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: (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 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 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-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 the Schedule qualify.

Funding	OSU, personal funds, home institution, government, scholarship, etc.	Personal funds, home institution.	Salary/hourly wage paid with OSU pay check.	Salary paid with OSU pay check.
Minimum Funding	$14,400/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 & Helpdesk Center.	None.
Processing Time	After eScholar record and all required documentation have been submitted, 3 days.	B-1 visa: visa processing time at U.S. consulate. VWP: no processing – obtained at border.	NPWHC-up to 1 month, U.S. Dept of Labor-3 days, OIA-after all documentation submitted-2 weeks, USCIS-up to 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 being 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. For 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, $297 OIA fee.	B-1: visa fees. VWP: ESTA fee; land boarder fee (if applicable)	New H-1B: $1,825; Extension: $1,325; Optional Premium Processing fee $1,225; Family: $290	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.

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