

The TN Visa Process

For IT Professionals

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TN Visa: What it is

- For Temporary jobs or contracts
- Good for 3 years
- Renewable
- Available to Canadian citizens with post secondary education having a Degree or Diploma (some other education also qualifies)
- Can be used at different sites as long as the employer is the same
- \$50 USD
- Available at the airport on departure day (allow 1 hr min)

TN Visa: What it is not

- A path that leads to permanent residency (green card and citizenship)
- E.g. H1-B which most employers know, and is relatively hard to get

Application Process

- Get the job
- Many US employers are unfamiliar with a TN visa
 - “Employer” - the company paying you, not the company at which you will be working
- In fact, all you need from them is the offer and a letter
- Send them a draft version of the letter for them to review and sign

“The Letter”

- In business format, on the employer’s letterhead
- Signed by a manager
- Describes
 - The employer’s company (what they do, how long in biz, etc.)
 - The job – it must be clear it is temporary
 - Duration – not more than 3 years
 - Rate of pay
 - Why you are the best person for the job
 - Includes a mention of your degree

“The Letter” (con’t)

- Also includes:
 - The NAFTA job classification under which you are applying
 - The 2 most applicable are:
 - Computer Systems Analyst
 - Management Consultant

Wrapping up

- Remember your NAFTA job classification
 - If asked what you do there, you MUST give ICE that answer
 - A wrong answer can lead to denied entry
- When you apply, bring
 - Your original Degree (not a photocopy)
 - “The Letter” – hardcopy of a pdf is fine
 - Passport
 - Proof of citizenship (birth certificate)
 - Your contract (good to have, not essential)
- Tell the immigration agent that you are going to the US to work and want to apply for a TN visa, s/he will direct you to a room to get that done

Thanks

- Questions and examples: daleross@enigma-energy.com