



### Typical Non-immigrant Visa Classifications at UH

Visa Class	Description	Employment	Study
A-1 / A-2	<b>Foreign Diplomatic Personnel:</b> Individuals in the U.S. as employees of a foreign government, e.g., ambassador, minister, diplomat, or consular officer.	Principal A-1/A-2 visa holder may be employed only by foreign government entity.	May engage in full- or part-time study.
	<b>Dependent of A-1/A-2 Visa Holder:</b> Immediate family members of foreign government official. (Dependents also carry A-1 / A-2 status.)	A-1/A-2 dependents may be employed (on or off-campus) only if they apply for and receive an EAD from USCIS, subject to any restrictions stated on the EAD.	
B-2	<b>Visitor for Tourism:</b> Individuals in the U.S. for travel, tourism, or recreation.	No employment is allowed.	No study is allowed.
	<b>Prospective Student or Prospective Scholar:</b> Individuals who enter U.S. indicating a clear intent to study here or to change to J-1 Exchange Visitor Status. Consulate notation on visa page indicates "Prospective" status. <i>Individual must apply for a change of status before the expiration date on the I-94.</i>	May not work including the time in which the application for a change of status is pending.	No study is allowed.
E-1	<b>Treaty Trader:</b> Individual in the U.S. to conduct trade under a treaty between their country and the U.S., and key employees of companies trading under such treaty.	Principal E-1 can be employed only by the trade-qualifying company through which obtained status. EAD is not required.	Principal E-1 can study with authorization from company through which obtained status; incident to employment
		Dependent spouse may apply to USCIS for employment authorization. EAD is required. E-1 dependent children are not authorized for employment.	E-1 dependents may engage in part- or full-time study.



Visa Class	Description	Employment	Study
E-2	<p><b>Treaty Investor:</b> Individuals in the U.S. to develop or direct the operations of an enterprise in which they have invested substantial investments.</p> <p><b>Must be based on a treaty between visa holder's country and the U.S.</b></p>	Principal E-2 can be employed only by the trade-qualifying company that enabled E-2 status. EAD not required. 240 day rule.	Principal E-2 can study with authorization from company through which obtained status; incident to employment.
		Dependent spouse may apply to USCIS for employment authorization. EAD is required. E-1 dependent children are not authorized for employment.	E-2 dependents may engage in part- or full-time study.
G-1 G-2 G-3 G-4	<p><b>Representative of International Organization:</b> Individuals in the U.S. as representatives of an international organization (e.g., the United Nations) and their dependents.</p>	Principal G can only work for the qualifying foreign government or international organization sponsoring her/his status.	Principal G can study as incident to her/his employment.
		All work (on- or off-campus) for dependents must be first approved by the U.S. Department of State. An EAD card from the USCIS is required, subject to restrictions on EAD. See ISSSO for a list of Immigration attorneys.	Dependents may engage in part- or full-time study.
H-1B	<p><b>Temporary Worker in a Specialty Occupation:</b> Individuals in the U.S. to perform professional services in a specific position for a fixed period of time.</p>	Employment authorization is granted for an initial period of up to 3 years. Extensions for an additional 3 years are possible. Employer petitions CIS on behalf of alien. Employment is incident to status with specific employer. EAD not required.	May engage in part-time study while maintaining H visa status.
H-4	<b>Dependent of H Visa Holder:</b>	No employment allowed.	May engage in full- or part-time study.
L-1	<p><b>Intracompany Transferee:</b> Individuals in the U.S. who have been transferred from a subsidiary, affiliate, or branch office overseas to the U.S. to work in an executive, managerial, or specialist capacity.</p>	May be employed only by the company that obtained the L-1 status on their behalf, for the period of time indicated by CIS. EAD not required. 240 day rule applies.	May engage in part-time study as incident to employment.
L-2	<b>Dependent of L-1 Visa Holder:</b>	L-2 spouse may apply to USCIS for employment authorization. EAD is required. L-2 children are not allowed to work.	May engage in part- or full-time study.

This chart was compiled with current regulations as of 12/20/07.  
**Consult with ISSSO if you have any immigration-related questions.**

***These regulations are subject to change at any time.***  
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### Primary Academic Visa Classifications at UH

Visa Class	Description	Employment	Study
F-1	<p><b>Student:</b> Individual in the U.S. engaging in a full course of academic or language study in an accredited educational program.</p>	<p>F-1s may be employed on the campus of the school they are authorized to attend for a maximum of 20 hours per week while classes are in session. Part-time, on-campus employment is incident to status [prior approval of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or Designated School Official (DSO) is not needed]. During school vacations, F-1s may work on campus full-time (if eligible, maintaining status, enrolling next term).</p> <p>F-1s experiencing unforeseen “economic hardship” may apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from USCIS. Employment on an EAD based on economic hardship can be on or off-campus, and is subject to same hour restrictions as on-campus employment.</p> <p>With authorization from the academic department, F-1s may participate in employment directly related to field of study by obtaining practical training authorization. There are two kinds of practical training: Curricular Practical Training (CPT) &amp; Optional Practical Training (OPT).</p> <p>CPT during the course of study requires approval of DSO in Student &amp; Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS); no EAD required. CPT employment authorization is employer-specific.</p> <p>OPT occurs during or after completion of studies for a time period up to 12 months total (29 months in certain Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics disciplines). OPT requires recommendation of DSO in SEVIS &amp; an EAD approved by USCIS.</p>	<p>Full-time student.</p> <p>Remember F.A.C.T.S. to maintain F-1 status.</p> <p>Full time course-load, Authorized employment, Carry current documents, Transitions, Stay in touch</p>
F-2	<p><b>Dependent of F-1 Visa Holder:</b> Spouse and/ or children of an F-1 student.</p>	<p>No employment is allowed.</p>	<p>May engage in part-time study that is recreational or a vocational in nature.</p>



### Most Common Academic Visa Classifications at UH

Visa Class	Description	Employment	Study
J-1	<p><b>Exchange Visitor (Student):</b> Individuals in the U.S. as exchange visitors for the primary purpose of studying at an academic institution under the auspices of the United States Department of State and a Designated Program Sponsor.</p>	<p>May be employed <b>on the campus</b> of the school in which they are enrolled to a <b>maximum of 20 hours per week with prior written authorization</b> from the Responsible Officer (RO) of their Designated Program. <b>May work off-campus</b> under limited circumstances provided they have <b>obtained prior written authorization</b> from the RO. Employment <i>does not require additional permission from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or an EAD</i>. Eligible for <b>18 months of academic training</b> following completion of their program (<b>36 months for postdoctoral training</b>).</p>	<p>Must maintain full-time study unless authorized by Responsible Officer (RO) of Designated Program Sponsor.</p>
J-1	<p><b>Exchange Visitor (Short-term Scholar, Professor, Researcher, or Specialist):</b> Individuals in the U.S. as visiting researchers or professors under the auspices of the United States Department of State and a Designated Program Sponsor.</p>	<p>Eligible to receive payment from the organization listed on Form DS-2019 as the source of funds and/or the Designated Program Sponsor for a period of validity as stated on the DS-2019. Under limited circumstances, may receive compensation from other institutions provided prior written authorization from the RO of their Designated Program has been secured. The <b>DS-2019</b> authorizes the above stated employment. An <b>EAD card is not required</b>.</p>	<p>Study allowed only as incidental to primary activity.</p>
J-2	<p><b>Dependent of J-1 Visa Holder:</b></p>	<p>Eligible to apply to USCIS for work authorization. Once the EAD is issued by USCIS, the J-2 may work for any employer. Employer must re-verify employment authorization after expiration date on EAD. <i>Employment cannot be needed for the financial support of J-1 visa holder</i>. It must be for purposes unrelated to basic support.</p>	<p>May engage in part- or full-time study.</p>



<b>M-1</b>	<b>Vocational Student:</b> Individuals in the U.S. enrolled in a vocational school or program in the U.S.	May be employed for practical training in field related to major following completion of studies for a maximum of 6 months. DSO recommendation in SEVIS and EAD card from CIS required.	Must study full-time unless authorized by Designated School Official (DSO).
<b>M-2</b>	<b>Dependent of M-1 Visa Holder:</b>	No employment allowed.	May engage in part- or full-time studies.