

TYPES OF VISAS

NOTE: In most cases only non-citizens with Permanent Residency (Green Cards) or Employment Authorization Cards may be employed in Excepted Service (temporary) appointments. Post docs are hired using the H-1B1 visa and the Area Office obtains the visa. The post doc cannot report for work until the H-1B1 application is approved by Immigration.

The information below on types of visas will be useful when completing the ARS-230 form for foreign workers in our facilities.

- B-1 This is a business visa. It is usually valid for 6 months. A visitor on B-1 visa may not be paid a salary, but may be reimbursed for expenses. Also, the visitor may not have an I-94.
- B-2 This is a tourist visa, valid until expiration data. This type of visitor may not have an I-94.
- EAD Employment Authorization Document (Card). It is valid until the expiration date. It will have a 9 digit number beginning with A. This visitor may have an I-94 and a visa.
- F-1 This is an academic student visa. It is valid for the length of the student's program. The student can be employed if they have an EAD issues by INS and are from a country on the approved list. This student will have an I-20 and I-94; they may have an EAD.
- Green Card Issued to legal permanent residents (including political asylees and refugees) of the U.S. The card will have a 9-digit number, beginning with A.
- H-1B This is a temporary specialty occupation employment visa. It is valid for up to 3 years with one 3-year extension. (NOTE: For ARS purposes, H-1B1 visas are requested for 2 years with possible 2 year extension.) This visa holder must be sponsored by an employer, will have an I-94 and may have an EAD.
- H-2A This is an agricultural worker visa issued for performance of agricultural work of a temporary or seasonal nature. The holder of this visa will have an I-94.
- I-94 This document is attached to the visa upon boarding plane. It will have an 11-digit number and includes expiration date or D/S (duration of stay). The duration of stay is the longer of the periods during which the DS-2019, I-20, EAD or I-94 is valid.

- J-1 This is an exchange visitor visa. It is valid for length of program to maximum of 3 years. The holder of this visa may be employed upon graduation from a U.S. university if the university Responsible Officer approves them for “practical training”. Will have I-94, but may not have expiration data, just D/S and DS-2019 number.
- M-1 This is a vocational or other non-academic student visa. It is valid for length of program. The holder of this visa will have I-20 and I-94.
- O-1 This visa is granted to those with extraordinary ability in sciences, arts, education, business or athletics visa. Valid for 1 year; must be extended by BCIS each year. The holder of this visa must have an EAD.
- TN NAFTA Treaty visa which is issued to Canadian or Mexican nationals. This visa requires an offer of employment from a U.S. employer. The holder of this visa will have an I-94 and may also have an EAD.
- VWP Visa Waiver Program for nationals from the following countries: Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia (Slovak Republic), Slovenia, South Korea (Republic of), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Permits the visitor to enter the U.S. without a visa for 90 days or less, with a passport issued by a VWP country that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended stay. (The VWP is not the J-1 visa waiver program which waives the requirement that a J-1 return to the home country for 2 years before returning to the U.S.). Will have an I-94.