



HOW I GOT AN INFOSEC JOB IN ANOTHER COUNTRY* AND YOU CAN TOO*!

*the US

*there's a bit of work

Claire N.

[HTTPS://WWW.CLAIRESCC.COM/BLOG](https://www.clairesec.com/blog)

This presentation now features 5000% more cat pics



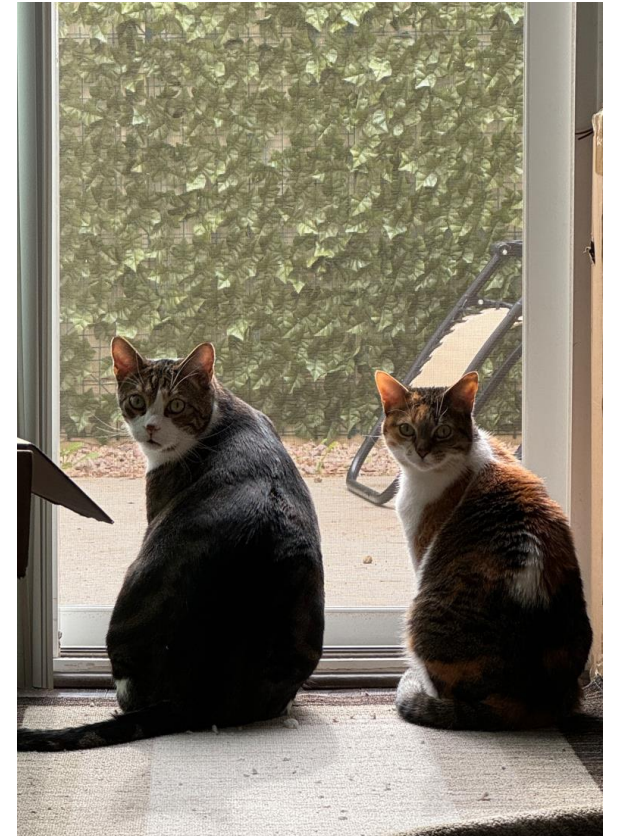
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Disclaimer

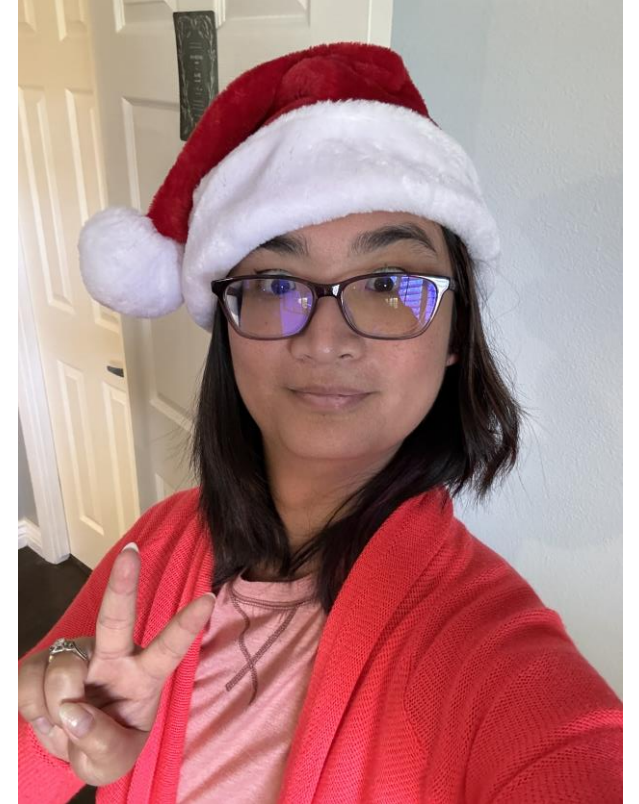
- Not a lawyer
- Educational/entertainment purposes only
- Do your own research!



About Claire N.



- She/her
- From Toronto, Canada. Currently in Arizona
- 8 years in IT/infosec
- Senior “Detection Engineer” @ \$COMPANY
- Educational background in Cognitive Science and Infosec
- Featured in credits of the game “Ultimate Chicken Horse”
- My fingerprints are on file with the cops and the feds
- Completed a coney hot dog challenge- ate 6 coneys in under an hour
- Sometimes fun at parties



Show of hands...



Who Has Been to the US?

Leave your hands up



Who's Interested in Getting a Job There?

Wowee you're definitely listening to the right talk



Who's This Talk For?

Why Work in Another Country?

- Potential higher pool of available jobs
- Learn about another culture, their food, history
- Get paid more (or less?)
- Travel without having to go through customs every time
- It's fun

US Work Permits

- Most will think of H-1B visas
- Work on a lottery system
- Limited amount of visas
- Usually for the most talented and skilled people in fields that are “in demand”

Employer Sponsored – Employment

	E1 E2	
Employment-Based Immigrants, including (preference group):		
• Priority workers [First]	E3, EW3	
• Professionals Holding Advanced Degrees and Persons of Exceptional Ability [Second]		
• Professionals and Other Workers [Third]	C5, T5, R5, I5	
• Employment Creation/Investors [Fifth]		
• Certain Special Immigrants: [Fourth]	S (many**)	
Foreign national with extraordinary ability in Sciences, Arts, Education, Business or Athletics	O	USCIS
Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Professional: Chile, Singapore	H-1B1 - Chile H-1B1 - Singapore	DOL
International cultural exchange visitor	Q	USCIS
Intra-company transferee	L	USCIS
Medical treatment, visitor for	B-2	(NA)
Media, journalist	I	(NA)
NAFTA professional worker: Mexico, Canada	TN/TD	(NA)
Performing athlete, artist, entertainer	P	USCIS
Physician	J, H-1B	SEVIS
Professor, scholar, teacher (exchange visitor)	J	SEVIS
Religious worker	R	USCIS
Specialty occupations in fields requiring highly specialized knowledge	H-1B	DOL then USCIS

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/all-visa-categories.html>

Which Work Permit Did I Get?

- TN Status
 - Not a visa*
 - *Unless you are a citizen of Mexico
 - Usually requires a bachelors degree and/or 3 years' work experience
- No limit to how many applications are processed per year
- Eligible for renewal every 3 years
- Caveat: No path to citizenship

	Medical treatment, visitor for	<u>B-2</u>	(NA)
	Media, journalist	<u>I</u>	(NA)
	NAFTA professional worker: Mexico, Canada	<u>TN/TD</u>	(NA)
	Performing athlete, artist, entertainer	<u>P</u>	USCIS
	Physician	<u>J</u> , <u>H-1B</u>	SEVIS

What's Required for an Infosec Job?

- Need 7 things at a minimum
 - Valid passport with empty page(s)
 - Bachelor's degree (or 3 years' experience)
 - School transcript
 - Offer letter
 - Support letter
 - \$50 in debit or credit
 - Job category that aligns with the TN status list of approved professions
 - For a "detection engineer" the category is "computer systems analyst"
 - Not "engineer" as a "software engineer" or "computer programmer"
- [OPTIONAL] credential evaluation if the degree is not in English or outside NA

How Do You Get TN Status as a Canadian?

- Apply when you catch a flight to the US or cross the land border
 - Preclearance airports or major land borders are best
 - There's a list of airports and land crossings for "optimized processing"
 - <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/canadian-and-mexican-citizens/traveling-tn-or-l1-visa-canada>
 - Takes about 1-2 hours depending on your situation and the queue time
- Tell the border officer you want to apply for TN status
 - You can go through the NEXUS line if you have it!
 - They will take you to a secondary screening area for the interview
 - Provide the 7 items
- Done!

Story Time

- Hopped on a plane to Calgary, stayed for one night
- Before the return flight I went through preclearance
- Moved to secondary screening
- Got interviewed
- Got the work permit
- Flew home!



FAQ

What Are Some Obstacles to Job Hunting?

- Need to ask in the initial phone screen if the company can help with the process
- Not every company can accommodate you
 - Might be a job that requires security clearance
- Company might not offer relocation assistance

What Things Did you do After Getting the Job?

- Confirmed I-94 was updated with TN status
- Got a Social Security Number (SSN)
- Filled out a bunch of paperwork with my company
- Obtained a credit card
- Got an AZ driver's license
- Got a bank account
- Imported my car
- Told people about it



How Hard Was it to Adjust?

- Not very



Personal Living Experience

- Cost of living is on average slightly higher
- Even after conversion these things can be more expensive:
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Rent
 - Car purchases
- Wages and salary can offset these things

Social/Cultural Quirks?

- **They use imperial units instead of metric**
- **Amazon.ca vs. amazon.com markup**
- **Bagged milk is not a thing at all. Neither are milk pitchers**
- A double double is not a coffee with double cream and double sugar. It is a hamburger on the west coast
- You go to use the "bathroom" or "restroom"
- An elastic band is a "rubber band"
- People don't usually say "sorry" when they bump into you, they say "excuse me"
- Ketchup chips aren't a thing. or ketchup powder. you get funny or disgusted looks.
- Taco bell has nacho fries (in certain locations) and fries supreme is not a thing
- I get crap for emphasizing the 'L' in "salmon"

Summary

- TN status is available for Canadians as an option to get a job in the US
- There is no lottery system and an unlimited amount of applications
- Applying is done at the port of entry
- An employer may have/hire a lawyer to help you with the process, but this is not required. I went through the process by myself
- You got this!

References



- <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/temporary-workers/tn-nafta-professionals> – TN Status Explanation
- <https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/us-work-visa-infographic-59796963/59796963> - Common Work Visa Infographic
- <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/canadian-and-mexican-citizens/traveling-tn-or-l1-visa-canada> - List of “optimized processing” locations for TN status applications
- <https://www.boundless.com/immigration-resources/tn-status-explained/> - Comparison of work permits
- <https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/8cfr2146> - List of applicable professions covered

References Pt. 2

- <https://clairescc.com/blog/2022/11/12/TN-Obtained> - My blog post that covers most material in this talk
- <https://legalservicesincorporated.com/immigration/do-i-need-an-evaluation-of-my-foreign-educational-credentials-for-tn-visas/> - Credential evaluation guide
- <https://legalservicesincorporated.com/immigration/can-i-get-a-tn-visa-for-it-professional-can-tn-visas-be-issued-for-software-engineers-can-an-it-person-get-a-tn-visa-can-a-hardware-engineer-get-a-tn-visa/> - Guidance about what category to use for detection engineers/software engineers
- <https://clairescc.com/blog> - My personal blog

Thanks for listening.
See you in DC902!

cat photos: 11

Dedicated to Lina the Cat, 2018-2024

