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IMMIGRATION CONSULTING SERVICES

E-1 Treaty Trader Visa: Trade-Based Visa for Treaty Nationals

E-1

A renewable U.S. visa for treaty nationals carrying on substantial trade between the United States and their home country, with no investment required.

None	2 years	Over 50%	$ 315
Investment required	Stay per entry, renewable	Share of international trade with the U.S.	Visa application fee per applicant

Why the E-1

The E-1 visa allows nationals of treaty countries to carry on substantial trade between the United States and their home country. Trade is defined broadly, from goods and services to banking, tourism and communications. There is no investment requirement; the company must show a continuous flow of numerous transactions. Pakistan is an E-1 treaty country. The visa suits established traders and key employees, and is renewable while the trade qualifies.

Key benefits

No investment needed
No investment requirement; eligibility rests on trade volume.

Renewable status
Renewable for as long as the trade continues to qualify.

Key employees qualify
Executive, supervisory and essential employees of the trading company can also qualify.

Family benefits
Spouse is authorized to work in the U.S.; children under 21 can accompany you and attend school.

At a glance

Visa type
Renewable treaty trader visa

Investment
None; based on substantial trade

Employer sponsor
No USCIS petition

Length of stay
Up to 2 years per admission, renewable

Program overview

- For treaty nationals carrying on substantial trade between the U.S. and their home country
- Trade includes goods, services, technology, banking, insurance, transportation, tourism and communications
- Suits established traders and key employees rather than new ventures; apply at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad

Pakistan +92 312 8873639 / +92 335 2735392 **USA** +1 689 286 3561 info@phoeniximmigrations.com phoeniximmigrations.com

Qualifying criteria

Eligibility rests on the trading company, the trade itself and your role in the business.

Company ownership

50%

The trading company must be at least 50% owned by nationals of the same treaty country.

Substantial trade

Continuous

A continuous flow of numerous transactions over time, not a single large deal.

Trade with the U.S.

Over 50%

More than 50% of the company's international trade must be between the U.S. and the treaty country.

Your role

Key staff

You are the principal trader, or an employee in an executive, supervisory or essential role.

Eligibility requirements

- Citizenship of an E-1 treaty country (such as Pakistan)
- Trade evidence: invoices, bills of lading, contracts, customs and bank records
- Intent to depart the U.S. when E-1 status ends

Good to know

- The E visa application (MRV) fee is **$315** per applicant; check travel.state.gov for any reciprocity fee
- There is no fixed minimum trade value; officers look for regular, ongoing transactions of meaningful value
- Smaller businesses can qualify if trade income supports the trader and family

Your application journey

Review

01 Trade review: records and ownership against E-1 rules

02 Gather invoices, bills of lading, contracts, customs and bank records

Application

03 Prepare ownership and company documents

04 Complete the DS-160 and E-1 application package

05 Interview preparation on trade questions, then the embassy interview

Long term

06 **Long-term planning, including green card options**

Talk to a Phoenix advisor

We assess your eligibility, compare the routes open to you and manage your application from first consultation to approval.

Karachi
Burj Ul Minal Tower 2, Office 407,
Gulistan-e-Johar Block 11

Austin, Texas
5900 Balcones Dr, Suite 12802, Austin,
TX 78731

Book a free consultation

Scan to visit our website

+92 335 2735392 (WhatsApp)
+1 689 286 3561
info@phoeniximmigrations.com

Program rules, government fees, processing times and visa-free access can change at any time. Figures are indicative as of November 2026; please confirm current terms with Phoenix Immigration Consulting Services before applying. This fact sheet is for general information and is not legal advice.