



The Visa Process

The quantitative analytics field is rapidly expanding, not only in the United States but around the globe. With so many international candidates seeking job opportunities here, we thought it would be beneficial to explore the visa process so that those of you who are international students can feel adequately informed about the procedure for obtaining a visa to work in the country.

To start, your employment options as a non-citizen are slightly restricted due to your residency status, as you will need to make sure the companies you are talking to are willing to sponsor a visa. This does mean that your job options may be a bit limited - overall 26.9% of companies will not sponsor a visa – so it is important to focus your job search on companies that are willing to sponsor you. Linda Burtch, the founder of Burtch Works, [published a blog post](#) that goes into more detail about how that number breaks down by industry as well as the residency status of quantitative analytics professionals at various points in their careers. You will notice that the number of candidates on visas decreases as the career track progresses, because most will have already applied for a green card or citizenship.

After you graduate you may apply for an OPT (Optional Practical Training) which is a temporary work permit available to you after you graduate and valid for one year. Before an OPT runs out you will need to find an employer to sponsor you for an H-1B, which is generally valid for three years (though it can be extended up to three more years). To answer some of the more detailed questions about the OPT to H-1B transitions and limitations, Linda shared some insights from David Rubman - an immigration lawyer - [in this blog post](#).

Sometime during your H-1B visa your employer will need to apply for a green card (also known as permanent residency) for you if you wish to continue working in the United States. It is the first step in the process toward citizenship. Although your employer can apply at any time, it is an expensive and intricate process and most companies will generally wait to see if you are a good fit before investing. The continuation of Linda Burtch's conversation with David Rubman specifically about the green card process [can be found here](#).

Since this process can be particularly complex, we encourage you to reach out to us with any questions if this is a something that will be affecting your job search in the future.