

**Research Review**

Infographic – *US Visas*

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**Prepared For**HCC Medical Insurance Services

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## **Summary** Slingshot SEO specializes in the production of search media. Search media generated on behalf of Slingshot SEO’s clients complements the CLASS objectives determined by their consultants. Infographics and other types of rich media are included in the search media produced.

## During Slingshot SEO’s production of infographics, there are multiple opportunities for creative input and progress review. The following form is one such opportunity. The research review includes information and the sources from which the data was retrieved, to be considered for inclusion in the infographic. Please review the research and sources and provide feedback.

## Hosting Website www.hccmis.com/blog/

## Rich Media Type Infographic

## Actual Width of Graphic 600 pixels wide

## **Persona** Students, parents and volunteer groups that will or are considering, traveling abroad for service work.

## **Title (Title Tag)** Visas for a USA visit

## Competition: Medium

## Global Monthly Searches: 14,800

## Percentage of Difficult: 30%

Contracted Keyword  
Waiting for CSM

Research

**Types of visas (student, work, travel)**

* The type of visa you must obtain is defined by U.S. immigration law, and relates to the purpose of your travel. A visa allows a foreign citizen to travel to the U.S. port-of-entry and the Department of Homeland Security U.S. Customs and Border Protection immigration inspector authorizes or denies admission to the United States.
* Two main categories of U.S. visas
  + Nonimmigrant visas (for travel to the U.S. on a temporary basis)
    - More than 20 nonimmigrant visa types for people traveling to the United States temporarily, including amateur and professional athletes; diplomats and foreign government officials; members of the media; students; tourists and visitors seeking medical treatment.
  + Immigrant visas (for travel to live permanently in the U.S.)
    - Many more than 20 nonimmigrant visa types for people traveling to the United States temporarily.
  + U.S. visa policy permits citizens of certain countries to travel to the U.S. without a visa, when they meet certain requirements, under U.S. laws.
    - Visa Waiver Program (VWP)
    - Mexican and Canadian NAFTA Professional Worker
    - Citizens of Canada and Bermuda

**Eligibility/**w**hat do you need to know**

* In general, to be eligible to apply for an immigrant visa, a foreign citizen must be sponsored by a U.S. citizen relative(s), U.S. lawful permanent resident, or by a prospective employer, and be the beneficiary of an approved petition filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
  + Diversity Visa Program - Visas provided are drawn from countries with low rates of immigration to the U.S. Unlike other immigrant types, Diversity Visas (DV) do not require a U.S. sponsor, and therefore a petition is not needed.
  + If a person is a U.S. citizen, he or she is not eligible for a visa. Any applicant believing he or she may have a claim to U.S. citizenship should have his or her citizenship claim adjudicated (officially determined) by a consular officer at a U.S. embassy or consulate before applying for a U.S. visa.
* After the immigrant petition has been approved (excluding DV applicants) by USCIS, then the next step is preliminary processing for a visa with the Department of State, National Visa Center. Visit Immigrant Visa Processing – the National Visa Center for information related to:
  + Affidavit of Support
  + Required applicant documents (i.e. birth certificates, police reports, marriage/divorce certificates, etc.)
  + Medical Exam/Panel physician information
  + Interviews

**Cost**

* Non-petition-based nonimmigrant visa (except E): $160.00
  + Visitor Visa: Business, Tourism, Medical treatment
  + Transiting the U.S.
* Crewmembers - Airline, Ship
* Student, Academic
* Media and Journalists
* Exchange Visitors
* Students, Vocational
* NAFTA Professionals
* Victim of Trafficking in Persons
* Victim of Criminal Activity
* Petition-based visa categories: $190.00
  + Temporary Workers/Employment or Trainees
  + Intracompany Transferees
  + Persons with Extraordinary Ability
  + Athletes. Artists & Entertainers
  + International Cultural Exchange
  + Religious Worker
* Treaty Trader/Investor, Australian Professional Specialty category visa: $270.00
* Fiancé(e) or Spouse of U.S. citizen category visa: $240.00

**Border crossing card fees**

* Border crossing card - age 15 and over (Valid 10 years): $160.00
* Border crossing card - under age 15; for Mexican citizens if parent or guardian has or is applying for a border crossing card (valid 10 years or until the applicant reaches age 15, whichever is sooner): $15.00

**Other fees**

* L visa fraud prevention and detection fee - for visa applicant included in L blanket petition (principal applicant only): $500.00
* Border Security Act fee – for visa applicant included in L blanket petition, where petition indicates subject to fee (principal applicant only): $2,250.00

**Checklist of documents/tasks** (A citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the United States (U.S.) generally must first obtain a U.S. visa, which is placed in the traveler’s passport, a travel document issued by the traveler’s country of citizenship.)

* Apply online
* Supply identical color photographs with application
* Have an in-person interview
* Vaccinations? (link to vaccination interactive)

**What agencies?**

* U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
* Department of Homeland Security
* The Office of Visa Services, in the Consular Affairs Bureau, Department of State
* National Visa Center: Collects immigrant visa application forms, Affidavit of Support forms and fee payments for US Embassies and US Consulates.

(<http://travel.state.gov/visa/>)

**Green card lottery**

* Each year, around 50,000 immigrant visas are made available through the Diversity Visa (DV) program, also known as the Green Card Lottery to people who were born in countries with low rates of immigration to the United States (fewer than 50,000 immigrants in the past five years). Applicants can only qualify by country of birth, not by citizenship. Anyone who is selected under this lottery will be given the opportunity to apply for permanent residence. They can also file for their spouse and any unmarried children under the age of 21.
* If permanent residence is granted, the winner (and his/her family, if applicable) receives an immigrant visa in their passport(s) that has to be "activated" within six months of issuance at any port of entry to the United States. If already in the US adjustment of status may be pursued. The new immigrant receives a stamp on the visa as proof of lawful admittance to the United States, and the individual is now authorized to live and work permanently in the United States. Finally, the actual "green card" typically arrives by mail within a few months.
* More than 14.7 million applications for the 2012 Diversity Visa Lottery were submitted. This is an increase from the more than 2.7 million applications submitted in the 2011 Diversity Visa Lottery. Taking into account dependents, there are more than 19.6 million participants in the 2012 Diversity Visa Lottery. The largest number of applicants came from Bangladesh (more than 7.6 million applicants) followed by Nigeria (2,144,626) and Ukraine (1,080,091).

**US citizens may sponsor for permanent residence in the United States the following relatives:**

* Spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21;
* Unmarried children over the age of 21 (called "sons and daughters");
* Married sons and daughters;
* Brothers and sisters (once the US citizen is at least 21 years old).
* A United States Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as an Alien Registration Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card) is an identification card attesting to the permanent resident status of an alien in the United States. Known informally as a green card because it was actually green from 1946 to 1964 and reverted to that color in May 2010.
* Lawful Permanent Residents generally do not have the right to vote, the right to be elected in federal and state elections, the ability to bring family members to the United States, and aren't eligible for federal government jobs. Male permanent residents between the ages of 18 and 26 are subject to registering in the Selective Service System. Permanent residents who reside in the US must pay taxes on their income, like US citizens.
* Green cards were formerly issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The Homeland Security Act of 2002 dismantled the INS and separated the former agency into three components within the Department of Homeland Security: the "US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) handles applications for immigration benefits and the former INS was broken into Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

([**http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-09-28-migrants28\_ST\_N.htm**](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-09-28-migrants28_ST_N.htm)**)**

* Many people in Latin America have requested legal visas to come to the USA, but the wait can be decades, if approval is given at all. Diversity visa programs aimed at increasing the USA's cultural mix are skewed against Latin America because there are so many of its people already here. All of which provides a powerful inducement to sneak in, critics of the U.S. immigration system say.
* Until the 1920s, immigrating to the USA was relatively easy. America needed people to populate its Western frontier and work in its factories. In 1921, Congress passed the first law setting numerical limits for visas based on countries of origin. As the USA moved toward a service-oriented economy in the 1960s, immigration officials became more selective about the kinds of workers the nation wanted. These days, U.S. immigrant visas are limited mostly to the educated, the affluent or people who have spouses or parents in the USA, said Gustavo Garcia, an immigration lawyer in Mexico City.
* Even for those who meet the requirements for a visa, getting approval to immigrate to the USA can take 20 years or more, compared with the three to five hours it took immigrants to pass through Ellis Island during the peak of European immigration from 1900 to 1914.
* There were about 11.1 million illegal immigrants in the USA in 2009.