



E3

VS



H1B

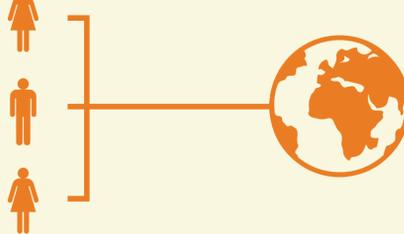
So you have a job candidate who's Australian and you're worried about the pain and expense of doing an H1B visa application. Luckily for you there's a better option that's considerably faster, cheaper and less painful. It's so much easier that candidates often do all the paperwork themselves. It's called the E3 visa and here's how it compares to the H1B.

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Nationalities eligible



Australians only.

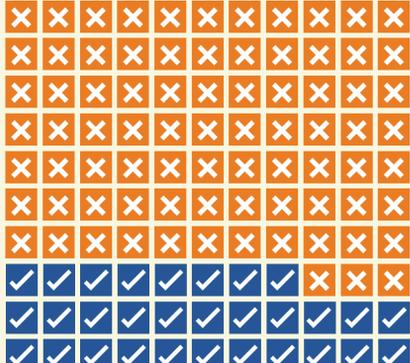


Everyone, very competitive.

Visas available



In 2015, there were only **6,127** applicants for the **10,500** visas available.



In 2015, there were **233,000** applications for **85,000** visas.

Cost



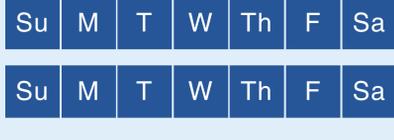
\$205



**\$1,575-
\$7,550**

(not including attorneys)

Processing time

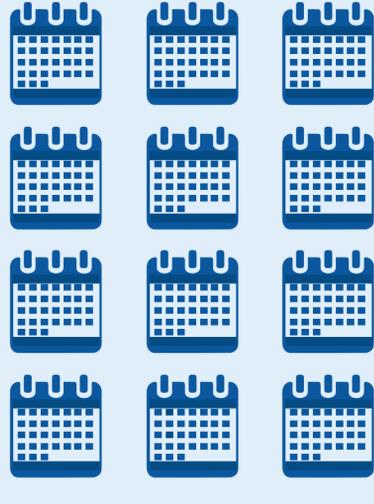


1-2 weeks



3-6 months

When can you get the visa?



All year around



5 days in April

Renewals



No limit



Only

Both visas



Degree required



Must have employment offer



Spouse can work

Footnotes and sources

Nationalities eligible

- E3. Selection criteria can be found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/e-3-certain-specialty-occupation-professionals-australia>

Visas available

- E3. This number was estimated using the number of successful applicants in 2015, 5,527 as reported here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports/FY2015AnnualReport/FY15AnnualReport-TableXVIIb.pdf>
- And using the 2014 rejected visa rate of 9.8% as reported here: <http://www.afr.com/news/policy/immigration/us-toughens-up-on-australian-work-visas-20150721-gihlg1>.
- E3. The number of new E3 visas available each year (10,500) is listed here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-3_visa
- H1B. visa applicant figure of 233,000 was reported here: <http://money.cnn.com/2016/04/12/technology/h1b-cap-visa-fy-2017/>

Cost

- E3. The costs are \$205 process fee as specified by the State Department here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/fees-visa-services.html>
- At time of publication there's no visa reciprocity fee for Australians, you can check those here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/reciprocity-by-country/AS.html>
- H1B. These are all of the filing fees (some, like expedited processing, are optional) as estimated here: <http://www.h1bwiki.com/h1b-visa-fee-doubled-bill-passed/>.
- These fees can be verified here: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-fiscal-year-fy-2017-cap-season>

Processing time from start to finish

- There are no official guidelines for processing times because officials don't want to give information that could be outdated or inaccurate in some cases.
- E3. The 1-2 week time span comes from here: <https://visacoach.org/2013/05/09/e-3-visa-how-long-does-the-process-take/>
- H1B. The 3-6 month time span comes from here: <http://faq.visapro.com/h1b-visa-faq6.asp>

When can you get the visa?

- E3. The most number of visas issued here is 5,527 as reported here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports/FY2015AnnualReport/FY15AnnualReport-TableXVIIb.pdf>
- H1B. The dates and timelines are described by the USCIS here: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-fiscal-year-fy-2017-cap-season>

Renewals

- E3. There are no limits on how many E3 visas one person can be issued. Source: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/e-3-certain-specialty-occupation-professionals-australia>
- H1B. Unless there are exceptional circumstances H1B visa holders can only have one renewal according to the USCIS: <https://my.uscis.gov/helpcenter/article/how-long-can-i-stay-as-an-h-1b>

Both visas

- E3. Degree required, must have a legitimate job offer by a US company, and spousal rights are a part of USCIS eligibility criteria that are outlined here: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/e-3-certain-specialty-occupation-professionals-australia>
- H1B. Degree required, must have a legitimate job offer by a US company are USCIS eligibility criteria that are outlined here: <https://www.uscis.gov/eir/visa-guide/h-1b-specialty-occupation/understanding-h-1b-requirements>
- H1B. Spousal rights for H1B visas are outlined by the USCIS here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/02/25/2015-04042/employment-authorization-for-certain-h-4-dependent-spouses>