

What Are The Most Frequent Types Of American Visas In 2023

Next, we will show you what are the most common types of American visas:



Tourist And Business Visas

There are 2 types of visas for the category of tourism and business, these are:

- **B-1 business visitor visa**, includes:
 - Business partners.
 - Negotiation of contracts.
 - Scientific assistance.
 - Educational assistance.
 - Liquidation of assets.
 - Nannies or domestic workers.

- Amateur or professional athletes (only for competitions that award prizes).
- **B-2 visa** for tourism, medical treatment or pleasure, includes:
 - Tourism.
 - Visits to family or friends.
 - Medical treatment.
 - Social or service activities.

Student Visas

Foreigners can study in the United States legally, as long as they are eligible for a student visa. Among these we find the following types of visas:

- **F-1 visa** for foreign students enrolling in an academic study program (college or university). Valid for any level of studies.
- **F-2 visa** dependents of the F-1 holder.
- **F-3 visa** for Mexican or Canadian national academic students who have to travel (commuter) periodically.
- **M-1 visa** for students who enroll in vocational programs of short duration and without academic value.
- **M-2 visa** dependents of the M-1 holder.

Worker Visas

To work legally in the United States, a specific visa is needed depending on the type of work. This category includes the following types of visas:

- **EB-1 visa** granted to workers who possess extraordinary abilities and who come to practice permanently in the US.
- **EB-2 visa** issued to people who practice medicine in marginalized areas.
- **EB-3 visa** intended for professional workers who are not eligible for the EB-1 and EB-2 visa.
- **EB-4 visa** for those who have worked in the US government and foreign widows/widowers who have been married to a US citizen.
- **EB-5 visa** for the immigrant investor program.
- **H-1B visa** granted to professionals with specialized jobs.
- **H-1B1 visa** for the US-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) professionals and Singapore FTA professionals.
- **H-2A visa** for temporary employment in agriculture.
- **H-2B visa** for non-agricultural workers. For example:
 - Construction worker.
 - Gardening work.
 - Cleaning.
- **H-3 visa** to trainees or exchange visitors with a special education.
- **H-1C visa** for nurses who travel due to a shortage of professionals in the health area.

- L visa for workers transferred to the US by their companies, businesses or organizations. It includes:
 - Visa L-1A workers in general or executive positions.
 - [Visa L-1B](#) workers with specialized knowledge.
- [O visa](#) for individuals with extraordinary ability in: science, education, sports or arts. It includes:
 - O-1 visa for individuals with said skills.
 - O-2 visa for assistants to O-1 visa holders.
 - O-3 visa for dependents of O-1 visa holders.
- **E-3 visa** dedicated to Australian professionals with a specialization.



[If you are an illegal immigrant in the United States and you want to know how to get a job,](#) do not hesitate to review our blog where you will find all the legal paths to achieve it.

Trader Visa

Foreigners will require a trader visa if they wish to invest or do business in the US. This includes the following types of US visas:

- **E visas** which includes treaty traders and investors. These are:
 - **E-1 visa** of merchants by commercial treaty.
 - **E-2 visa** for investors by trade agreement.

Visas For Victims Of Crimes

Victims of certain crimes and abuses in the US may be eligible for:

- **U visa** for crimes such as:
 - Domestic violence.
 - Sexual assault
 - Rape.
 - Physical or mental abuse.
 - Slavery.
 - Criminal assault.
 - Kidnapping.
- **T visa** for human trafficking and smuggling.
- **VAWA visa** for crimes such as:
 - Domestic violence.
 - Abuses.
 - Assaults.

Visas For Foreign Governments And International Organizations

- **A visa** for officials and diplomats of foreign governments. It includes:
 - **A-1 visa** for civil servants, ambassadors, ministers or members of a federal administration.
 - **A-2 visa** granted to those who work in an embassy or consulate, government officials or official and military activities.
- **G visa** for members of international organizations. It includes:
 - **G-1 visa** granted to members of a permanent mission of recognized governments.
 - **G-2 visa** granted to representatives of a recognized government traveling temporarily for international meetings.
 - **G-3 visa** for government representatives or non-recognized members.
 - **G-4 visa** for people traveling on commission for an international organization.
 - **G-5 visa** issued to personal employees or domestic workers of G-1 to G-4 holders.
- **TN visa** for temporary North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) professionals from Mexico and Canada.

Transit Visa And Crew

In order to transit in the US you will require a visa. An example is that if you will make a stopover in the country, you will need permission to do so. Crew members need to have an exclusive visa for them, which allows aircraft and ship pilots to access the territory

- **C Visa** for aliens requiring immediate and continuous transit through the US to a foreign destination.
- **BCC** is a border crossing card between Mexico and the US. It is also known as a laser visa.
- **D visa** for those working on board commercial sea vessels or international airlines in the U.S.
- **D-2 visa** for pilots and crew members entering the US and departing with another aircraft or ship other than the one that arrived to the US.

Family Visa

- **Visa for spouses** of an American citizen, these are:
 - **IR-1** granted to spouses who have been married to a US citizen for at least 2 years.
 - **IR-2** allows the child of a U.S. citizen living outside the United States to lawfully enter and live in the country.
 - **CR-1** granted to foreign spouses who have been married to a US citizen for less than two years.
 - **K-1 fiancé(e) visa of a US citizen.**
 - **K-3 visa** granted to spouses of US citizens who may enter the country pending approval of [Form I-130](#).
- International adoption visas for orphaned children by American citizens. It includes:
 - **IR-3** for children adopted abroad by a U.S citizen.
 - **IR-4** for children to be adopted within the U.S by a U.S citizen.
 - **IH-3** are generally for children who are adopted in a Convention country.
 - **IH-4** are generally for children coming from a Convention country who will be adopted in the United States.

IR visas are issued to children who come from non-Hague Convention countries. On the other hand the IH is granted to children who belong to countries of the Hague Convention.

- Visas for certain family members of a US citizen. They include:
 - **F1** for unmarried sons and daughters who are 21 years of age or older.
 - **F3** for married sons and daughters.
 - **F4** for brothers and sisters if the American is 21 years of age or older.
- Visas for Family Members of Lawful Permanent Residents
 - **F2A** for spouses and unmarried children under 21 years of age.
 - **F2B** for unmarried sons and daughters of 21 years of age.



In our [US family-based immigration section](#) you will find specific articles to know how to petition to bring your relatives to the US: “[US citizen petition for parents](#)” or “[How do I bring my foreign spouse to the US](#)” among others.

Other Visas

Other visas available for the United States are the following:

- [Special immigrant juvenile status](#) for minors who are victims of abuse, abandonment, or neglect by a parent.
- **Visa I** for media employees:
 - TV.
 - Radio.
 - Journals.
 - Newspapers.
 - Reporters.
 - Publishers.

- Analysts.
 - Presenters.
 - Translators.
- **P visa** for artists, performers or exchange workers who perform a musical or theatrical presentation. It includes:
 - P-1 applies to individual or team athletes who are recognized internationally.
 - P-2 for artists who belong to an exchange program.
 - P-3 applies to artists who perform in unique cultural programs.
 - P-4 spouses or children under 21 years of age accompanying P-1, P-2 and/or P-3 holders.
- **Q visa** for cultural exchange in business, school, museum or other cultural centers.
- **J visa** for foreign exchange visitors. They include:
 - **J-1 visa** for foreigners in study or work exchange programs.
 - **J-2 visa** for children under 21 years of age or spouse of the J-1 holder.
- **R visa** for religious members, such as:
 - Minister.
 - Priest.
 - Worker of a religious association.
- **SB-1 visa** for immigrants who had a **Green Card** and were unable to return in time due to certain circumstances and lost their immigration status.