

Alternatives to Research Scholar/Professor — Comparison Chart

Visa Type	B-1 or WB	J Non-degree Student	J Short-Term Scholar	J Specialist	J Specialist	E-3	H-1B	O-1	TN
Purpose	Visitor	Engage full-time in a prescribed course of study at a degree-granting post-secondary accredited educational institution.	Short Term research, consultation, lecturing, observation	Facilitate exchange among experts at scientific institutions, government agencies, museums, corporations, libraries, and similar types of institutions	Participate in a structured training program	Australian Temporary Worker in a Specialty Occupation	Temporary Worker in a Specialty Occupation	Alien of Extraordinary Ability	Trade - NAFTA
U.S. Income?	Honorarium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eligibility Criteria	Must have official invitation letter	Must be admitted to U.S. institution. Must be supported by funds other than only personal funds, or visit pursuant to terms of written agreement between institutions.	Professor, research scholar, or person with similar education or accomplishments visiting the U.S. to lecture, observe, consult, train, demonstrate special skills	Expert in a field of specialized knowledge or skill, coming to the U.S. to observe, consult, or demonstrate special skills	Person engaged in a specialty or non-specialty occupation abroad, coming to enhance skills	Generally position must require at least a bachelors degree	Generally position must require at least a bachelors degree	Proof of major scholarly, athletic or artistic achievement	Citizen of Canada or Mexico; list of qualifying occupations and minimum education/credential requirements
Maximum Stay	B-1: 6 months; subject to extension WB: 90 days	24 months	6 months	12 months	18 months	Up to two-year admission at entry, indefinite renewals	6 years, except if LPR filed	For length of the event(s), up to three years; extension possible in one-year increments	Up to one year admission at entry, indefinite annual renewals

Visa Type	B-1 or WB	J Non-degree Student	J Short-Term Scholar	J Specialist	J Specialist	E-3	H-1B	O-1	TN
Advantages	No forms, no SEVIS fee	Allows longer stay than Short-Term Research Scholar	Not subject to 12-month bar; 3-week minimum stay requirement waived	Allows longer stay than Short-Term Research Scholar	Allows longer stay than Short-Term Research Scholar	Possible even if subject to previous 212(e). Spouse may work.	Not subject to 212(e)	Possible even if subject to previous 212(e)	Possible even if subject to previous 212(e)
Disadvantages	No wage allowed; honorarium only for 9 days	Cannot be extended beyond 24 months; cannot change levels to degree-seeking student; may only be employed 20 hours per week Subject to 12-month bar	Cannot be extended beyond 6 months	Cannot be extended beyond 12 months. Subject to 12-month bar.	Cannot be extended beyond 18 months.	Filing fees if filed in U.S. Not possible if subject to previous 212(e); extensive paperwork and long processing times	Filing fees; spouse cannot work. Not possible if subject to previous 212(e); extensive paperwork and long processing times	Filing fee; spouse cannot work; extensive paperwork and long processing times; high rate of denial	Filing fee; spouse cannot work; must be renewed annually.
Processing Times	Short if consulate; none if Visa Waiver	DS-2019 issuance + visa processing time	DS-2019 issuance + visa processing time	DS-2019 issuance + visa processing time	DS-2019 issuance + visa processing time	15 days to 3+ months Can be as long as 9-12 months	15 days to 3+ months Can be as long as 9-12 months	15 days to 3+ months Can be as long as 9-12 months	Canadians: None – at border Mexicans: Short – at consulate