

Q-1 Information

Description

The Q-1 visa is for participants in international cultural exchange program(s) in the U.S. The cultural exchange program can provide practical training, employment, and the sharing of the culture of the Q-1 visa applicant's country of nationality.

Basic Requirements Summary

The Q-1 visa applicant must meet three requirements:

1. Be at least 18 years of age;
2. Be qualified to perform the service or labor, or to participate in the training; and,
3. Have the ability to communicate effectively about the culture of his/her country of nationality to the U.S. public. This communication generally requires command of the English language, unless the cultural sharing involves a non-verbal component, such as dancing.

The international cultural exchange program must meet three requirements:

1. Be accessible to the U.S. public by taking place in a school, museum, business, or other establishment where the public is exposed to a foreign culture as part of a structured program;
2. Have a cultural component that is an essential part of the Q-1 visa holder's employment or training. E.g. exhibits, courses, or lecture series about the arts, literature, history, language, philosophy, or traditions of the Q-1 visa holder's country of nationality; and,
3. Have a work component that serves as the vehicle to achieve the cultural objective, and the sharing of the applicant's culture must result from such employment or training.

The employer of a Q-1 visa applicant must meet five requirements:

1. Maintain an established international cultural exchange program;
2. Have a representative responsible for administering the program and communication with the USCIS;
3. Be actively doing business in the US;
4. Offer cultural visitor wages and working conditions comparable to those given to local domestic workers in similar jobs; and
5. Have the financial ability to pay Q-1 visa holders.

Dependent spouse and children of the Q-1 visa holder must apply separately for a nonimmigrant visa to accompany the Q-1 visa holder. Spouses and children may apply for a B-2 visitor visa and maintain the B-2 status for the duration of the Q-1 visa holder's stay.

Validity Term

Q-1 visa is valid for 15 months or for the duration of the cultural exchange program, whichever is shorter.