



**M.A. RAMOS & ASSOCIATES, PC**  
**TEXAS IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS**

**H-1B Visas**

Hello my name is Tony Ramos. I am an Immigration Attorney and I would like to discuss the most common non-immigrant business visas that we handle with and the respective requirements for these visas.

The H-1B visa is designed to attract primarily skilled professionals in Specialty Occupations. It also applies to fashion models of distinguished merit and ability as well as persons providing services related to the U.S. Dept. of Defense.

The H-1B visa is fitting for specialty occupations such as researchers, engineers, software programmers, professors and other professionals. Under this category and applicant must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- hold a bachelor's degree or higher, or its equivalent,
- ensure that the degree related to this specialty occupation is fitting for the job, or that the job is so complex that it can only be performed by the individual with that degree,
- confirm that the employer requires a degree for the job, or its equivalent, and,
- ensure that the degree requirement for the job is common to the industry.

In addition to these criteria, additional requirements apply in that and applicant must meet the following:

- the bachelor's degree must be from an accredited U.S college or university; or hold a foreign degree that is equivalent to that of a U.S. bachelor's degree, and
- in some cases experience can substitute for education; and

- the employer pay the **minimum prevailing wage**, as provided by the Department of Labor, which means that *“hiring of a foreign worker will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers comparably employed.”*

Some of the benefits of holding an H-1B visa is that:

- it allows permission to work in the United States for a maximum of a six year period (the H-1B status is initially issued for a maximum period of three years and may be renewed for an additional three years).
- the professional is able to change employers during H-1B status, and
- the professional can have “dual intent”, meaning that the holder can have the intent to immigrate, that is to apply for and obtain a green card, while still a holder of the visa.

Other benefits include:

1. spouses and children under age 21, may be entitled to enter and remain in the United States during the time of the H-1B holder’s stay, and
2. dependents are permitted to attend school and college on a full-time basis under H-4 status.

Our office can help you analyze whether you qualify for an H-1B visa and instruct you on the requirements and the supporting documentation for the petition process to ensure a seamless transaction.

To learn more about how we can help you and receive a Free Initial Consultation, please call our office at: **1-956-725-5166** or toll free if you live inside the United States at **1-888-878-4727 (1-888-US-VISAS)**, or you can visit our website at: <http://www.RamosImmigrationLaw.com>.

I'm Tony Ramos...thank you for listening.