

H-1B Self-Placed Program Fees

*The following fee schedule is for self-placed applicants only.

Fees Paid to Teachers Council

Initial Consultation: \$0

- Includes initial eligibility consultation by Teachers Council for the teacher to obtain an H-1B visa in the offered position. If the teacher applicant meets the basic eligibility requirements, they will be invited to submit a full application with supporting documents to Teachers Council.

Teachers Council Application Fee: \$2,500

- Includes full eligibility review of the teacher's application including supporting documents. Includes liaison service between teacher and school and state agencies such as the authority on teacher certification, the Department of Motor Vehicles, etc.
- Includes review of the intended sponsor school's eligibility to sponsor a teacher for the H-1B Cap-Exempt visa. Includes assisting the intended sponsor school to formalize existing teacher practical training partnership with the school's local nonprofit institution of higher education.
- Includes ongoing consultation and administrative support until all required documents have been submitted for the case preparation process to begin.
- Who pays this? The teacher.

Legal Service: \$700

- Upon both teacher and school signing a Dual and Limited Representation Consent Form, Teachers Council retains an immigration attorney on behalf of the school and teacher to file the H-1B petition. We have filed over 1,000 successful H-1B applications for teachers in collaboration with the Law Office of Kevin Michael Reilly.
- Includes arrangement of legal representation and paralegal specialist services.
- Who pays this? The school is required to pay this fee, unless the offered salary of the teacher enables the teacher to pay. See Exhibit A.

Fees Paid to Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/US Government (Collected by Teachers Council)

Form I-129 Visa Application: \$460

- Definition: this form is the first part of your application for the H-1B nonimmigrant worker visa. Alongside our immigration attorney, Teachers Council prepares this form, collects all required documents, then submits the package with payment to the US government, with attorney representation.
- Who pays this? The school is required to pay this fee, unless the offered salary of the teacher enables the teacher to pay. See Exhibit A.

Fraud Prevention and Detection: \$500

- Definition: this fee is required by the US government to detect and prevent fraud in the H-1B visa program.
- Teachers Council collects this fee and submits it to the US government.
- Who pays this? The school is required to pay this fee, unless the offered salary of the teacher enables the teacher to pay. See Exhibit A.

Form I-907 for Premium Processing: \$2,965

- Definition: This form allows the applicant to request expedited premium processing and is necessary in the majority of initial H-1B applications. This is not typically necessary for H-1B extensions or transfers.
- With premium processing, the US government responds to the application within 15 business days. Without premium processing, the US government responds to the application within 7-9 months.
- Who pays this? In most cases, the teacher should be prepared to pay this fee because it primarily benefits the teacher. However, the school or the teacher can pay this fee regardless of the salary being offered.

Form I-539 Dependent Application: \$470

- Definition: this form allows the applicant to extend or change the nonimmigrant status of their spouse and unmarried children under 21.
- This is only for applicants with dependents located in the US that need to extend or change their visa status.
- Who pays this? The teacher.

Fees Paid by Applicant to the Department of State/US Government

DS-160 US Embassy Appointment Fee: Varies

- Definition: After the form I-129 is approved, this form allows the H-1B applicant to officially apply for an H-1B visa and schedule an embassy interview at their home country's US embassy.
- There may be a separate reciprocity fee charged at the embassy for different nationals. You may check your country agreement and fee here: [U.S. Visa: Reciprocity and Civil Documents by Country](#).
- Who pays this? The teacher.

Exhibit A

Key Terms:

1. Prevailing Wage Definition: this is determined by the Department of Labor and can be found on the [FLC Data Center website](#) by searching the state, county, and specific teaching position.
2. Actual Wage Definition: this is the salary a school would normally offer a domestic teacher with the same teaching position, years of teaching experience, and educational credentials. This is often based on a predetermined salary schedule or collective bargaining agreement (CBA).
3. Required Wage Definition: the higher of 1 (prevailing wage) and 2 (actual wage). For example, if the prevailing wage for a middle school special education teacher in Anne Arundel County, Maryland is \$50,000/year and the actual wage is \$52,000/year based on the school's set salary schedule, the required wage is \$52,000/year.
4. Offered Wage Definition: this is the amount the school is offering the H-1B teacher. For example, if the prevailing wage is \$50,000/year, and the actual wage is \$52,000/year, the school may decide to offer an H-1B teacher a slightly higher salary of \$53,560/year to account for the extra legal fees or relocation costs for the H-1B teacher.

Example 1:

Prevailing Wage - \$50,000

Actual Wage - \$52,000

Required Wage - \$52,000

Offered Wage - \$53,560

Difference between Required and Offered = \$1,560. Because the offered salary is higher than the required salary, this means the teacher can pay the \$600 legal fee, the \$460 visa application fee (Form I-129), and the \$500 Fraud Prevention fee themselves (\$1,560 total) and does not require any financial assistance from the school for the H-1B visa application.

Example 2:

Prevailing Wage - \$50,000

Actual Wage - \$52,000

Required Wage - \$52,000

Offered Wage - \$52,000

Difference between Required and Offered = \$0. Because the offered salary is the same as the required salary, this means the school must pay the \$600 legal fee, the \$460 visa application fee (Form I-129), and the \$500 Fraud Prevention fee (\$1,560 total).

Example 3:

Actual Wage - \$48,000

Prevailing Wage - \$50,000

Required Wage - \$50,000

Offered Wage - \$50,800

Difference between Required and Offered = \$800. Because the offered salary is \$800 higher than the required salary, this means the school must cover the difference of \$760.

Option A:

If the school is unable to pay the \$1,560 upfront or offer at least \$1,560 above the required wage, they can also offer \$520 above the required wage for a three-year employment contract so that over the course of three years, the teacher is earning a total of \$1,560 more than the required wage, but it is spread out over three years vs. one year. In this case, the teacher can pay all the visa service fees upfront and does not require any financial assistance from the school. However, the school is still welcome and encouraged to provide financial assistance when possible.

Option B:

If the school is unable to pay the \$1,560 upfront or offer at least \$1,560 above the required wage, the teacher can pay all the visa service fees upfront and the school can reimburse the teacher by a specific date within their first year of employment. A reimbursement agreement outlining the terms would be signed by the school and the teacher.

<u>REFUND POLICY</u>	
<p>The following policy applies to all fees paid prior to visa approval. All refunds will be issued in the form of the original payment, and to the original payer. Please allow up to four weeks for the issuance of the appropriate refund. All fees not listed below are billed at the time of the service and are non-refundable.</p>	
	Rejection by Teachers Council or legal counsel
\$2,500 Teachers Council Application Fee	\$2,000
	Cancellation After Confirmed Job Offer OR Rejection by US Government
\$600 Legal Service Fee	non-refundable
\$460 Form I-129	non-refundable
\$500 Fraud Prevention	non-refundable
\$2,500 Form I-907 Premium Processing	non-refundable
\$370/dependent Form I-539	non-refundable

