

IMMIGRATION GLOSSARY

Dual citizenship: someone who is simultaneously a citizen of two countries (permitted by the US but not some countries)

Green card: the document that indicates a permanent resident

Humanitarian parole: temporary permission to enter the US granted for emergencies, compassion, crisis, or public benefit

Immigrant: someone who moves permanently to a country other than his original country of citizenship

Naturalization: the process of becoming a US citizen, possible after 5 years as a legal resident

Permanent resident: a non-citizen authorized to live and work in the US

Unaccompanied minor: a child without the presence of a legal guardian

Visa: permission to enter a country. Various types of visas are issued, some temporary and some permanent.

Visa sponsor: a US citizen who supports the immigration of a spouse/fiance(e), child, relative, or employee

Work Visa: temporary permission to enter the US for employment, lasting a specific period of time



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INTERNATIONALS IN KNOXVILLE

Asylee: enters the US then requests permission to stay because of persecution at home (must prove persecution)

Migrant: temporarily permitted to live and work in the US, primarily in agriculture

Refugee: persecuted or endangered in their home country and applies to the UNHCR from a displaced persons camp outside the US

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holder: assisted our military in their home country, resulting in danger to themselves and their family and necessitating their move to the US

Spouse/Fiance(e)/Adopted child of an American citizen

Undocumented person: entered the US without proper authorization (some await court hearings)

University student, their spouse and children, may include limited permission to work

Visa lottery winner: requests to immigrate, limited numbers from various countries

Working professional: comes at the invitation of a business or organization in the US, sometimes accompanied by "trailing spouse" and children



Source: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/>

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