



*This is NOT a legal advice and change without notice*

11/2/2015

**There are basically NINE ways that you can get a visa to live and work in the US:**

- (1) **Marriage** (or engagement in anticipation of marriage) to a US citizen.
- (2) You have **skills** that are in short supply in the US e.g. scientific or medical training. A degree is normally a must. Or you have superior specialist skills with at least 12 years experience. (H visas)
- (3) You have an **Employer who is willing to transfer you** - but even the employer has to make a good case for you - so you have to be a manager unless you fall under category (2) above.(L visas)
- (4) You may get a Green card in the **diversity lottery** (UK citizens, except N.Ireland, are not generally eligible unless you, your spouse or parents were born abroad or held a different citizenship.
- (5)**You own or buy business** (does not get you permanent resident status i.e. no green card)You must be a national of a qualifying Treaty countries. The business must have a minimum value of around \$150k (more the better) bearing in mind you will need somewhere to live and with any startup business you will need at least 2 years living money as back up. So a figure of \$350k would be a nearer minimum (E-2 visas)
- (6)You are an "**investor**" i.e. you have at least US \$1m in assets to bring with you. half of that in a few areas. And your background will be investigated to the hilt. (EB-5 visas)
- (7)You have a **close relative** (mother, father, brother, sister and no further) who is an US citizen who would sponsor you, approx time this take 2-12 years?
- (8.The R1 visa is available to foreign members **of religious denominations**, having bona fide non-profit religious organizations in the U.S., for entering the U.S. to carry on the activities of a minister or religious worker as a profession, occupation or vocation
- (9)THE UNUSUAL You are in a position to claim **refugee status/political asylum**. or You get a member of Congress to sponsor a private bill with legislation that applies just to you.

The S visa issued to persons who assist US law enforcement to investigate and prosecute crimes and terrorist activities such as money laundering and organized crime