



TN Status for Canadian and Mexican Citizens

TN employment status is part of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) [formerly known as North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)].

Eligibility. The applicant must:

- Be a citizen of Canada or Mexico.
- Engage in activities at a professional level. "Professional level" refers to occupations which require that the individual has at least a baccalaureate degree or appropriate credentials in a profession set forth in Chapter 16 Appendix 2 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) [formerly Appendix 1603.D.1 of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)].
- Enter the U.S. on a temporary basis. Temporary entry, as defined in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) [formerly known as North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)], means entry without the intent to establish permanent residence. The individual must satisfy the U.S. consular officer or inspecting immigration officer that the proposed stay is temporary. A temporary period has a reasonable, finite end that does not equate to permanent residence.

FAQs

- **Duration:** TNs are admitted for a period of up to three years.
- **Dependents** of TN status holders are granted TD status. TD status holders are not allowed to accept employment or receive payment of any kind.
- **Cost:** The immigration costs for TN by entry or by petition vary, please see additional information below.

New TN Status Upon Entry to the U.S.

Campus units must consult with the Office of International Affairs before a prospective employee seeks entry in TN status to determine if this status is appropriate. Upon approval, we will authorize the employing department to proceed with the request process.

At the port-of-entry (by land or by air), Canadian TN applicants must present the documents listed below to the U.S. immigration inspector for adjudication. Mexican applicants must first apply for a TN visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad, providing the documents listed below as a part of the visa application. Presentation of these documents is not a guarantee that the TN visa (for Mexicans only), or TN status and entry to the U.S. will be granted. The U.S. consular official or immigration officer will evaluate each case on its merits, and according to the federal rules governing TN status.

Required Documents. The following are required for entry to the U.S. in TN status:

1. **Passport.** A valid unexpired Canadian or Mexican passport as proof of citizenship;
2. **Proof of possession of a professional degree** in a field listed in the schedule of occupations listed in the TN regulations under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) [formerly known as North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)]; most TN professions require at least a bachelor's degree.
 - Contact the Employment-Based Adviser to confirm that the occupation for which you seek TN status is on this list;
 - Degrees, diplomas, or certificates received by the beneficiary from an educational institution located outside of the United States, Canada, or Mexico must be accompanied by a certified translation or reliable credentials evaluation service which specializes in such evaluations.
3. **A job verification letter** from a U.S. employer for a professional position, describing the work to be done and the beginning and ending dates of the employment etc.
 - Contact the Office of International Affairs for a sample TN letter. UC Merced Schools/Departments must consult with the Employment-Based Adviser in the Office of International Affairs for authorization and issuance of a TN "job offer letter".
4. **Costs:**
 - Canadian nationals will pay any applicable fee(s) to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
 - Mexican nationals will pay any applicable visa fee (s) at the U.S. consulate for the TN visa, but no fee to CBP at the U.S. port-of-entry.

At the U.S. port-of-entry, if all is in order, the TN status will usually be granted. The TN status will be marked on the applicant's Arrival/Departure Form I-94 and in the passport. It will be valid for a period of up to three years from the date of entry, and can be extended for up to three years at a time (At UC Merced, there must be an approved appointment and guaranteed funding for the requested TN period). There is no maximum amount of time that a TN status holder may hold this status. However, TN status holders must not have the intent to establish permanent residence in the U.S. The TN applicant must satisfy the consular officer or U.S. immigration officer that the proposed stay is temporary.

Upon the Arrival of the TN Status Holder

Upon the TN status holder's successful entry to the U.S., the UC Merced employing School/Department must email a copy of the I-94 to the International Students and Scholars Office at iss@ucmerced.edu.

Changes to TN Status and Extensions of Stay in TN Status Within the U.S.

To request changes to TN immigration status, or extensions of TN status for UC Merced employment, the UC Merced School/Department must request to hire outside immigration counsel so that an I-129 petition Can be filed with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This is only for change of status or extensions where an I-129 petition would be required.

- **Costs:** Legal fees, OIA recharge fee and USCIS filing fees for changes to, and extensions of TN (Additional fees for all dependents seeking TD status). There is also an optional \$2500 premium processing fee.
- **Timing:** Departments should submit requests for extension of TN status for Canadians at least 2 months prior to the expiration of the employee's current work authorization. New TN petitions requesting a change of status from within the U.S. must be submitted at least 6 months before the employee's status expiration date.

Except during the last 30 days of the TN status holder's authorized stay, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors at U.S. ports-of-entry may not extend the TN status-holder's status at re-entry to the U.S. Before a TN employee attempts extension of TN status by re-entry to the U.S, UC Merced Schools/Departments must contact the Employment-Based Adviser in the Office of International Affairs (209-355-0913 or iss.ucmerced.edu) for authorization.

Professional Occupations in Chapter 16 Appendix 2 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement [formerly Appendix 1603.D.1 of North American Free Trade Agreement]

Accountant	Scientific Technician/Technologist	Apiculturist
Architect	Social Worker	Astronomer
Computer Systems Analyst	Sylviculturist (including Forestry Specialist)	Biochemist
Disaster Relief Insurance Claims Adjuster (employed by an insurance company located in the territory of a Party, or an independent claims adjuster)	Technical Publications Writer	Biologist (including Plant Pathology)
Economist	Urban Planner (including Geographer)	Chemist
Engineer	Vocational Counselor	Dairy Scientist
Forester	<u>Medical/Allied Professionals</u>	Entomologist
Graphic Designer	Dentist	Epidemiologist
Hotel Manager	Dietitian	Geneticist
Industrial Designer	Medical Laboratory Technologist	Geochemist
Interior Designer	(Canada)/Medical Technologist	Geologist
Land Surveyor	(Mexico and the United States)	Geophysicist (including Oceanographer in Mexico and the United States)
Landscape Architect	Nutritionist	Horticulturist
Lawyer (including notary in the province of Quebec)	Occupational Therapist	Meteorologist
Librarian	Pharmacist	Pharmacologist
Management Consultant	Physician (teaching or research only)	Physicist (including Oceanographer in Canada)
Mathematician (including Statistician and Actuary)	Physiotherapist/Physical Therapist	Plant Breeder
Range Manager/Range Conservationist	Psychologist	Poultry Scientist
Research Assistant (working in a post- secondary educational institution)	Recreational Therapist	Soil Scientist
	Registered Nurse	Zoologist
	Veterinarian	<u>Teacher</u>
	<u>Scientist</u>	College
	Agriculturalist (Agronomist)	Seminary
	Animal Breeder	University
	Animal Scientist	