

# You Can Start a Successful Freelance Business as an Immigrant — Here's How



Many people who make the move to the United States dream of starting a business. As an immigrant, you may feel hopeful, yet apprehensive. But if small business ownership is your dream, it is entirely possible for you to achieve it with some guidance and planning. The [Safety and Health Foundation](#) offers some steps you can take to make your dream a reality.

## Securing the Right Visa

Securing the appropriate visa for your business needs will bring you a step closer to your dream of emigrating to the US. These days, freelancers and digital nomads can enjoy living and working in [a variety of locations](#) — work is no longer a barrier. Flexibility is important for immigrants who are starting a freelance business. Often the longing for connection with loved ones back home can feel overwhelming, so having a visa and business strategy that enables free movement is a valuable asset. But while tourist visas and temporary resident visas offer reasonable time constraints for some freelancers, others may prefer longer and [more permanent solutions](#).

## Challenges and Wins for Immigrants

Some of the issues immigrants face when starting a business include language barriers, lack of a built-in network, and cultural differences. Don't be discouraged. Certain types of grants are available [exclusively](#) for immigrants. Moreover, cultural differences and language barriers can be opportunities for connection in many circumstances — your cross-cultural experiences and knowledge can help expand the minds of customers and colleagues that you meet along the way.

Along with your first steps in launching your business, you need to determine the [structure for your business](#), for instance. Whether you opt to form your business as a sole proprietor, an LLC, or a partnership, there are many factors to consider. Registering your business in the US can be a straightforward process once you determine this, and there are services you can use to ensure that you are on the right track.

It's also wise to connect with an accountant so that you can immediately address tax requirements once you begin to generate income. Working with an accountant can be as simple as reaching out to another freelancer.

Last but not least, consider automating certain aspects of your business. You have a lot on your plate, so it's important to look for ways to simplify things. For example, QuickBooks Payroll is [accounting software](#) that makes life easier, as it allows you to automate payroll and provide same-day direct deposit to your employees. Additionally, you can automate your payroll tax payments to ensure you're not missing any important deadlines, which could end up costing you money.

## Fulfilling Promises at Home

Often the decision to move to another country [weighs on](#) immigrants, but the desire to start a new life is compelling. Fortunately, fulfilling promises to stay in touch and support family members from afar is much easier these days thanks to digital advances, while the freelance lifestyle offers more opportunities to keep connections intact. Social media can offer a platform for sharing photos and updates, while connecting on video chat sites such as Skype or [Zoom](#) allows you to “see” and “hear” loved ones across the miles.

Go the extra mile for your family and plan your monthly budget around amenities outside of Zoom calls, such as frequent care packages or visits. If you happen to be connecting with family in India, for example, care packages can be sent affordably and quickly through a [courier comparison tool](#) like Parcel Monkey. If you're sending money back home to your family members, use an encrypted service like [Instarem](#) for same-day transfers. And when scheduling visits with your loved ones, nab first dibs on cheap flights when you set alerts on Google Flights or Kayak. The list goes on and on!

Immigrants are a valuable part of a diverse culture, and business ownership is an ideal way to earn a living while also enjoying the flexibility that freelancing can offer. Getting the right visa, setting up your business the right way, and maintaining valuable relationships both in your home country and this new one is just the beginning of your long, fruitful business adventure. Good luck!

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