

Comparison Chart for German Nationals: E-2 Treaty Investor and L-1 Intra-Company Transferee

	L-1 Status	E-2 Status
Summary	Available to individuals who have been employed on a full-time basis by a foreign corporation outside of the U.S. for at least one year during the preceding three-year period in either a managerial, executive (L-1A), or specialized knowledge (L-1B) capacity. Individual “transfers” to affiliated U.S. entity.	Available to principal investors or certain employees that need to remain in the U.S. for extended periods of time to oversee work in an enterprise engaged in trade between the U.S. and a foreign state. Investors must be in a position to “develop and direct” the enterprise. Employees must work in an executive, supervisory, or essential skills capacity.
Eligibility	Available to all nationalities.	Available to nationals of treaty countries.
Procedure	German citizens will submit a petition to a USCIS Service Center within the U.S. and apply for nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. Consulate abroad upon approval.	German citizens can apply for status at a U.S. Consulate in Germany. If the individual is already in the U.S., the application can be made to a USCIS Service Center.
Government Fees	Fees: \$320 petition \$500 one-time anti-fraud \$6 I-94 card issuance	Fees: Visa application fee varies by Consulate \$320 if filing at Service Center
Duration	Duration: One to three years initially, L-1As may obtain seven years total and L-1Bs five years total. After maximum time limits have been reached, status may be renewable in one year increments indefinitely provided individual maintains required foreign residence abroad and is in the U.S. less than 183 days.	Duration: Two years initially, with unlimited two-year extensions so long as the applicant continues to comply with the visa requirements.
Dependents	Dependents: Spouse and children under age 21 may be admitted to the U.S. in L-2 status. Spouses holding L-2 status may apply for employment authorization from USCIS to work within the U.S.	Dependents: Spouses and children under age 21 may be admitted to the U.S. in derivative E status. Spouses may apply for employment authorization from USCIS to work within the U.S.
Can I obtain a green card?	Category allows for “dual intent” meaning individual may apply for permanent residency and hold nonimmigrant status simultaneously. Managers and executives may be eligible to file immigrant petition without first obtaining labor certification which streamlines green card process.	Category does not allow for dual intent. An E-visa applicant must intend to depart from the United States upon termination of status.
Required documentation	Generally requires extensive corporate documentation and detailed personal information to prepare petition for filing.	Generally requires extensive corporate documentation and detailed personal information to prepare application for filing.

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