

Visa Guidelines for International Visitors

Revised: January 21, 2011

Please contact the Global Engagement Office for additional information.

Please also note that the international visitor or sponsoring faculty member is responsible for all visa-related fees and the Global Engagement Office needs to be notified regarding all invited visitors. Notification must include the anticipated dates and duration of the visit, the expectations of the visitor, and a suggested office space for the visitor.

Some useful resources that contain additional information:

<http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Resources/>
<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/index.htm>

Most international visitors to our department enter on a B-1/B-2, F-1 or J-1 visa. Specific requirements are needed to enter on an H-1B, OPT, TN, or E-3 visa. At Purdue University, all international residents enter on an F-1 visa, whereas international interns must enter on an OPT or TN visa.

Types of Visas Relevant to Visitors to our Department

B-1/B-2 (“Visitor”) Visa (B-1 = business; B-2 = tourist)

A DVM or equivalent **student** (alien) who is studying at a foreign veterinary school and seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to take an “elective clerkship” at a U.S. medical school’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital without remuneration from the hospital may enter on a B-1 visa (per 9 FAM 41.31N10.4-1). Purdue University has interpreted this document so that when FAM 41.31N10.4-1 speaks of “medical” it included all medical degrees including veterinarian, and “patient” contact as animal contact. This applies only to DVM or equivalent students undertaking training at a U.S. school as part of their foreign veterinary school degree. This “elective clerkship” affords practical experience and instruction in the various disciplines of veterinary medicine under the supervision and direction of the faculty at a U.S. School of Veterinary Medicine as an approved part of the alien’s foreign veterinary school education. It does not apply to post-graduate veterinary training (ie, **the B-1 visa does not apply to post DVM internship or residency training**).

An “alien” is a non US citizen or registered alien (“Green” card holder). An alien, post-DVM or equivalent, who is a member of a profession whose purpose for coming to the United States is to observe U.S. Veterinary practices and consult with colleagues on clinical techniques, provided no remuneration is received from a U.S. source and **no patient care is involved**, may enter on a B-1 visa and have no animal contact (observe only). In other words, if you invite an international visitor with a DVM or equivalent degree for up to a 5-6 week visit, they can enter on a B-1/B-2 visa, provided no patient care is involved. If such visitors are coming for more than 5-6 weeks they should enter on a J-1 visa.

F-1 (“Student”) Visa

F-1 visas are for all graduate students (including veterinary residents) who are accepted into a Purdue University graduate program. This visa requires an educational component and employment cannot exceed 0.5 FTE during fall and spring semesters but they can work full-time (1.0 FTE) during the summer session and during official breaks. **Residents funded by VCS on a Graduate Administrative Professional Assistantship are permitted to have patient contact.** Other graduate students with different position titles are not permitted to have patient contact (only incidental patient contact is permitted). International graduate students and residents funded by their home country are usually required to enter on a J-1 visa (see below, particularly restrictions related to patient contact).

H-1B (“Professional Worker”) Visa

This visa is most commonly used for faculty. The department must meet the requirements for an H-1B petition and satisfy certain requirements, including payment of a salary at or above the “prevailing wage”. Some institutions have successfully used the H-1B visa to employ residents and interns. Many institutions (including Purdue University) have elected not to pursue obtaining a H-1B visa to employ residents and interns because the process is complicated, takes more time to attain (an issue with the time between intern/residency match date and start date) while costing considerably more to obtain than other visas (approximately \$2,000). It would be difficult to justify, on economic grounds, using an H-1B visa to hire an intern.

The general process is that the prospective institution applies for a Labor Condition Application with the US Department of Labor. This department will then make a prevailing wage determination based on a geographic area (regional subset) and using one of 2 data bases – an industry data base or a higher education data base. The AAVMC has developed a document (July 9, 2010) that provides answers to additional information often requested from the US Department of Labor to complete the forms for the prevailing wage determination. Data from the AAVMC Comparative Data Report (table on resident and intern salaries) is also used to support the application (permission to use this information in the application must come from the Dean of the prospective institution).

H-3 (“Trainee”) Visa

This visa is available to aliens that will receive instruction and training that they cannot obtain in their home country. Employment is not permitted and sufficient classroom instruction is needed. This visa has not been used by Purdue University in the past. It is unlikely to be a suitable visa for international interns because the person must prove: 1) that they are not receiving graduate medical education or training in the US (medical has been interpreted to include veterinary); 2) they do not have an opportunity to receive similar training in their home country; 3) they need this training to advance their career outside the US; 4) they will not be productively employed unless it is necessary to the training; and 5) the training offered does not employ US citizen and resident workers.

J-1 (“Cultural Exchange” or “Visiting Scholar”) Visa- For information regarding J-1, please email Jessie Mabbit at jsheely@purdue.edu.

All visiting scholars who are here for more than 2-3 weeks who have a DVM or equivalent degree should enter on a J1 visa. **A “patient contact statement” will also be required for these visitors.** There are two different contact statements.

- 1) “This certifies that the program in which (name of visitor) is to be engaged is **solely** for the purpose of observation, consultation, teaching, or research and that no element of patient care services is involved.”
- 2) The program in which (name of visitor) will participate is **predominantly** involved with observation, consultation, teaching, or research. Any incidental patient contact involving the alien DVM (or equivalent degree) will be under the direct supervision of a faculty member who is a U.S. citizen or resident alien and who is legally permitted to practice veterinary medicine at Purdue University. The alien DVM will not be given final responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of patients. Any activities of the alien DVM will conform fully with licensing requirements and regulations for medicine and health care professionals at Purdue University. Any experience gained in this program will not be creditable toward any clinical requirements for medical specialty board certification.

The maximum period of stay is generally 18 months, plus 30 days for travel, but extensions are often available. The alien may be subject to a two year home residency requirement (this is to ensure that the alien uses their acquired expertise in their home country).

OPT (Optional Practical Training) Visa

This visa may be an appropriate category for a small number of potential interns that are not US, Canadian, or Mexican citizens and that are completing a course of study in the US. This would only be relevant to internships as there is a 14 month limit on this visa. A student may be granted authorization to engage in **temporary employment for Optional Practical Training:**

- (1) During the student’s annual vacation and at other times when school is not in session, if the student is currently enrolled, and is eligible for registration and intends to register for the next term or session;
- (2) While school is in session, provided that practical training does not exceed 20 hours a week while school is in session; or
- (3) After completion of the course of study, or, for a student in a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree program, after completion of all course requirements for the degree (excluding thesis or equivalent). Continued enrollment, for the school’s administrative purposes, after all requirements for the degree have been met does not preclude eligibility for optional practical training. However, optional practical training must be requested prior to the completion of all course requirements for the degree or prior to the completion of the course of study. A student must complete all practical training within a 14-month period following the completion of study.

Additional information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optional_Practical_Training

TN Visa (North American Free Trade Agreement – NAFTA)

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) created a special economic and trade relationship between the United States, Canada and Mexico. The nonimmigrant NAFTA Professional (TN) visa allows citizens of Canada and Mexico, as NAFTA professionals to work in the United States. This category could be used for Internships for citizens of Canada and Mexico. The requirement to cross the border is a letter of employment and a DVM (or equivalent) certificate. The cost of this visa is relatively low (approximately \$25).

Additional information: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1274.html

E-3 Visa (For veterinarians for Australia)

Only citizens of Australia are eligible for the E-3 Visa and this visa category was signed into law on May 11, 2005. This visa is very similar to the H-1B visa (please see H-1B visa section for specific process. It would be difficult to justify, on economic grounds, using an E-3 visa to hire an intern.

Additional information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-3_visa