

**New U.S. policy could reshape access to skilled work opportunities — and provoke backlash**

A proposed \$100,000 application fee for the H-1B work visa has ignited debate across tech, academic, and immigrant communities. The H-1B program, which allows skilled foreign workers to contribute to U.S. industries, has long been a gateway for global talent. Critics argue the new fee would disproportionately affect young professionals, startups, and applicants from developing countries.

Supporters claim the fee could reduce abuse and ensure only serious applicants apply. But many fear it will limit diversity, innovation, and access to opportunity.

***“This isn’t just a price tag — it’s a barrier to dreams,” said one international graduate student.***