



### THE UNITED STATES ALLOCATES 20,000 JOBS FOR FOREIGNERS WITH MASTERAL DEGREE IN THE US

The new visa regulations of the United States will make available 20,000 new H-1B visas to foreign workers, in addition to the annual ceiling of 65,000 mandated by the U.S. Congress in 1990. The new regulation, which took effect on May 5, 2005, changed the H-1B filing procedures for fiscal year 2005 and for future fiscal years. The regulation will allow U.S. employers to augment its existing labor force with highly skilled temporary workers. **However, the additional visas will only be granted to foreign workers with a minimum master's level degree from an academic institution in the United States.**

As of May 20, 2005, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has received more than 6,393 H-1B petitions that will count against the Congressionally mandated exemption cap for fiscal year 2005 (October 1, 2004 through September 20, 2005) established by the H-1B Visa Reform Act of 2004.

H-1B visas are granted to highly skilled workers such as architects, engineers, accountants, doctors, college professors, and computer programmers. H-1B workers are admitted to the United States for an initial period of three years. This may be extended for an additional three years.

The H-1B visa program is used by some U.S. businesses to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise in a specialized field. The U.S. Congress created the H-1B program more than fifty years ago and established an annual cap of 65,000 in 1990.

As part of the H-1B program, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires U.S. employers to meet the specific labor conditions to ensure that local workers are not adversely affected, while the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division safeguards the treatment and compensation of H-1B workers.

Source : Office of American Affairs, DFA  
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