

There are various legal pathways to the U.S., including humanitarian and non-humanitarian pathways and permanent protections for individuals entering with temporary status. These pathways have different eligibility criteria, and it is important to consult the specific requirements for each program.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement enables refugees to relocate to another country which has agreed to admit them with a legal status ensuring international protection and ultimately permanent residence.

The U.S. Refugee Resettlement program is limited to certain groups ("processing priorities"): (1) groups referred by international organizations; (2) groups of special humanitarian concern (including Central American children of parents and legal guardians in the U.S.); (3) family members of refugees and asylees in the U.S., and (4) and privately sponsored individuals.

B-1 / B-2 VISAS

Visitor visas are nonimmigrant visas for persons who want to enter the United States temporarily for business (visa category B-1), for tourism (visa category B-2), or for a combination of both purposes (B-1/B-2).

An individual on a visitor visa (B1/B2) is not permitted to accept employment or work in the United States. Your spouse and children are not eligible for a dependent visa. Each of your dependents who will be accompanying or following to join you must apply separately for a B-2 visa and must follow the regulations for that visa.

DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM

The Diversity Visa Program was created to rectify some countries' underrepresentation in the U.S. Also known as the "Green card lottery," a limited of immigrant visas are awarded each year for nationals of certain countries, including African nations, to secure a legal pathway to the U.S.

To apply, you must submit an Electronic Diversity Visa entry form online within the specific application period. Diversity lottery "winners" have a short period of time to file the necessary paperwork and undergo extensive screening before a visa will be issued.

F-1 STUDENT VISA

An F-1 visa will allow nonimmigrants to attend university or college, High School, Private elementary school, seminary, conservatory, or another academic institution.

To study in the U.S., applicants must apply to and be accepted to a SEVP-approved school.

EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISAS

Employer sponsorship is typically necessary for most nonimmigrant and immigrant visas. Please note that BAJI does not offer legal representation for employment-based visas.

Employment-based visas that lead to permanent residency include EB-1 priority workers, EB-2 workers with advanced degrees or exceptional ability, EB-3 skilled workers, EB-4 religious and foreign service workers, and EB-5 immigrant investors.

Employment-based visas that are temporary in nature and do not lead to permanent residency include: H visas, O-1 extraordinary ability visas, L-1A/L-1B visas for intracompany transfers, E-1/E-2 treaty trade or investment, and P-1A/B and P-2 for internationally recognized athletes and artists and entertainers.

CHNV PAROLE

At the start of January 2023, the U.S. began a new humanitarian parole process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans.

To qualify, applicants must be outside of the U.S., must have a sponsor in the U.S., and must arrange for their own air travel, among other requirements.

ASYLUM

Asylum is a form of immigration protection given to people fleeing persecution who arrive at or are currently in the U.S.

After your asylum application is approved, you may be eligible to apply for adjustment of status to become a lawful permanent resident in the U.S. if you have been physically present for 1 year after being granted asylum.

FAMILY-BASED VISAS

Family-based sponsorship in U.S. immigration allows a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident to sponsor a family member for immigration to the U.S. Eligible family members can therefore obtain immigrant visas or green cards and join their U.S. citizen or green card holder relatives in the U.S.

