PROGRAMME BROCHURE

CORPORATE MOBILITY | UNITED STATES

USA L1 Corporate Transfer Visa

Transfer to your employer's US arm after a year abroad. No cap, no lottery, and L-1A feeds directly into the EB-1C green card — India's second-fastest employment route.

TIMELINE

4 months (XIPHIAS average)

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At a glance

COUNTRY **United States**	ROUTE **Corporate Mobility**
TIMELINE **4 months (XIPHIAS average)**	COMPANY STRUCTURE **LLC or Corporation**
OWNERSHIP **Up to 100% foreign ownership permitted**	OFFICE **Physical or leased office space required**
VISA QUOTA **1**	BANK ACCOUNT **Yes (after EIN issuance)**
LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**	

Overview

The **USA L1 Corporate Transfer Visa** allows international companies to **transfer executives, managers, or key staff** to their U.S. branch or subsidiary. Designed for **business expansion and intra-company transfers**, the L1 visa offers a **pathway to permanent residency (Green Card)** and allows **100% foreign ownership** of your U.S. entity. It's an ideal route for global businesses establishing a U.S. presence with full operational control.

Filing fees

Item	Fee
Form I-129 petition, L classification	USD 1,385
Fraud prevention and detection fee (initial petitions)	USD 500
Asylum Program Fee	USD 600 (USD 300 small employer, nil nonprofit)
Public Law 114-113 fee, employers with 50 or more US staff of whom more than half hold H-1B or L status	USD 4,500
Premium processing (optional)	USD 2,965, response within 15 business days

L-1 has no annual cap and no lottery, and it is not affected by the H-1B USD 100,000 payment. State Department visa fees are paid separately at the consular stage.

Key benefits

- L1 visa available year-round with no lottery or quota.
- Allows executives and managers to work in the U.S. for a related company.
- Spouses can work and children can study under L2 visas.
- Pathway to U.S. permanent residency via EB1C Green Card.
- Premium processing option for faster L1 visa approval.

Requirements

- Employee must have worked at least one year in a qualifying foreign company.
- U.S. and foreign companies must have a parent, branch, subsidiary or affiliate link.
- Both entities must show active business operations.
- Proof of executive or managerial role with supporting documents.
- Provide valid passport, company papers, lease, and tax records.

When this route may not fit

- No valid link between U.S. and foreign companies.
- Less than one year of qualifying overseas employment.
- Missing or incomplete company or financial records.
- Foreign entity inactive or not conducting real business.

L1 Visa Sponsorship and Employment Rules

- Applicant must have one year of continuous full-time work with the foreign company in the last three years.
- The U.S. and foreign entities must have a valid corporate relationship — parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or branch.
- A U.S. office lease and business plan are required for new office setups.

How the process works

1. **Register U.S. Company**
   Form an LLC or corporation and obtain an EIN for L1 visa setup.
2. **Prepare L1 Visa Petition**
   Show company link, job role, and business plan for USCIS approval.
3. **File I-129 Form**
   Submit L1 visa petition to USCIS with supporting documents.
4. **Attend Visa Interview**
   Complete DS-160 and attend interview at the U.S. consulate.

5 **Receive L1 Visa**
Get visa approval to enter and work in the US.

6 **Maintain Compliance**
Keep payroll, tax filings, and renew your L1 visa on time.

After U.S. entity setup and visa approval

- Open corporate bank account and set up payroll.
- Register for federal, state, and local taxes as applicable.
- Maintain employment eligibility documentation (Form I-9).
- Sponsor dependents after principal visa approval.
- Plan annual compliance, tax filings, and renewals.

Questions clients ask

Who qualifies for an L1 visa in the USA?

Managers, executives, or key staff transferring from a foreign branch or subsidiary to a U.S. company.

How long is the L1 visa valid?

L1A visas are valid up to 7 years, and L1B visas up to 5 years, including extensions.

Can L1 visa holders get a U.S. Green Card?

Yes. The L1 visa supports dual intent and can lead to permanent residency under the EB1C category.

Can foreign investors fully own a U.S. company under L1?

Yes, most industries allow 100% foreign ownership, except for regulated sectors.

Can dependents work or study in the U.S.?

L2 spouses can work with authorization, and children may attend U.S. schools.

Important notes

- L-1 has no annual cap and is not touched by the H-1B proclamation payment or the wage-weighted selection rule.
- Employers with 50 or more US staff of whom more than half hold H-1B or L status pay an additional USD 4,500 fee on an L-1 petition under Public Law 114-113.
- The qualifying year abroad must be with the same employer group, within the three years immediately before the petition. Gaps and entity restructures are where these cases fail.
- Maximum periods of stay are set by 8 CFR 214.2(l): up to 7 years for L-1A and 5 years for L-1B, including extensions. XIPHIAS confirms the limits that apply to your case before filing.

Compliance

- L-1A is for managers and executives; L-1B is for employees with specialised knowledge.
- You must have worked for the same employer group abroad for one year within the three preceding years.

- The US employer must be a branch, parent, affiliate or subsidiary of the foreign employer.
- Blanket-L applicants must present Form I-129S at the visa interview. Fraud prevention and border security fees may apply.
- Filing fees: Form I-129 for L classification is USD 1,385, plus the Asylum Program Fee of USD 600 and a fraud prevention and detection fee of USD 500.
- Premium processing is available at USD 2,965 with a 15 business day response.
- State Department visa fees, including any reciprocity-based issuance fee for your nationality, are paid at the consular stage.
- L-1A managers often qualify later for the EB-1C green card, where India's final action date is 1 February 2023 — far ahead of EB-2 and EB-3 at roughly 13 years.

Official sources: US Department of State — temporary worker visas; US Department of State — Visa Bulletin for October 2026; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations — 8 CFR 106.2 (USCIS fee schedule); Federal Register — Adjustment to Premium Processing Fees (effective 1 March 2026).

NEXT STEP

Plan your United States application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **USA L1 Corporate Transfer Visa** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

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