

COMPARISON OF VISA TYPES*

	J-1 Visiting Scholar	B-1 / Visa Waiver Program (VWP) Visitor for Business	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: Status for up to 6 months No pay - reimbursement only within a reasonable amount Honorarium for an event lasting not more than 9 days VWP: No pay - reimbursement only for status up to 90 days Honorarium for an event lasting not more than 9 days	Up to 3 years/ petition Up to a total of 6 years	Up to 3 years
Extension	Can request extension through OIA 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 <u>may</u> 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 extensions possible	Department must initiate extension 6 months prior to the expiration date Up to 3 years/ petition 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 in order 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	Positions requiring at least a Bachelor's degree in a specific field of study	Employment of professionals
Restriction	2-yr 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 OSU salaried or hourly wage position	Only professions on USCIS' list qualify

Funding	OSU, personal funds, home institution, government, scholarship, etc.	Personal funds, home institution	Salary/hourly wage paid by OSU	Salary paid by OSU
Minimum Funding	\$19,200/year for J-1, additional funding required for spouse (\$9,000/year) and children (\$6600/year/child)	Funding sufficient for length of stay	As determined by the National Prevailing Wage & Helpdesk Center.	None
Processing Time	After all required documentation submitted to OIA ~3 days	B-1: visa processing time at U.S. consulate VWP: no processing – obtained at border	NPWHC ~ 3 months, US Dept of Labor ~10 days, OIA: after all documentation submitted ~2 weeks, USCIS ~4 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 fully funded by OSU	Letter from department stating purpose of the trip, arrangements for covering costs of the trip, and length of stay Funding documentation VWP: 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, \$366 OIA fee	B-1: visa fees VWP: ESTA fee; land boarder fee (if applicable)	New H-1B: \$2,143 Extension: \$1,643 Optional premium processing fee \$1,225 Family: \$370	Canadians: Fee paid at the border Mexicans: Visa application fee
Dependents	J-2, eligible for employment only after authorization from USCIS	Would need to come as B-2 Visitor for Pleasure (tourist)	H-4 may work in some cases and only after authorization from USCIS	TD, cannot work, must change status to work

* **Please note: This brief overview is not all-inclusive.**