**Comprehensive Guide to U.S. Immigration Law**

**Overview**

U.S. immigration law is governed primarily by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which outlines the various visa categories, eligibility requirements, and processes for both immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

**Immigrant Visas**

Immigrant visas are intended for individuals who wish to live permanently in the United States. Key categories include family-sponsored and employment-based visas.

**Family-Sponsored Immigrant Visas**

1. **Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens** (IR Visas):
   * **Types**: Spouses (IR-1), unmarried children under 21 (IR-2), parents of U.S. citizens aged 21 or older (IR-5).
   * **Documents**: Form I-130, proof of relationship (marriage/birth certificates), proof of U.S. citizenship, police certificates, medical examination results.
   * **Application**: Filed by the U.S. citizen, processed by USCIS, then by the National Visa Center (NVC) for consular processing.
2. **Family Preference Categories**:
   * **F1**: Unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens.
   * **F2A**: Spouses and minor children of Legal Permanent Residents (LPR).
   * **F2B**: Unmarried adult children of LPRs.
   * **F3**: Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens.
   * **F4**: Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens.
   * **Documents and Application**: Similar to immediate relatives but include waiting periods due to annual caps​ ([USCIS](https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/legislation/immigration-and-nationality-act))​​ ([American Immigration Council](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works))​.

**Employment-Based Immigrant Visas**

1. **EB-1: Priority Workers**:
   * **Types**: Individuals with extraordinary ability, outstanding professors/researchers, multinational executives.
   * **Documents**: Form I-140, evidence of extraordinary ability, employment offer.
   * **Application**: Employer or self-petitioner files Form I-140 with USCIS.
2. **EB-2: Professionals with Advanced Degrees or Exceptional Ability**:
   * **Documents**: Form I-140, labor certification, proof of qualifications.
   * **Application**: Similar to EB-1, with additional labor market testing for certain categories.
3. **EB-3: Skilled Workers, Professionals, and Other Workers**:
   * **Documents**: Form I-140, labor certification, proof of skills/education.
   * **Application**: Employer files Form I-140, follows similar steps to EB-2​ ([USCIS](https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy))​​ ([American Immigration Council](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works))​.

**Non-Immigrant Visas**

Non-immigrant visas are for temporary stays in the United States.

**Business/Tourism Visas**

1. **B-1: Business Visitor**:
   * **Documents**: Form DS-160, passport, visa fee receipt, invitation letter.
   * **Application**: Submit DS-160, attend visa interview at a U.S. consulate.
2. **B-2: Tourist Visitor**:
   * **Documents**: Form DS-160, passport, visa fee receipt, proof of ties to home country.
   * **Application**: Same as B-1​ ([AUWCL](https://www.wcl.american.edu/academics/onlineed/immigration-law/))​.

**Work Visas**

1. **H-1B: Specialty Occupations**:
   * **Documents**: Form I-129, job offer, proof of qualifications, LCA.
   * **Application**: Employer files Form I-129, visa interview follows approval.
2. **L-1: Intracompany Transferee**:
   * **Documents**: Form I-129, proof of employment with multinational company.
   * **Application**: Employer files Form I-129, visa interview follows approval​ ([American Immigration Council](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works))​.

**Student/Exchange Visitor Visas**

1. **F-1: Academic Student**:
   * **Documents**: Form I-20, SEVIS fee receipt, Form DS-160, financial support documents.
   * **Application**: Complete DS-160, pay SEVIS fee, visa interview.
2. **J-1: Exchange Visitor**:
   * **Documents**: Form DS-2019, SEVIS fee receipt, Form DS-160.
   * **Application**: Complete DS-160, pay SEVIS fee, visa interview​ ([AUWCL](https://www.wcl.american.edu/academics/onlineed/immigration-law/))​.

**Resources and Legal Texts**

* **Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)**: The primary body of law governing immigration, found in 8 U.S.C.
* **USCIS Guidelines**: Provides comprehensive instructions on immigration procedures and policies.
* **FAQs and Case Studies**: Available on websites like USCIS, American Immigration Council, and legal education platforms.

**Key Resources**

1. [**USCIS Laws and Policy**](https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy)
2. [**American Immigration Council**](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works)
3. [**Introduction to U.S. Immigration Law - American University**](https://www.wcl.american.edu/)

These resources offer detailed explanations, official guidelines, and case studies to help understand and navigate U.S. immigration law.

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