

Dear Consul,

I just graduated from school, and am having a difficult time finding a job. I have an uncle in New York who has offered to let me work in his grocery store in Brooklyn, and I was wondering if I could do this on a normal tourist visa, since I would be working for my relative? If not, can I stay with him and at least take some classes in the US?

Peter from Bonasee

You may **not** work or study in the United States on a B1/B2 visitor visa. The visitor visa is a type of nonimmigrant visa for persons desiring to enter the United States temporarily for business (B-1) or for pleasure, tourism or medical treatment (B-2). If you want to work or study in the US, you would need a different type of visa, and this requires additional documents. Once you are accepted into an education program or receive a job offer, the organization in the U.S. should provide you the proper documentation to apply for the type of visa necessary to work or study in the U.S.

There are several types of nonimmigrant student visas, but in all cases the school would need to issue you a document – what is called either a “DS-2019” or an “I-20”-- before you could apply for the visa.

There are several types of nonimmigrant work visas as well. All require your U.S. based employer to file a petition with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Once the petition is approved by DHS, you may apply for the visa.

Please note that there are severe consequences if you are caught working or attending school while on a visitor visa, including having your visa revoked, as well as a possible ban on future travel to the U.S.

For more information on the nonimmigrant visa process, as well as detailed information on both student and work visas, please visit our website at <http://trinidad.usembassy.gov>.

We hope this information is helpful.