

TN-1 Visa Overview

Canadian citizens and citizens of Mexico enjoy certain special U.S. immigration privileges pursuant to international treaties between the U.S. and Canadian or Mexican governments. Canadians can often gain entry to the U.S. with greater ease than others; this preferential treatment for Canadians is linked to treaty provisions within the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). While there are many NAFTA related visas, the most useful one is the TN1. The TN1 visa may only be used where the employer is based in the U.S., and the candidate is a professional in one of the categories listed below. A candidate must also possess the necessary credentials to be considered a qualifying professional under this category. A bachelor's degree or higher is usually required to be considered a professional in the TN category. Where a candidate, by their profession and nationality, qualifies for the TN1 visa, it has the following advantages over the H1B:

- It is granted for three years, but can continue to be renewed indefinitely. Canadian citizens can apply for TN-1 at the border, and is usually granted immediately to qualifying candidates
- The documentary requirements and procedure is far less burdensome than the H1B visa

The TN1 is granted for a specific employer. If needed for more than one employer, multiple TN1 applications need to be made.

The following professionals can qualify under the TN1 category:

- Accountant
- Architect
- Computer
- Disaster relief insurance claims adjuster
- Economist
- Engineer
- Forester
- Graphic designer
- Hotel manager
- Industrial designer
- Interior designer
- Land surveyor
- Landscape architect
- Lawyer

- Librarian
- Management consultant
- Mathematician
- Range manager/range conservationist
- Research assistant
- Scientific technician/technologist
- Social worker
- Sylviculturist
- Technical publications writer
- Urban planner
- Vocational counselor
- Teacher (college, seminary, university)
- Medical/allied professional (dentist, dietician, medical laboratory technologist, nutritionist, occupational therapist, pharmacist, physician, physical therapist, psychologist, recreational therapist, registered nurse and veterinarian)
- Scientist (agriculturist, animal breeder, animal scientist, apiculturist, astronomer, biochemist, biologist, chemist, dairy scientist, entomologist, epidemiologist, geneticist, geo-chemist, geologist, geophysicist, geologist, geophysicist, horticulturist, meteorologist, pharmacologist, physicist, plant breeder, poultry scientist, soil scientist and zoologist)