persons seeking a nonimmigrant visa must demonstrate the intention of being in the U.S. only on a temporary basis. The Department of State (DOS) seeks to measure the immigrant intention of nonimmigrant visa applicants, where applicable, by assessing ties to home country.

³Canadians do not need/cannot get visas (except E visas) because a CIS approval notice / I-94 admission card is sufficient.