



October 15, 2020

PA-2020-18

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Nonimmigrant Cultural Visitor (Q) Visa Classification

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) regarding the nonimmigrant cultural visitor visa classification, commonly known as the “Q” visa category.

Background

Nonimmigrant cultural visitors (Q) come temporarily to the United States to participate in an international cultural exchange program approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security. The program’s purpose is to provide “practical training, employment, and the sharing of the history, culture, and traditions of the country of the alien’s nationality and who will be employed under the same wages and working conditions as domestic workers.”¹

This guidance, contained in Volume 2 of the Policy Manual, is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance on the topic.

Policy Highlights

- Clarifies eligibility requirements for the nonimmigrant cultural visitor (Q) visa classification, to include eligibility and related requirements for petitioners, pertinent programs, and participants.
- Clarifies the type of evidence that can demonstrate a qualifying program including, but not limited to, catalogs, brochures, and curriculum.

Citation

Volume 2: Nonimmigrants, Part E, Cultural Visitors (Q) [[2 USCIS-PM E](#)].

¹ See [INA 101\(a\)\(15\)\(Q\)](#). See [8 CFR 214.2\(q\)](#).