

Available Visa Options: Foreign Nationals Coming to Penn State

	Visa Class	Permissible Activities	Penn State Eligibility	Length of Stay	Permissible Payments	PSU Sponsorship?
Unpaid	Visa Waiver Program for Business	Independent research; consult with business associates; attend workshop, seminar and/or conference; give lecture.	Will receive no salary or income from U.S. based company/entity other than expenses incidental to visit. Training cannot be designed to provide employment.	Up to 90 days	Reimbursements (travel, housing, per diem); honorarium for academic activity - 9 days or less, 5 institutions over last 6 months.	No – However, host dept. may be asked by foreign national to provide letter of invitation
	B-1 Visa for Business	Independent research; conduct business for their employer back home; attend workshop, seminar and/or conference; give lecture.	Will receive no salary or income from U.S. based company/entity other than expenses incidental to visit; training cannot be designed to provide employment.	Visa allows up to 6 months	Reimbursements (travel, housing, per diem); honorarium for academic activity - 9 days or less, 5 institutions over last 6 months.	No – However, host dept. may be asked by foreign national to provide letter of invitation
Paid by PSU or Unpaid	J-1 Exchange Visitor: Short-Term Scholar	Educational/cultural exchange in the form of lectures, observation, consultation, training or demonstrating special skills at post-secondary institutions.	Scholar must hold min. of a bachelor's degree; academic positions for research/teaching; no staff positions; full-time; temporary position (ex. Research Associate); no tenure-track/perm positions.	1 day up to 6 months (no extension beyond 6 months)		Yes – host dept. to work with J-1 Scholar Advising to request DS-2019: Jscholaradv@psu.edu
	J-1 Exchange Visitor: J-1 Specialist	An individual who is an expert in the field of specialized knowledge or skill coming to the U.S. for observing, consulting, or demonstrating special skills.	No staff positions; full-time; temporary position (ex. Someone who has knowledge of fixing specialized equipment or share specialized knowledge); no tenure-track/perm positions.	3 weeks up to 1 year (no extension beyond 1 year)		Yes – host dept. to work with J-1 Scholar Advising to request DS-2019: Jscholaradv@psu.edu
	J-1 Exchange Visitor: Intern	Foreign national enrolled in and pursuing an undergraduate degree at institution outside the U.S. in any field or individual who has graduated within 12 months in field of sciences, engineering, architecture, mathematics, or industrial occupations; must be participating in internship program in the U.S. that will fulfill educational objectives.	Enrolled/pursuing studies full-time at a post-secondary institution outside U.S.; internship must be min. 32 hrs/wk; work-based learning to allow development of practical skills; not eligible to be hired at end of internship; should not serve to fill labor need; min. funding of \$1,000/month.	3 weeks up to 12 months for each degree/major (no extension beyond 12 months)		Yes – host dept. to work with Student Advising to request DS-2019: ISSA-Adviser@psu.edu
	J-1 Exchange Visitor: Research Scholar	Educational/cultural exchange primarily in the form of research, however some teaching is also permissible.	Scholar must hold minimum of a bachelor's degree; academic positions for research/teaching; no staff positions; full-time; temporary position (ex. Research Associate); no tenure-track/perm positions.	3 weeks up to 5 years (includes time spent at another institution in J-1 status)		Yes – host dept. to work with J-1 Scholar Advising to request DS-2019: Jscholaradv@psu.edu
Paid by PSU	J-1 Exchange Visitor: Professor	Educational/cultural exchange primarily in the form of teaching, lecturing, observing, and/or consulting.	Scholar must hold minimum of a bachelor's degree; academic positions for research/teaching (no staff positions); full-time; temporary position (ex. Research Associate); no tenure-track/perm positions.	3 weeks up to 5 years (includes time spent at another institution in J-1 status)		Yes – host dept. to work with J-1 Scholar Advising to request DS-2019: Jscholaradv@psu.edu
	H-1B	Employment of a foreign national who is or will be employed in professional positions that require application of specialized knowledge.	Most commonly used for tenure-track/academic positions requiring at least a PhD (occasionally a master's degree); no staff positions; full-time only.	Up to 6 years but no more than 3 years at a time	Must be paid wages and given benefits comparable to other employees	Yes – host dept. to work with Faculty Advising: FacultyAdvising@psu.edu ; need to pay app./anti-fraud fees
	E-3	Employment of a set number of Australian nationals to perform services in the U.S. that require application of specialized knowledge.	Most commonly used for tenure-track/academic positions requiring at least a Master's Degree; no staff positions; full-time only.	Up to 2 years at a time	Must be paid wages and given benefits comparable to other employees	Yes – host dept. to work with Faculty Advising: FacultyAdvising@psu.edu
	TN	Employment of foreign nationals from Canada/Mexico in positions covered by USMCA (aka NAFTA) agreement.	Employment must be on the list of NAFTA occupations; foreign national must meet the minimum qualifications needed for the NAFTA occupation.	Up to 3 years at a time	Must be paid wages and given benefits comparable to other employees	Yes – contact FacultyAdvising@psu.edu for more information
	O-1	Reserved for scholars who have achieved a very high and acknowledged level of expertise in their field.	Must be able to demonstrate “extraordinary ability” to sustained national/international acclaim; temporary positions.	Up to 3 years initially, 1 year extensions	Must be paid wages and given benefits comparable to other employees	Yes – host dept. to work with Faculty Advising: FacultyAdvising@psu.edu