

Visa Categories used at Brown University

B-1 Visitor for Business is a visa classification that can be used by international scholars making a short visit to Brown for activities such as a conference, interview, or independent unpaid research. B-1 visitors are not eligible for employment in the United States and are not eligible to apply for a Social Security number.

F-1 Student. An F-1 student is a nonimmigrant who is pursuing a “full course of study” to achieve a specific educational or professional objective at an academic institution in the U.S. This is the most frequently used category for degree seeking students studying at Brown.

H-1B Temporary Worker. The H-1B visa classification is for full-time teaching or research appointments for the duration of a period of proposed employment for which secure funding is available.

J-1 Exchange Visitor: J-1 status is used for professors, research scholars, short-term scholars, sponsored students and specialists for temporary participation in approved programs of teaching, research, study, observation, and consultation. The most common types of J-1 visitors to Brown are research scholars, professors and short-term scholars. Postdocs, lecturers, visiting scientists, and visiting researchers are all eligible to apply for a J-1 visa. Students are eligible for this category only if they are supported substantially by funding from any source other than personal or family funds (e.g. government or university funding).

O-1 Extraordinary Ability. The O-1 classification applies to an individual who has extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, or business; who has "risen to the top of his or her field," which has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim; and who is coming to the U.S. to work in the area of extraordinary ability. Brown uses this category only when another visa category is not available.

TN for Canadians and Mexican professionals under NAFTA. Qualified Canadian and Mexican citizens may seek temporary admission to the U.S. under the provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement to engage in activities at a professional level in one of the professions or occupations listed in the NAFTA treaty.

PR (Permanent Resident). The Office of the Provost, in consultation with the General Counsel’s Office at Brown is the office that determines eligibility for permanent residence through sponsorship by Brown and referrals to qualified immigration attorneys. Initial requests for Bio-Med faculty/researchers should be made by the Department Chair to the Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences who will then forward the request (if supported) to the Provost’s Office for review and decision. For Departments reporting to the Dean of the Faculty, requests should be made by the Department Chair to the Dean of the Faculty who will then forward the request (if supported) to the Provost’s Office for decision. Generally, permanent residence petitions are only supported for full-time faculty and academic researchers. Generally, permanent residence petitions are only supported for full-time faculty and academic researchers. **PLEASE NOTE:** As certain avenues for legal permanent residence are only available within 18 months of final decision to hire by the university, it is advisable to contact Brown about permanent residency options immediately after hiring a foreign national scholar or academic researcher. In the case of staff members, a determination of whether to support a petition will be made by the department, Human Resources, and the Office of the General Counsel.

Becoming a U.S. Citizen. The process of becoming a U.S. citizen is not handled by Brown. The USCIS web site contains the necessary information and forms for this process. Additional information should be sought from a qualified immigration attorney.