



USA

E-1



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ABOUT E-1 VISA

The E-1 Treaty Trader Visa is a non-immigrant visa that permits foreign nationals from countries with which the United States has trade treaties to enter the U.S. for trade-related purposes. This visa is applicable to business owners and employees who wish to work for an enterprise or personally engage in international trade, such as importing and exporting goods with the United States. The E-1 visa is a practical tool for those aiming to pursue long-term business objectives in the U.S. without a fixed dollar amount requirement for the trade involved. The eligibility for this visa depends on the applicant being a citizen of a country with which the U.S. maintains a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation.

The United States maintains treaties of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation with various countries around the world, creating specific immigration and business schemes for the citizens of these nations. These treaties facilitate the entry of foreign nationals into the U.S. to promote trade and investment. Through the E-1 visa, qualified individuals can leverage these international agreements to conduct substantial trade activities, thereby fostering economic relationships between the U.S. and their home countries. The list of qualifying countries is dynamic, as it evolves with the ratification of new trade treaties by the United States Congress.



COUNTRY PROFILE

- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Population: 335 million
- Area: 9.8 million sq km (3.8 million sq miles)
- Major language: English
- Life expectancy: 74 (men) 80 (women)
- Currency: USD
- Exchange Rate (as of July 2024): 1 AED = 3.678 USD



BENEFITS OF THE E-1 VISA

There are many benefits to the E1 Visa. A few of these benefits are as follows:

- Legal work authorization in the U.S.
- Free travel in and out of the U.S.
- Indefinite renewal for up to two years at a time
- Spouses and dependent children (under 21) can also qualify. Spouses can apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), and children can attend school.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO GET THE E-1 VISA?

- **Nationality:** Must be a citizen of a treaty country.
- **Trade:** The work conducted must be considered trade, involving a “meaningful” exchange, international scope, and qualifying commodity.
- **Substantial Trade:** Trade must be continuous and significant, focused more on the number of transactions than monetary value.
- **Principal Trade:** Over 50% of the trade must be between the U.S. and the treaty country.
- **Vital Role:** The applicant must be essential to the success of the company, with qualifications as a supervisor, manager, executive, or having special skills.
- **Intent to Depart:** Must show intention to leave the U.S. upon termination of E1 status.



E-1 VISA PROCESS

Applying for the E-1 Visa

1. **Outside the U.S.:** Apply at a U.S. consulate or embassy. Required documents include Form DS-160 and DS-165E, passport, proof of trade, and company support statements.
2. **Inside the U.S.:** File for a change of status with USCIS using Form I-129 and potentially Form I-907 for premium processing.

Interview Preparation

Applicants must attend an interview at the consulate, where questions about the business, personal background, and immigration plans will be asked. Upon successful interview completion, the E1 visa will be stamped in the passport.

Change of Status

For those already in the U.S., a change of status can be requested through USCIS by submitting Form I-129 along with the necessary supporting documents.

E-1 Visa Extensions

- Valid for 2 years, with unlimited renewals for 2-year periods.
- Requires submission of Form I-129 for the main applicant and Form I-539 for dependents.