

☒ UNITED STATES VISA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (TEXT VERSION)

1. VISITOR VISA (B-1 / B-2 / B-1/B-2)

Purpose:

Short visits for business (B-1), tourism/medical/family (B-2), or both (B-1/B-2 combined).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant's visit must be **temporary** (typically under 6 months).
- Applicant must have a **residence outside the U.S.** they do not intend to abandon.
- Must demonstrate **ties to home country** (employment, family, property, etc.).
- Must show **financial ability** to cover expenses during stay.
- Cannot seek or accept employment in the U.S.
- Must have a **valid passport** (generally 6 months beyond intended stay).
- Must not have violated U.S. immigration laws previously.

Documents Required:

- DS-160 confirmation page
- MRV (visa) fee receipt
- Interview appointment confirmation
- Passport-sized photo

- Supporting evidence (bank statements, job letters, etc.)
-

2. STUDENT VISAS (F-1, M-1, J-1)

Purpose:

For studying at approved U.S. institutions (academic, vocational, or exchange programs).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must have a **Form I-20 (F/M)** or **DS-2019 (J)** from a SEVP-approved institution.
- Must show **proof of financial resources** to cover tuition and living costs.
- Must have sufficient **English proficiency** or enroll in English training.
- Must maintain a **residence abroad** with no intention of permanent immigration.
- Must intend to study **full-time** at the institution.

Notes:

- Dependents (spouse/children) can apply for **F-2 / M-2 / J-2** visas.
 - J-1 may include exchange categories like scholars, researchers, or interns.
-

3. WORK VISAS (H-1B, L-1, O-1, TN, etc.)

H-1B (Specialty Occupations)

- Job must require **specialized knowledge** (usually bachelor's degree or higher).

- Employer must file a **Labor Condition Application (LCA)** with the Dept. of Labor.
- Applicant must have the necessary qualifications and degree equivalence.

L-1 (Intra-company Transfer)

- Applicant must have worked **1+ year abroad** for a qualifying employer.
- Transfer must be to a **parent, branch, affiliate, or subsidiary** in the U.S.

O-1 (Individuals with Extraordinary Ability)

- Must demonstrate **national/international recognition** in science, art, business, athletics, etc.

TN (USMCA/NAFTA)

- For citizens of **Canada or Mexico** with qualifying professional occupations.

4. IMMIGRANT VISAS (Green Card Pathways)

Common Categories:

- **Family-based:** Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.
- **Employment-based:** Skilled workers, professionals, investors (EB-1 to EB-5).
- **Diversity Visa (DV Lottery):** Randomly selected individuals from underrepresented countries.

Eligibility Factors:

- Valid petition (Form I-130, I-140, etc.) approved by USCIS.
 - No disqualifying criminal or immigration violations.
 - Medical examination clearance.
 - Proof of financial sponsorship (Form I-864 for family-based).
-

5. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP)

For: Nationals of 40+ approved countries.

Duration: 90 days or less (tourism/business only).

Requirements:

- Must have **ESTA authorization** prior to travel.
 - Must hold **e-passport** valid for at least six months beyond intended stay.
 - No prior visa overstays or ineligibility grounds.
-

6. GENERAL INELIGIBILITY GROUNDS (Section 212 INA)

Applicants are **ineligible** if they:

- Have overstayed or violated prior U.S. visa terms.
- Have certain **criminal convictions** (drug, moral turpitude, etc.).
- Pose **security, health, or public charge risks**.

- Have engaged in immigration fraud or misrepresentation.

7. KEY REFERENCES

- [USCIS Policy Manual – Volume 2: Nonimmigrants](#)
- [U.S. Department of State – Visa Types Overview](#)
- [8 U.S.C. §1182 (INA §212)] – Inadmissibility Criteria