

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEE AND SCHOLAR SERVICES
B Visitor Visa and Visa Waiver Policy

Purpose:

Compliance with U.S. immigration regulations requires that the nature of activities in the United States by a visa holder is taken into consideration ([9 FAM 402.2-2\(E\) \(U\) Unlawful Activity While in Visitor Status and 9 FAM 402.2-3 \(U\) CATEGORIES OF B VISAS](#)) . Those entering the U.S. as a B-1, B-2 or through the Visa Waiver Program should not be designated as a Visiting Scholar or obtain an Academic Appointment of any kind. Visa admission under the B-1, B-2 or through the Visa Waiver Program does not permit paid or unpaid employment and is subject to strict activity limitations.

FAU Departments inviting a visitor under a B-1, B-2 or through the Visa Waiver Program should be provided with a B Visitor Visa/ VWP invitation letter outlining the acceptable activities. Please contact the Office of International Employee and Scholar Services for assistance.

Definition:

B-1 status (Visitor Visa for Business) – Provided to a citizen of a foreign country with ties to their home country that that wish to enter the United States temporarily for business under certain restrictions. Travel purpose must be permitted under the Visitor Visa for Business (B-1) regulations.

B-2 status (Visitor Visa for Tourism) – Provided to a citizen of a foreign country with ties to their home country that wish to enter the United States temporarily for planned travel that is recreational in nature. Travel purpose must be permitted under the Visitor Visa for Tourism (B-2) regulations.

Visa Waiver Program – Provided to citizens or nationals of participating countries to travel to the United states for tourism or business without obtaining a visa. Travel purpose under the Visa Waiver Program is the same as a B-1/B-2 visa.

Acceptable University Activities for B-1 Visas and Visa Waivers:

1. Consulting with business associates.
2. Attend a scientific, educational, professional or business convention, or a conference on specific dates.
3. Independent research:
 - No salary or income from FAU
 - Research cannot benefit FAU
 - Research cannot be collaborative research
4. Lecturer or speaker:
 - No salary or income from FAU other than expenses incidental to the visit.
 - If honorarium will be received, activities can last no longer than 9 (nine days) at any single institution or organization.
 - Honorarium is for services conducted for the benefit of the institution or entity
 - B-1 visa holder must not have accepted honorarium payment or expenses from more than 5 (five) institutions or organizations over the last six months.
5. For additional information on acceptable activities, please visit:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html>

Non-acceptable University Activities for B-1 Visas and Visa Wavers:

This is not an all-inclusive list

- Collaborative research
- Research or activity benefiting the University
- Academic/scholarly exchange
- Accepting paid or unpaid employment
- Enroll in course of study

Maximum length of stay:

B-1/B-2 visitors are generally admitted for six months or less. The period of stay is determined by the U.S port of entry official at the airport.

Visa Waiver Program visitors are usually permitted to stay in the United States for up to 90 days.

Length of visit at FAU:

FAU departments inviting an international visitor with a B-1/B-2 or Visa Waiver for longer than 30 days should consider sponsoring the international visitor for a J-1 visa.

B Visa & Visa Waiver VS. J-1 Visa Chart:

Depending on the nature of the activity, a J-1 visa may be the appropriate visa for the international visitor. The Office of International Employee and Scholar Services will consider the nature of the activity to suggest the appropriate visa type.

Activities	J-1 Visa	B-1/B-2/ VWP
Does not require university sponsorship		X
Engage in independent research with no benefit to FAU and no FAU salary.		X
Consultation with a business associate.		X
Engage in collaborative research with or without an FAU salary and FAU can benefit from the research.	X	
Requires university sponsorship	X	
Eligible for an employee Z Number, and FAU Owl card	X	
Eligible for a Courtesy Academic Appointment reflecting paid or unpaid activities	X	