

Choosing the Right Immigration Status

International Student and Scholar Services

150 West University Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

Phone: (321) 674-8053 ■ Fax (321) 728-4570 ■ www.fit.edu/iss



*Florida Institute
of Technology*

High Tech with a Human Touch™

Choosing the Right Immigration Status for your International Scholar

Purpose of Visit	Type of Status	Length of Stay	Financial Support	Immigration Sponsorship	Processing Time	Special Notes
To attend a conference or seminar, deliver one-time lecture, observe, offer one-time academic consultation, or participate in a study trip	B-1, B-2, WB or WT Visitor	Normally 90 days	Any	Self	As earlier as possible; visa application at U.S. Consulate if not eligible for visa waiver	Immigration rules governing B visitor visa also apply to people from the countries eligible for the Visa Waiver Program Cannot be employed by FIT
To lecture, teach, observe, or attend longer seminar or conference	J-1 Short-Term Scholar	Up to 6 months	Any source including personal funding	FIT	No later than 3 months prior to start date	Must return home after J-1 stay
To conduct research, may consult in connection with a research project; may teach or lecture as a visiting scholar	J-1 Research Scholar	3 weeks to 5 years	Any source including personal funding	FIT	No later than 3 months prior to start date	Upon completion, subject to the 24-Month Bar on repeat participation as a J-1 Research Scholar/Professor Must return home after J-1 stay.
To teach, lecture or conduct research as a visiting scholar	J-1 Professor	3 weeks to 5 years	Any source including personal funding	FIT	No later than 3-4 months prior to start date	Upon completion, subject to the 24-Month Bar on repeat participation as a J-1 Research Scholar/Professor Must return home after J-1 stay.

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<p>To work in one of the designated NAFTA occupations</p> <p>Must be a citizen of Canada or Mexico</p>	<p>TN NAFTA Professional</p>	<p>Up to 3 years initially, with extensions but must prove temporary intent</p>	<p>100% FIT salary</p>	<p>FIT</p>	<p>Can apply at border If applying inside the U.S. in which case must initiate request no later than 3-6 months ahead of time if in U.S.</p>	<p>Mexican citizens must apply at consulate for visa; position must meet NAFTA Professions List guidelines</p>
<p>To work in a position that requires someone of extraordinary ability to conduct research, teach, demonstrate, etc</p>	<p>O-1 Person of Extraordinary Ability</p>	<p>Up to 3 years initially, with annual extensions thereafter</p>	<p>100% FIT salary</p>	<p>FIT</p>	<p>NO later than 6 months prior to start date</p>	<p>Sufficient evidence required to prove their international claim date Involves high cost and complex adjudication process at USCIS</p>
<p>To work in a specialty occupation position that requires a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific major field of study</p>	<p>E-3 Australian Treaty Worker</p>	<p>Up to 2 years at a time, with extensions but must prove temporary intent</p>	<p>100% FIT salary; must be certified by Department of Labor</p>	<p>FIT</p>	<p>No later than 3 months prior if visa process abroad, no later than 6 months prior to start date if within the U.S.</p>	<p>The same qualifications as H-1B but a different length of stay</p>
<p>To work in a specialty occupation position that requires a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific major field of study</p>	<p>H-1B Specialty Occupation Worker</p>	<p>Up to 3 years at a time, with the personal maximum of 6 years</p>	<p>100% FIT salary; must be certified by Department of Labor</p>	<p>FIT</p>	<p>No later than 6 months prior to start date</p>	<p>Option to upgrade to USCIS Premium Processing if speedy adjudication needed Dual intent allows for H-1B to apply for permanent residency without jeopardizing H-1B status</p>