

IMMIGRATION

Visa Type	Permitted Activities	Prohibited Activities	Eligibility Criteria	Length of Stay	Dependents	Process and Timeframe	Special Considerations
B-1 Business Visitor Visa Waiver Program	Establish an investment and plan for relocation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate a business • Open accounts • Secure premises • Search for housing and schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct, manage, or provide services to a U.S. business • Receive compensation from a U.S. employer • Attend school 	Must have a residence outside the United States and intend to remain in the United States temporarily and only for permitted activities .	Up to six months with a B-1 visa stamp, or up to 90 days under the Visa Waiver Program with approved ESTA .	Yes, provided they will not engage in prohibited activities and they meet eligibility criteria.	Immediate if already have B-1 visa; a few days to secure on-line ESTA approval; Appointment waiting times at U.S. consulate to apply for B-1 visa range from days to weeks.	While a stay of up to 6 months is permitted under the rules for those with a visa, U.S. border officers will typically only permit entry for a shorter period, depending on the reasons for the visit. Entrants under the Visa Waiver Program/ESTA will almost always be granted a 90-day stay.
E Treaty Trader/ Investor	Invest in, direct, and/or manage a U.S. business that is majority owned by citizens of a country with which the United States has a commercial treaty .	U.S. employment with an organization other than the one sponsoring the E visa business.	The U.S. business must be majority owned by citizens of a treaty country and the E visa applicant must also be a citizen of that country. The applicant must also be entering the United States to direct and manage the investment or provide essential skills.	Visa validity varies by country. Two- year stay typically granted each entry. No maximum period of stay.	Yes. Spouses and unmarried children under age 21 may accompany principal visa-holder and attend school. Spouses can apply for work authorization.	Qualifying U.S. businesses must request eligibility from U.S. consulate in order to support E visa applications. Once eligible, qualified citizens of treaty country may apply for E visas at U.S. consulate. Appointment waiting times at U.S. consulate to apply for E visa range from days to weeks.	E-1 visas require U.S. business to engage in substantial trade with the other treaty signatory. E-2 visas require a substantial investment in U.S. business.
L-1 Intracompany Transferee	L-1A: Employment as executive , manager for a U.S. entity with foreign affiliates L-1B: Employment based on specialized knowledge for a U.S. entity with foreign affiliates	U.S. employment other than with sponsoring L-1 organization	Must be employed outside U.S. for at least one year in an executive, managerial, or specialized knowledge capacity for a parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or branch of U.S. entity.	Up to 7 years if U.S. role is executive or managerial (L-1A) Up to 5 years if U.S. role is specialized knowledge (L-1B)	Yes. Spouses and unmarried children under age 21 may accompany the principal visa-holder and attend school. Spouses can apply for work authorization.	USCIS approval required before applying for visa unless employer has an approved " blanket " petition covering the U.S. and foreign employers. USCIS processing is several months unless employer pays for two-week Premium Processing . Appointment waiting times at U.S. consulates to apply for L-1 visa range from days to weeks.	Newly established U.S. businesses may sponsor foreign employees for L-1 visas, but work authorization is initially granted for one year, then sponsorship must be renewed with evidence of continued business viability .

