

Comparison of Visa Types

	J-1 VISITING SCHOLAR	B-1/VISA WAIVER PROGRAM	H-1B TEMPORARY WORKER	TN CANADIAN MEXICAN PROFESSIONALS
Purpose	Research, teaching, observation, consultation to benefit international exchange	Engaging in temporary professional activities (conventions, conferences, seminars, independent research, observing professional activity)	Employment in a specialty occupation (specific field of specialization)	Temporary employment for professionals under NAFTA
Initial Time	Short-term – up to 6 months Research Scholar/Professor – up to 5 years	B-1: (no pay/reimbursement only) – reasonable, up to 6 months B-1: (honorarium) – event lasting not more than 9 days VWP: (no pay/reimbursement only) – up to 90 days VWP: (honorarium) – event lasting not more than 9 days	Up to 3 years at a time Up to a total of 6 years	Up to 3 years
Extension	Can request extension through the Office of International Affairs one month prior to expiration of DS-2019 Short-Term – up to 6 months Research Scholar/Professor – up to 5 years	B-1: Extension of temporary stay may be granted by USCIS in increments of not more than 6 months up to a total time of 1 year. Must show need; extensions are highly scrutinized VWP: No extension	Department must initiate extension 6 months prior to the expiration date Up to 3 years at a time Up to a total of 6 years	Can request an extension through USCIS or go home and cross the border again with a new letter
Intent	Return home at end of program – must declare temporary intent to obtain visa	Temporary activities	Dual intent – may eventually seek PR	The job must be temporary
Position	No tenure-track faculty positions, appointment must be temporary	No employment May receive an honorarium for activities lasting not more than 9 days	Positions requiring at least a Bachelor’s degree in a specific field of study	Employment of professionals
Restriction	2-year home return requirement for some, not all All Research Scholars/Professors – 24-month repeat participation bar 12-month bar if previously in J status	No employment May receive an honorarium for activities lasting not more than 9 days	Must be in an Ohio State salaried or hourly wage position	Only professions on the schedule qualify
Funding	Ohio State, personal funds, home institution, government, scholarship, etc	Personal funds, home institution	Salary/hourly wage paid with Ohio State paycheck	Salary paid with Ohio State paycheck
Minimum Funding	\$19,200/year for J-1, additional funding required for spouse and children	Funding sufficient for length of stay	Prevailing Wage as determined by the National Prevailing Wage and Helpdesk Center	None
Processing Time	After IntBuckeye record and all required documentation have been submitted, 3 days	B-1: visa processing time at U.S. consulate VWP: no processing – obtained at border	NPWHC: up to 6 months U.S. Department of Labor: 7 days Office of International Affairs after all documentation submitted: 2 weeks USCIS: up to 4-6 months	Canadians: no processing – obtained at border Mexicans: visa processing time at U.S. consulate
Documents Required for Visa or Entry at Border	DS-2019, department’s invitation letter, funding documentation if not being fully funded by Ohio State	Letter from department stating purpose of the trip, arrangements for covering costs of the trip and length of stay Funding documentation VWP: Obtain travel authorization via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)	I-797 H-1B approval notice, petition packet	Letter from department stating profession, duties, purpose of entry, length of stay, educational qualifications, compensation
Fees	Visa fees at consulate or USCIS change of status fee, SEVIS fee, \$425 Office of International Affairs fee	B-1: visa fees VWP: ESTA fee; land boarder fee (if applicable)	New H-1B: \$2,460 Extension: \$1,960 Optional Premium Processing fee: \$2,805 Family: \$370	Canadians: \$50 USD at the border. Mexicans: Visa application fee
Dependents	J-2, eligible for work authorization	Would need to come as B-2 Visitor for Pleasure (tourist)	H-4, cannot work, must change status to work	TD, cannot work, must change status to work