

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

From F-1 study to an H-1B job: separate the student and employer processes

What changes when a student considers an H-1B employment process?

A student record and an employer's H-1B process concern different classifications and decision-makers. H-1B requires the relevant specialty-occupation and worker qualifications; cap registration, petition approval, a domestic status decision and a later visa are different milestones.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Preserve the program and existing authorization records.
- ☐ Describe the proposed position and the organization responsible for the employment process.
- ☐ Track the exact request and its decision separately from the job offer.
- ☐ Place planned work and school events beside documented immigration events.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: H-1B specialty occupations: job, LCA, registration and petition stages

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/h-1b-specialty-occupations>

U.S. Department of State: Student visa: school and category distinctions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>

DHS Study in the States: Maintaining student status

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status>

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Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/student/f1-h1b/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.