

VISA CATEGORIES MOST COMMONLY USED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA							
TYPE OF VISA (IMMIGRATION STATUS)	POSSIBLE INCOME FROM US SOURCES	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	MAXIMUM LENGTH OF STAY IN US	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION NEEDED	GOV'T FORMS
B-1 VISITOR FOR BUSINESS*	Honorarium and/or reimbursement for travel and subsistence possible, but no salary*	Proof of academic or business purpose for visit to the United States	6 months-renewable to 12 months	Quick and relatively easy to obtain and use many times; no government form or petition required	Limited stay in US; may not be paid a salary. Cannot stay for more than 9 days at any one university if being paid.	Invitation letter with dates and purpose of visit; proof of adequate funds; evidence of return ticket.	None
B-2 VISITOR FOR PLEASURE*	Honorarium and/or reimbursement for travel and subsistence possible, but no salary*	Evidence of financial support and tourist plans	6 months-renewable to 12 months	See B-1 above	See above	Proof of adequate funds for visit; evidence of return ticket.	None
WB (WAIVER OF BUSINESS)* or WT (WAIVER OF TOURIST)*	Honorarium and/or reimbursement for travel and subsistence possible, but no salary*	WB: See B-1 WT: See B-2 Only applicable if from designated visa waiver country	90 days	WB: See B-1 WT: See B-2 No extensions or change of immigration status possible.	WB: See B-1 WT: See B-2	WB: See B-1 WT: See B-2	None
F-1 STUDENT	Employment on campus. <i>Pre-authorized</i> off campus practical training.	Admission to academic course of study; evidence of adequate financial support for length of program; indication of adequate English or chance to improve.	As long as academic progress continues	Easy to move to other status when applicable; not subject to home country residence requirement.	Off-campus work severely limited except for post-degree practical training (12 Mo.); spouse unable to work.	Proof of academic admission; evidence of financial support for length of program.	I-20 AB
H-1B TEMPORARY WORKER	Unlimited income from MU; no other income without petition from new employer.	Possession of professional degree and skill; indication that position to be filled requires professional skills and is temporary.	Firs period up to three years, renewable to total of 6 years	May have long term intent to immigrate; not subject to home country residence requirement.	Lots of supporting documentation needed; must pay a prevailing wage.....Dependents may not work.	Certified copy of highest degree; employer letter, LCA and more.....	I-129
J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR (STUDENTS)	Unlimited income from on or off campus work with sponsor's approval; 18 months post-degree academic training permitted.	Invitation to academic program with sponsorship; evidence of adequate financial support for length of program	As long as academic progress continues	Relatively easy and quick to obtain; spouse may work; easier to get off campus work permit than for F-1	May be subject to 2 year home residence requirement based on funding, skills or as a medical graduate. Cannot change program objective.	IAP-66 from program sponsor with details of academic objectives and financial support.	IAP-66
J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR (PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHERS)	Unlimited income for work on campus in pursuit of academic objective; off campus work permit difficult to obtain, especially in industry.	Invitation to teach, lecture or conduct research; indication of adequate financial support for length of program.	Up to three years	Relatively easy and quick to obtain; spouse may work	Same as above	Same as above	IAP-66
IMMIGRANT/ PERMANENT RESIDENT	No restrictions	Outstanding professional background or professional skills for particular positions when US workers not available; family members of US citizen, refugee or asylee	Indefinite; Naturalization optional after five years	No need for work permits or extensions of stay; free to make long term plans to stay in the US	Extensive time, effort, documentation needed	Much specific information needed.	ETA 750 A&B I-140 or I-130

*Holder of visitor status limited to 5 payments in a 6 month time period, no stay for longer than 9 days at any college or university.

This chart initially produced by volunteers of NAFSA: Association of International Educators and has been modified from the original. 02/25/02