

L Visas (L-1A and L-1B) for Temporary Workers

The L-1A and L-1B visas are 2 types of work visas that are available for temporary intracompany transferees who work in managerial positions or have specialized knowledge.

Yes

ABILITY TO RENEW

\$460

FORM FILING FEE(S)

Who is eligible?

The L-1A and L-1B visas may be issued when an employer files a petition to obtain authorization for qualified employees to be allowed to work and live in the United States.

- The L-1A visa is for intracompany transferees who work in managerial or executive positions in a company that is located outside the United States.
- The L-1B visa is for intracompany transferees who work in positions that require specialized knowledge.

L-1A Classification

Using the L-1A visa process, a company can transfer a qualified executive or manager to the United States to an existing or a newly created subsidiary.

To qualify for the L-1A Intracompany Transferee Executive or Manager, you must:

- Generally have been working for a qualifying organization abroad for one continuous year within the three years immediately preceding his or her admission to the United States and
- Be seeking to enter the United States to provide service in an executive or managerial capacity for a branch of the same employer or one of its qualifying organizations.

Executive capacity generally refers to the employee's ability to make decisions of wide latitude without much oversight.

Managerial capacity generally refers to the ability of the employee to supervise and control the work of professional employees and to manage the organization, or a department, subdivision, function, or component of the organization. It may also refer to the employee's ability to manage an essential function of the organization at a high level, without direct supervision of others. See section 101(a)(44) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and 8 CFR 214.2(l)(1)(ii) for complete definitions.

Note: To be eligible to qualify for L-1A classification, the employer must meet the [General Qualifications of the Employer \(http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/l-1a-intracompany-transferee-executive-or-manager\)](http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/l-1a-intracompany-transferee-executive-or-manager).

L-1B classification

To qualify for the L-1B Intracompany Transferee Specialized Knowledge classification, you must:

- Generally have been working for a qualifying organization abroad for one continuous year within the three years immediately preceding his or her admission to the United States and
- Be seeking to enter the United States to provide services in a specialized knowledge capacity to a branch of the same employer or one of its qualifying organizations.

Specialized knowledge means either special knowledge possessed by an individual of the petitioning organization's product, service, research, equipment, techniques, management, or other interests and its application in international markets, or an advanced level of knowledge or expertise in the organization's processes and procedures (See 8 CFR 214.2(l)(1)(ii)(D)).

Note: To be eligible to qualify for L-1B classification, the employer must meet the [General Qualifications of the Employer \(http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/l-1b-intracompany-transferee-specialized-knowledge\)](http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/l-1b-intracompany-transferee-specialized-knowledge).

How to Apply

In order to apply for a L-1A or L-1B visa, the employer must petition for you. To begin the petition process the employer must:

- **Complete the Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker.** Review the instructions for the Form I-129 and complete the Form I-129 and related Supplements.
- **Submit the Filing Fee(s).** Include the appropriate filing fee with the Form I-129 (including biometrics services fees if applicable). Refer to Form I-129 instructions for further details.
- **Submit Evidence.** Include all supporting documentation.
- **Submit a Duplicate Copy of the Form I-129.** Include a duplicate copy of Form I-129 and all supporting documentation, even if you are filing the Form I-129 to seek a change of status (COS) or extension of stay (EOS).
- **Sign and File the Form I-129.** File the petition at the correct filing location according to form instructions.

What Happens After You Apply

Once USCIS receives your Form I-129, we will process your application and the employer will then receive:

- A receipt notice for the Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker, and
- A notice for a biometrics appointment date.

The employer will then receive:

- A written notice of a decision.

Forms and Fees

[Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker \(http://www.uscis.gov/i-129\)](http://www.uscis.gov/i-129), filing fee \$460

Biometrics fee may apply, \$85

Note: There are additional fees associated with certain L-1A and L1-B petitions. Please see the “**What is the Filing Fee**” section of these forms instructions for further information about these fees, and [Additional L Filing Fees for Form I-129 \(http://www.uscis.gov/forms/h-and-l-filing-fees-form-i-129-petition-nonimmigrant-worker\)](http://www.uscis.gov/forms/h-and-l-filing-fees-form-i-129-petition-nonimmigrant-worker).

This page was last updated or reviewed on **December 23, 2016**

Related Options

Obtain Employment Authorization Document

(https://my.uscis.gov/exploremyoptions/obtain_employment_authorization_document)

Becoming a U.S. Citizen Through Naturalization

(https://my.uscis.gov/exploremyoptions/us_citizen_through_naturalization)

Citizenship Through Parents

(https://my.uscis.gov/exploremyoptions/citizenship_through_parents)

Renew or Replace My Green Card

(https://my.uscis.gov/exploremyoptions/renew_green_card)