



Hiring International Students

The benefits of hiring international students are many. Most Westminster international students come with some or all of the following:

- International work experience
- Multicultural experience
- Multilingual skills
- Global perspective
- Global network
- Ability to reach a niche market
- High academic achievement

Post-Graduation Visa Options:

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- The position must be related to the student's major
- Usually done after the completion of a degree
- Could be an unpaid internship
- One year is permitted per person, per degree level
- Must be with an e-Verify employer
- Can be extended for 17 *additional* months for STEM majors
 - STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

H1-B Visa

- Requires a sponsoring U.S. employer
- Length of visa: 6 months to a maximum of 3 years
 - May receive extension for total of 6 years
- Application process can take 6 weeks to 6 months
 - Application should be submitted before OPT or CPT period runs out
- Cap of 65,000 visas
 - Exempt from cap: higher education, non-profit research org's, government research org's
- 6800 H-1B's set aside for Chile & Singapore citizens

Other visa options:

E Visa Treaty (List of countries with which the U.S. has this treaty: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/fees/treaty.html>)

- Used if a company in the U.S. is owned by a company in the country of student's citizenship AND U.S. carries on substantial trade with the country
(Example: BMW is a German company; a German graduate may work for BMW in the U.S. on an E visa)
- Visa max = 2 years; unlimited renewal

L Visa

- Work for a branch office of a U.S. company overseas for at least one full year, then transfer BACK to a branch office of the company in the U.S. on an L-1 visa
- Visa max = 5 years (7 yrs for manager/executive); initial 3 yrs, one (two for managers) 2-year renewal

Internships:

- May participate during fall, spring, or summer terms
- Must have been student in U.S. for at least two consecutive semesters
- Position must directly relate to major
- WC Director of International Student Services grants approval (**NO COST**)
- No more than 20 hours during school year (for both off-campus and on-campus employment); full-time hours are okay during summer

For more information: www.uscis.gov