Introduction

For tax purposes, an alien is an individual who is not a U.S. citizen. Aliens are classified as nonresident aliens and resident aliens. This publication will help you determine your status and give you information you will need to file your U.S. tax return. Resident aliens generally are taxed on their worldwide income, the same as U.S. citizens. Nonresident aliens are taxed only on their income from sources within the United States and on certain income connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

Table A, What You Need To Know About U.S. Taxes, provides a list of questions and the chapter or chapters in this publication where you will find the related discussion.
Table A. What You Need To Know About U.S. Taxes

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Answers to frequently asked questions are presented in the back of the publication.

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Important Changes for 2002

**Reduced tax rates.** For tax years beginning in 2002 and 2003, the 27.5%, 30.5%, 35.5%, and 39.1% graduated income tax rates are reduced to 27%, 30%, 35%, and 38.6%, respectively. A part of your income may be subject to a rate of 10%. The 10% rate is reflected in the tax tables and tax rate schedules for resident and nonresident aliens.

**Interest on student loans.** There is no longer a 60-month limit on deducting student loan interest. Also, the income phaseout limit increased to $65,000.

**Individual retirement arrangements (IRAs).** Your maximum contribution (and any allowable deduction) limit is increased. Previously, the limit was $2,000. The new limit depends on your age at the end of the year.

• If you are under age 50, the most you can contribute is the smaller of $3,000, or your taxable compensation.

• If you are age 50 or older in 2002, the most you can contribute is the smaller of $3,500, or your taxable compensation.

**Adoption credit.** The maximum credit for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child increased to $10,000.

**Earned income credit (EIC).** In 2002, the EIC is based, in part, on adjusted gross income, not modified adjusted gross income. For information about other changes to the EIC, see Publication 956, Earned Income Credit (EIC).

**Educator expenses.** If you are an eligible educator, you can deduct as an adjustment to income up to $250 in unreimbursed qualified expenses you paid or incurred during 2002 for books, supplies (other than nonathletic supplies for courses of instruction in health or physical education), computer equipment, and other...
equipment and materials used in the classroom. For more information, see your form instructions.

Tuition and fees deduction. You may be able to deduct as an adjustment to income up to $3,000 of qualified higher education tuition and related expenses you paid. The expenses can be for you, your spouse, or your dependent. If you are a nonresident alien for any part of the year, you can only take this deduction if you are married and choose to be treated as a resident alien for the entire year under either Choosing Resident Alien Status, or Nonresident Alien Spouse Treated as a Resident in chapter 1. For more information, see Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

Foreign earned income exclusion. For 2002, the foreign earned income exclusion is $80,000. For more information, see chapter 3.

Retirement savings contributions credit. There is a new credit for eligible contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA) made by qualified individuals. For more information, see Retirement Savings Contributions Credit under Tax Credits and Payments, in chapter 5.

Important Changes for 2003

Estimated tax safe harbor for higher income individuals. For installment payments for tax years beginning in 2003, the estimated tax safe harbor for higher income individuals (other than farmers and fishermen) has been modified. If your 2002 adjusted gross income is more than $150,000 ($75,000 if married filing a separate return in 2003), you will have to deposit the smaller of 90% of your expected tax for 2003 or 110% of the tax shown on your 2002 return to avoid an estimated tax penalty. For more information, see Estimated Tax Form 1040–ES (NR) in chapter 8.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Early in 2003, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was superseded by the Directorate of Border and Transportation Security (DBTS) (for immigration enforcement), and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) (for immigration services) under the Department of Homeland Security. References in this publication to the INS should be considered to refer to the DBTS and/or BCIS where applicable.

Important Reminders

Individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). The IRS will issue an ITIN to a nonresident or resident alien who does not have and is not eligible to get a social security number. To apply for an ITIN, file Form W–7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, with the IRS. An ITIN is for tax use only. It does not entitle the holder to social security benefits or change the holder’s employment or immigration status under U.S. law. See Identification Number in chapter 5.

Disclosure of a treaty-based position that reduces your tax. If you take the position that any U.S. tax is overruled or otherwise reduced by a U.S. treaty (a treaty-based position), you generally must disclose that position on your affected return. See Effect of Tax Treaties in chapter 1.

Form 1040NR–EZ. You may be able to use Form 1040NR–EZ, U.S. Income Tax Return for Certain Nonresident Aliens With No Dependents. This form is shorter and easier to prepare than Form 1040NR. To see if you meet the conditions for filing this form, see Form 1040NR–EZ in chapter 7.

Earned income credit for nonresident aliens. If you are a nonresident alien for any part of the year, you cannot claim the earned income credit unless you are married and choose to be treated as a resident alien for the entire year. See Choosing Resident Alien Status and Nonresident Spouse Treated as a Resident in chapter 1.

Third party designee. You can check the “Yes” box in the “Third Party Designee” area of your return to authorize the IRS to discuss your return with a friend, family member, or any other person you choose. This allows the IRS to call the person you identified as your designee to answer any questions that may arise during the processing of your return. It also allows your designee to perform certain actions. See your income tax package for details.

Leaving the United States. Generally, aliens must obtain a sailing permit or departure permit before leaving the United States. See chapter 11 for more information.

Change of address. If you change your mailing address, be sure to notify the Internal Revenue Service using Form 8822, Change of Address.

Nonresident aliens who filed Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ with the Internal Revenue Service Center, Philadelphia, PA 19255, should send the form there. Resident aliens should send the form to the Internal Revenue Service Center for their old address (addresses for the Service Centers are on the back of the form).

Expatiation tax. If you are a former U.S. citizen or former long-term U.S. resident, special tax rules may apply to you. See Expatriation Tax in chapter 4.

Photographs of missing children. The Internal Revenue Service is a proud partner with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Photographs of missing children selected by the Center may appear in this publication on pages that would otherwise be blank. You can help bring these children home by looking at the photographs and calling 1–800–THE–LOST (1–800–843–5678) if you recognize a child.
1. Nonresident Alien or Resident Alien?

Introduction
You should first determine whether, for income tax purposes, you are a nonresident alien or a resident alien. Figure 1—A will help you make this determination.

If you are both a nonresident and resident in the same year, you have a dual status. Dual status is explained later. Also explained later are a choice to treat your nonresident spouse as a resident and some other special situations.

Topics
This chapter discusses:
• How to determine if you are a nonresident, resident, or dual-status alien, and
• How to treat a nonresident spouse as a resident alien.

Useful Items
You may want to see:

Form (and Instructions)

1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
1040A U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
1040NR U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return
8833 Treaty-Based Return Position Disclosure Under Section 6114 or 7701(b)
8840 Closer Connection Exception Statement for Aliens
8843 Statement for Exempt Individuals and Individuals With a Medical Condition

See chapter 12 for information about getting these forms.

Nonresident Aliens
If you are an alien (not a U.S. citizen), you are considered a nonresident alien unless you meet one of the two tests described next, under Resident Aliens.

Resident Aliens
You are a resident alien of the United States for tax purposes if you meet either the green card test or the substantial presence test for the calendar year (January 1–December 31). Even if you do not meet either of these tests, you may be able to choose to be treated as a U.S. resident for part of the year. See First-Year Choice under Dual-Status Aliens, later.

Green Card Test
You are a resident for tax purposes if you are a lawful permanent resident of the United States at any time during the calendar year. (However, see Dual-Status Aliens, later.) This is known as the "green card" test. You are a lawful permanent resident of the United States at any time if you have been given the privilege, according to the immigration laws, of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant. You generally have this status if the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has issued you an alien registration card, also known as a "green card."

You continue to have resident status under this test unless the status is taken away from you or is administratively or judicially determined to have been abandoned.

Resident status taken away. Resident status is considered to have been taken away from you if the U.S. government issues you a final administrative or judicial order of exclusion or deportation. A final judicial order is an order that you may no longer appeal to a higher court of competent jurisdiction.

Resident status abandoned. An administrative or judicial determination of abandonment of resident status may be initiated by you, the INS, or a U.S. consular officer. If you initiate the determination, your resident status is considered to be abandoned when you file either of the following with the INS or U.S. consular officer:
1) Your application for abandonment.
2) Your Alien Registration Receipt Card attached to a letter stating your intent to abandon your resident status.

You must file the letter by certified mail, return receipt requested. You must keep a copy of the letter and proof that it was mailed and received. If the INS or U.S. consular officer initiates this determination, your resident status will be considered to be abandoned when the final administrative order of abandonment is issued. If you are granted an appeal to a federal court of competent jurisdiction, a final judicial order is required.

A long-term resident who ceases to be a lawful permanent resident may be subject to special reporting requirements and tax provisions. See Expatriation Tax in chapter 4.

Substantial Presence Test
You will be considered a U.S. resident for tax purposes if you meet the substantial presence test for the calendar year. To meet this test, you must be physically present in the United States on at least:
1) 31 days during the current year, and
2) 183 days during the 3-year period that includes the current year and the 2 years immediately before that, counting:
   a) All the days you were present in the current year, and
   b) ½ of the days you were present in the first year before the current year, and
   c) ½ of the days you were present in the second year before the current year.

Example. You were physically present in the United States on 120 days in each of the years 2000, 2001, and 2002. To determine if you have been given the privilege, according to the substantial presence test for 2002, count the full 120 days of presence in 2002, 40 days in 2001 (% of 120), and 20 days in 2000 (% of 120). Since the total for the 3-year period is 180 days, you are not considered a resident under the substantial presence test for 2002.

The term United States includes the following areas.
1) All 50 states and the District of Columbia.
2) The territorial waters of the United States.
3) The seabed and subsoil of those submersible areas that are adjacent to U.S. territorial waters and over which the United States has exclusive rights under international law to explore and exploit natural resources.

The term does not include U.S. possessions and territories or U.S. airspace.

Days of Presence in the United States
You are treated as present in the United States on any day you are physically present in the country at any time during the day. However, there are exceptions to this rule. Do not count the following as days of presence in the United States for the substantial presence test:

• Days you commute to work in the United States from a residence in Canada or Mexico if you regularly commute from Canada or Mexico.
• Days you are in the United States for less than 24 hours when you are in transit between two places outside the United States.
• Days you are in the United States as a crew member of a foreign vessel.
• Days you are unable to leave the United States because of a medical condition that develops while you are in the United States.
• Days you are an exempt individual.

The specific rules that apply to each of these categories are discussed next.

Regular commuters from Canada or Mexico. Do not count the days on which you commute to work in the United States from your residence in Canada or Mexico if you regularly commute from Canada or Mexico. You are considered to commute regularly if you commute to work in the...
**Figure 1-A. Nonresident Alien or Resident Alien?**

*Start here to determine your status for 2002*

1. **Were you a lawful permanent resident of the United States (had a “green card”) at any time during 2002?**
   - Yes
   - No

2. **Were you physically present in the United States on at least 31 days during 2002?**
   - Yes
   - No

3. **Were you physically present in the United States on at least 183 days during the 3-year period consisting of 2000, 2001, and 2002, counting all days of presence in 2002, \(\frac{1}{3}\) the days of presence in 2001, and \(\frac{1}{6}\) the days of presence in 2000?**
   - Yes
   - No

4. **Were you physically present in the United States on at least 183 days during 2002?**
   - Yes
   - No

5. **Can you show that for 2002 you have a tax home in a foreign country and have a closer connection to that country than to the United States?**
   - No
   - Yes

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1. If this is your first or last year of residency, you may have a dual status for the year. See Dual-Status Aliens in chapter 1.
2. In some circumstances you may still be considered a nonresident alien under an income tax treaty between the U.S. and your country. Check the provisions of the treaty carefully.
3. See Days of Presence in the United States in this chapter for days that do not count as days of presence in the United States.
4. If you meet the substantial presence test for 2003, you may be able to choose treatment as a U.S. resident alien for part of 2002. For details, see Substantial Presence Test under Resident Aliens and First-Year Choice under Dual-Status Aliens in chapter 1.
States to work and ending on the last day in the current year on which you are physically present in the United States to work and return to your residence within a 24-hour period. “Workdays” are the days on which you work in the United States or Canada or Mexico. “Working period” means the period beginning with the first day in the current year on which you are physically present in the United States to work and ending on the last day in the current year on which you are physically present in the United States to work. If your work requires you to be present in the United States only on a seasonal or cyclical basis, your working period begins on the first day of the season or cycle and ends on the last day of the season or cycle on which you are present in the United States to work. You can have more than one working period in a calendar year, and your working period can begin in one calendar year and end in the following calendar year.

**Example.** Maria Perez lives in Mexico and works for Compáñia ABC in its office in Mexico. She was assigned to her firm’s office in the United States from February 1 through June 1. On June 2, she resumed her employment in Mexico. On 63 days, Maria commuted each morning from her home in Mexico to work in Compáñia ABC’s U.S. office. She returned to her home in Mexico on each of those evenings. On 7 days, she worked in her firm’s Mexico office. For purposes of the substantial presence test, Maria does not count the days she commuted to work in the United States because those days equal more than 75% of the workdays during the working period (69 workdays in the working period divided by 76 workdays in the working period equals 90.8%).

**Days in transit.** Do not count the days you are in the United States for less than 24 hours and you are in transit between two places outside the United States. You are not considered to be in transit if you engage in activities that are substantially related to completing travel to your foreign destination. For example, if you travel between airports in the United States to change planes en route to your foreign destination, you are considered to be in transit. However, you are not considered to be in transit if you attend a business meeting while in the United States. This is true even if the meeting is held at the airport.

**Crew members.** Do not count the days you are temporarily present in the United States as a regular crew member of a foreign vessel engaged in transportation between the United States and a foreign country or a U.S. possession. However, this exception does not apply if you otherwise engage in any trade or business in the United States on those days.

**Medical condition.** Do not count the days you intended to leave, but could not leave the United States because of a medical condition or problem that developed while you were in the United States. Whether you intended to leave the United States on a particular day is determined based on all the facts and circumstances. For example, you may be able to establish that you intended to leave if your purpose for visiting the United States could be accomplished during a period that is not long enough to qualify you for the substantial presence test. However, if you need an extended period of time to accomplish the purpose of your visit and that period would qualify you for the substantial presence test, you would not be able to establish an intent to leave the United States before the end of that extended period.

In the case of an individual who is judged mentally incompetent, proof of intent to leave the United States can be determined by analyzing the individual’s pattern of behavior before he or she was judged mentally incompetent. If you qualify to exclude days of presence because a medical condition, you must file a fully completed Form 8843 with the IRS. See Form 8843, later.

You cannot exclude any days of presence in the United States under the following circumstances:

1. You were initially prevented from leaving, were then able to leave, but remained in the United States beyond a reasonable period for making arrangements to leave.
2. You returned to the United States for treatment of a medical condition that developed during a prior stay.
3. The condition existed before your arrival in the United States and you were aware of the condition. It does not matter whether you needed treatment for the condition when you entered the United States.

**Exempt individual.** Do not count days for which you are an exempt individual. The term “exempt individual” does not refer to someone exempt from U.S. tax, but to anyone in the following categories:

1. An individual temporarily present in the United States as a foreign government-related individual.
2. A teacher or trainee temporarily present in the United States under an “F,” “J,” “M,” or “Q” visa, who substantially complies with the requirements of the visa.
3. A student temporarily present in the United States under an “F,” “J,” “M,” or “Q” visa, who substantially complies with the requirements of the visa.
4. A professional athlete temporarily in the United States to compete in a charitable sports event.

**Foreign government-related individuals.** A foreign government-related individual is an individual (or a member of the individual’s immediate family) who is temporarily present in the United States:

1. As a full-time employee of an international organization,
2. By reason of diplomatic status, or
3. By reason of a visa (other than a visa that grants lawful permanent residence) that the Secretary of the Treasury determines represents full-time diplomatic or consular status.

An international organization is any public international organization that is recognized by the United States, and includes the following categories:

1. Has been recognized by the President, Secretary of State, or Secretary of Defense as being entitled to the privileges, exemptions, and immunities provided for in the International Organizations Act. An individual is a full-time employee if his or her work schedule meets the organization’s standard full-time work schedule.
2. Is considered to have full-time diplomatic or consular status if he or she:
   1. Has been accredited by a foreign government that is recognized by the United States,
   2. Intends to engage primarily in official activities for that foreign government while in the United States, and
   3. Has been recognized by the President, Secretary of State, or a consular officer as being entitled to that status.

Members of the immediate family include the individual’s spouse and unmarried children (whether by blood or adoption) but only if the spouse’s or unmarried children’s visa statuses are derived from and dependent on the exempt individual’s visa classification. Unmarried children are included only if they:

1. Are under 21 years of age,
2. Reside regularly in the exempt individual’s household, and
3. Are not members of another household.

The immediate family of an exempt individual does not include attendants, servants, or personal employees.

**Teachers and trainees.** A teacher or trainee is an individual, other than a student, who is temporarily in the United States under a “F,” “J,” or “Q” visa and substantially complies with the requirements of that visa. You are considered to have substantially complied with the visa requirements if you have engaged in activities that are prohibited by U.S. immigration laws and could result in the loss of your visa status. Also included are immediate family members of exempt teachers and trainees. See the definition of immediate family, earlier, under Foreign government-related individuals.

You will not be an exempt individual as a teacher or trainee if you were exempt as a teacher, trainee, or student for any part of 2 of the 6 preceding calendar years. However, you will be an exempt individual if you were exempt as a teacher, trainee, or student for any part of 3 of the 6 preceding calendar years and:

1. A foreign employer paid all of your compensation during the current year, and
2. A foreign employer paid all of your compensation during each of the preceding 6 years you were present in the United States as a teacher or trainee.

A foreign employer includes an office or place of business of an American entity in a foreign country or a U.S. possession.

If you qualify to exclude days of presence as a teacher or trainee, you must file a fully completed Form 8843 with the IRS. See Form 8843, later.
Example. Carla was temporarily in the United States during the year as a teacher on a "J" visa. Her compensation for the year was paid by a foreign employer. Carla was treated as an exempt teacher for the past 2 years but her compensation was not paid by a foreign employer. She will not be considered an exempt individual for the current year because she was exempt as a teacher for at least 2 of the past 6 years.

If her compensation for the past 2 years had been paid by a foreign employer, she would be an exempt individual for the current year.

Students. A student is any individual who is temporarily in the United States on an "F," "J," "M," or "Q" visa and who substantially complies with the requirements of that visa. You are considered to have substantially complied with the visa requirements if you have not engaged in activities that are prohibited by U.S. immigration laws and could result in the loss of your visa status.

Also included are immediate family members of exempt students. See the definition of immediate family, earlier, under Foreign government-related individuals.

You will not be an exempt individual as a student if you have been exempt as a teacher, trainee, or student for any part of more than 5 calendar years unless you establish that you do not intend to reside permanently in the United States and you have substantially complied with the requirements of your visa. The facts and circumstances to be considered in determining if you have demonstrated an intent to reside permanently in the United States include, but are not limited to, the following:

1) Whether you have maintained a closer connection to a foreign country (discussed later).

2) Whether you have taken affirmative steps to change your status from nonimmigrant to lawful permanent resident as discussed later, under Closer Connection to a Foreign Country.

If you qualify to exclude days of presence as a student, you must file a fully completed Form 8843 with the IRS. See Form 8843, later.

Professional athletes. A professional athlete who is temporarily in the United States to compete in a charitable sports event is an exempt individual. A charitable sports event is one that meets the following conditions.

1) The main purpose is to benefit a qualified charitable organization.

2) The entire net proceeds go to charity.

3) Volunteers perform substantially all the work.

In figuring the days of presence in the United States, you can exclude only the days on which you actually competed in a sports event. You cannot exclude the days on which you were in the United States to practice for the event, to perform promotional or other activities related to the event, or to travel between events.

If you qualify to exclude days of presence as a professional athlete, you must file a fully completed Form 8843 with the IRS. See Form 8843, next.

Closer Connection to a Foreign Country

Even if you meet the substantial presence test, you can be treated as a nonresident alien if you:

1) Are present in the United States for less than 183 days during the year.

2) Maintain a tax home in a foreign country during the year, and

3) Have a closer connection during the year to one foreign country in which you have a tax home than to the United States (unless you have a closer connection to two foreign countries, discussed next).

Establishing a closer connection. You will be considered to have a closer connection to a foreign country than the United States if you or the IRS establishes that you have maintained more significant contacts with the foreign country than with the United States. In determining whether you have maintained more significant contacts with the foreign country than with the United States, the facts and circumstances to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

1) The country of residence you designate on forms and documents.

2) The type of official forms and documents you file, such as Form W-9, Form W-8BEN, or Form W-8ECI.

3) The location of:
   a) Your permanent home,
   b) Your family,
   c) Your personal belongings, such as cars, furniture, clothing, and jewelry,
   d) Your current social, political, cultural, or religious affiliations,
   e) Your business activities (other than those that constitute your tax home),
   f) The jurisdiction in which you hold a driver's license, and
   g) The jurisdiction in which you vote.

Chapter 1 Nonresident Alien or Resident Alien? Page 7
It does not matter whether your permanent home is a house, an apartment, or a furnished room. It also does not matter whether you rent or own it. It is important, however, that your home be available at all times, continuously, and not solely for short stays. You cannot claim you have a closer connection to a foreign country if either of the following applies:

1) You personally applied, or took other steps during the year, to change your status to that of a permanent resident, or
2) You had an application pending for adjustment of status during the current year.

Steps to change your status to that of a permanent resident include, but are not limited to, the filing of the following forms:

Form I–508, Waiver of Rights, Privileges, Exemptions, and Waiver of Proceedings
Form I–485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
Form I–120, Petition for Alien Relative, on your behalf
Form I–140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker, on your behalf
Form ETA – 750, Application for Alien Employment Certification, on your behalf
Form DS–230, Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration

You are a nonresident alien for the part of the calendar year that begins on the residency starting date. You must sign and date this statement and include a statement that it is made under penalties of perjury. The statement must contain the following information (as applicable):

1) Your name, address, U.S. taxpayer identification number (if any), and U.S. visa number (if any)
2) Your passport number and the name of the country that issued your passport
3) The tax year for which the statement applies
4) The first day that you were present in the United States during the year
5) The dates of the days you are excluding in figuring your first day of residency
6) Sufficient facts to establish that you have a closer connection to Russia turned to Switzerland. Robert came back to the United States as a U.S. resident for the calendar year, but you were not a U.S. resident at any time during the preceding calendar year, you are a U.S. resident only for the part of the calendar year that begins on the residency starting date. You are a nonresident alien for the part of the year before that date.

Residency starting date under substantial presence test. If you meet the substantial presence test for a calendar year, your residency starting date is the first day you are present in the United States during that calendar year. However, you do not have to count up to 10 days of actual presence in the United States if on those days you establish that:

1) You had a closer connection to a foreign country than to the United States, and
2) Your tax home was in that foreign country.

Close Connection to a Foreign Country, earlier.

In determining whether you can exclude up to 10 days, the following rules apply.

1) You can exclude days from more than one period of presence as long as the total days in all periods are not more than 10
2) You cannot exclude any days in a period of consecutive days of presence if all the days in that period cannot be excluded.
3) Although you can exclude up to 10 days of presence in determining your residency starting date, you must include those days when determining whether you meet the substantial presence test.

Example. Ivan Ivanovich is a citizen of Russia. He came to the United States for the first time on January 6, 2002, to attend a business meeting and returned to Russia on January 10, 2002. His tax home remained in Russia. On March 1, 2002, he moved to the United States and resided here for the rest of the year. Ivan is able to establish a closer connection to Russia for the period January 6–10. Thus, his residency starting date is March 1.

Statement required to exclude up to 10 days of presence. You must file a statement with the IRS if you are excluding up to 10 days of presence in the United States for purposes of your residency starting date. You must sign and date this statement and include a declaration that it is made under penalties of perjury. The statement must contain the following information (as applicable):

1) Your name, address, U.S. taxpayer identification number (if any), and U.S. visa number (if any)
2) Your passport number and the name of the country that issued your passport
3) The tax year for which the statement applies
4) The first day that you were present in the United States during the year
5) The dates of the days you are excluding in figuring your first day of residency
6) Sufficient facts to establish that you have a closer connection to a foreign country during the period you are excluding.

If you do not file the required statement as explained above, you cannot claim that you have a closer connection to a foreign country or countries. Therefore, your first day of residency will be the first day you are present in the United States. This does not apply if you can show by clear and convincing evidence that you took reasonable actions to become aware of the requirements for filing the statement and significant steps to comply with those requirements.

Residency starting date under green card test. If you meet the green card test at any time during a calendar year, but do not meet the substantial presence test for that year, your residency starting date is the first day in the calendar year on which you are present in the United States as a lawful permanent resident. If you meet both the substantial presence test and the green card test, your residency starting date is the earlier of the first day during the year you are present in the United States under the substantial presence test or as a lawful permanent resident.

Residency during the preceding year. If you were a U.S. resident during any part of the preceding calendar year and you are a U.S. resident for any part of the current year, you will be considered a U.S. resident at the beginning of the current year. This applies whether you are a resident under the substantial presence test or green card test.

Example. Robert Bach is a citizen of Switzerland. He came to the United States as a U.S. resident for the first time on May 1, 2001, and remained until November 5, 2001, when he returned to Switzerland. Robert came back to the United States on March 5, 2002, as a lawful permanent resident and still resides here. In
calendar year 2002, Robert’s U.S. residency is deemed to begin on January 1, 2002, because he qualified as a resident in calendar year 2001.

First-Year Choice

If you do not meet either the green card test or the physical presence test for 2002, you did not make the first-year choice. You must state on Form 1040 that you are not making the first-year choice. If you were a U.S. resident in 2002 but are not a U.S. resident during any part of 2003, you cease to be treated as a U.S. resident for part of 2002. To make this choice, you must:

1) Be present in the United States for at least 31 days in a row in 2002, and
2) Be present in the United States for at least 75% of the number of days beginning with the first day of the 31-day period and ending with the last day of 2002. For purposes of this 75% requirement, you can treat up to 5 days of absence from the United States as days of presence in the United States.

When counting the days of presence in (1) and (2) above, do not count the days you were in the United States under any of the exceptions discussed earlier under Days of Presence in the United States.

If you make the first-year choice, your residency starting date for 2002 is the first day of the 31-day period (described in (1) above) that you use to qualify for the choice. You are treated as a U.S. resident for the rest of the year. If you are present for more than one 31-day period and you satisfy condition (2) above for each of those periods, your residency starting date is the first day of the first 31-day period. If you are present for more than one 31-day period but you satisfy condition (2) above only for a later 31-day period, your residency starting date is the first day of the later 31-day period.

Note. You do not have to be married to make this choice.

Example 1. Juan DaSilva is a citizen of the Philippines. He came to the United States for the first time on November 1, 2002. He then left the United States on December 1, 2002. Juan returned to the Philippines on December 1 and came back to the United States on December 17, 2002. He stayed in the United States for the rest of the year. During 2003, Juan was a resident of the United States under the substantial presence test. Juan can make the first-year choice for 2002 because he was in the United States in 2002 for a period of 31 days in a row (November 1 through December 1) and for at least 75% of the days following (including) the first day of his 31-day period (46 total days of presence in the United States divided by 61 days in the period from November 1 through December 31 equals 75.4%). If Juan makes the first-year choice, his residency starting date will be November 1, 2002.

Example 2. The facts are the same as in Example 1, except that Juan was also absent from the United States on December 24, 25, 29, 30, and 31. He can make the first-year choice for 2002 because up to 5 days of absence are considered days of presence for purposes of the 75% requirement.

Statement required to make the first-year choice. You must attach a statement to Form 1040 to make the first-year choice. The statement must contain your name and address and specify the following:

1) That you are making the first-year choice.
2) That you were not a resident in 2001.
3) That you are a resident under the substantial presence test in 2003.
4) The number of days of presence in the United States during 2003.
5) The date or dates of your 31-day period of presence and the period of continuous presence in the United States during 2002.
6) The date or dates of absence from the United States during 2002 that you are treating as days of presence.

You cannot file Form 1040 or the statement until you meet the substantial presence test for 2003. If you have not met the test for 2003 as of April 15, 2003, you can request an extension of time to file Form 1040 until a reasonable period after you have met that test. To request an extension to file until August 15, 2003, use Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. You can file the paper form or use one of the electronic filing options explained in the Form 4868 instructions. You should pay with this extension the amount of tax you expect to owe for 2002 figured as if you were a nonresident alien the entire year. You can use Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ to figure the tax. Enter the tax on Form 4868. If you do not pay the tax due, you will be charged interest on any tax not paid by the regular due date of your return, and you may be charged a penalty on the late payment. If you need more time after filing Form 4868, file Form 2888, Application for Additional Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return.

Once you make the first-year choice, you may not revoke it without the approval of the Internal Revenue Service.

If you do not follow the procedures discussed here for making the first-year choice, you will be treated as a nonresident alien for all of 2002. However, this does not apply if you can show by clear and convincing evidence that you took reasonable actions to become aware of the filing procedures and significant steps to comply with the procedures.

Choosing Resident Alien Status

If you are a dual-status alien, you can choose to be treated as a U.S. resident for the entire year if all of the following apply:

1) You were a nonresident alien at the beginning of the year.
2) You are a resident alien or U.S. citizen at the end of the year.
3) You are married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien at the end of the year, and
4) Your spouse joins you in making the choice.

This includes situations in which both you and your spouse were nonresident aliens at the beginning of the tax year and both of you are resident aliens at the end of the tax year.

Note. If you are single at the end of the year, you cannot make this choice.

If you make this choice, the following rules apply:

• You and your spouse are treated as U.S. residents for the entire year for income tax purposes.
• You and your spouse are taxed on worldwide income.
• You and your spouse must file a joint return for the year of the choice.
• Neither you nor your spouse can make this choice for any later tax year, even if you are separated, divorced, or remarried.
• The special instructions and restrictions for dual-status taxpayers in chapter 6 do not apply to you.

Note. A similar choice is available if, at the end of the tax year, one spouse is a nonresident alien and the other spouse is a U.S. citizen or resident. See Nonresident Alien Spouse Treated as a Resident, later. If you previously made that choice and it is still in effect, you do not need to make the choice explained here.

Making the choice. You should attach a statement signed by both spouses to your joint return for the year of the choice. The statement must contain the following information:

1) A declaration that you both qualify to make the choice and that you choose to be treated as U.S. residents for the entire tax year.
2) The name, address, and taxpayer identification number (SSN or ITIN) of each spouse. (If one spouse died, include the name and address of the person who made the choice for the deceased spouse.)

You generally make this choice when you file your joint return. However, you also can make the choice by filing Form 1040X. Attach Form 1040, Form 1040A, or Form 1040EZ and print “Amended” across the top of the corrected return. If you make the choice with an amended return, you and your spouse must also amend any returns that you may have filed after the year for which you made the choice.

You generally must file the amended joint return within 3 years from the date you filed your original U.S. income tax return or 2 years from the date you paid your income tax for that year, whichever is later.

Last Year of Residency

If you were a U.S. resident in 2002 but are not a U.S. resident during any part of 2003, you cease to be a U.S. resident on your residency termination date. Your residency termination date is...
December 31, 2002, unless you qualify for an earlier date as discussed next.

Earlier residency termination date. You may qualify for a residency termination date that is earlier than December 31. This date is:

1) The last day in 2002 that you are physically present in the United States if you met the substantial presence test,
2) The first day in 2002 that you are no longer a lawful permanent resident of the United States, if you met the green card test, or
3) The later of (1) or (2), if you met both tests.

You can use this date only if, for the remainder of 2002, your tax home was in a foreign country and you had a closer connection to that foreign country. See Closer Connection to a Foreign Country, earlier.

A long-term resident who ceases to be a lawful permanent resident may be subject to special reporting requirements and tax provisions. See Expatriation Tax in chapter 4.

De minimis presence. If you are a U.S. resident because of the substantial presence test and you qualify to use the earlier residency termination date, you can exclude up to 10 days of actual presence in the United States in determining your residency termination date. In determining whether you can exclude up to 10 days, the following rules apply.

1) You can exclude days from more than one period of presence as long as the total days in all periods are not more than 10.
2) You cannot exclude any days in a period of consecutive days of presence if all the days in that period cannot be excluded.
3) Although you can exclude up to 10 days of presence in determining your residency termination date, you must include those dates when determining whether you meet the substantial presence test.

Example. Lola Bovary is a citizen of Malta. She came to the United States for the first time on March 1, 2002, and resided here until August 25, 2002. On December 12, 2002, Lola came to the United States for vacation and stayed here until December 16, 2002, when she returned to Malta. She is able to establish a closer connection to Malta for the period December 12–16. Lola is not a U.S. resident for tax purposes during 2003 and can establish a closer connection to Malta for the rest of calendar year 2002. Lola is a U.S. resident under the substantial presence test for 2002 because she was present in the United States for 183 days (178 days for the period March 1 to August 25 plus 5 days in December). Lola’s residency termination date is August 25, 2002.

Residency during the next year. If you are a U.S. resident during any part of 2003 and you are a resident during any part of 2002, you will be taxed as a resident through the end of 2002. This applies whether you have a closer connection to a foreign country than the United States during 2002, and whether you are a resident under the substantial presence test or green card test.

Statement required to establish your residency termination date. You must file a statement with the IRS to establish your residency termination date. You must sign and date this statement and include a declaration that it is made under penalties of perjury. The statement must contain the following information (as applicable):

1) Your name, address, U.S. taxpayer identification number (if any), and U.S. visa number (if any).
2) Your passport number and the name of the country that issued your passport.
3) The tax year for which the statement applies.
4) The last day that you were present in the United States during the year.
5) Sufficient facts to establish that you have maintained your tax home in and that you have a closer connection to a foreign country following your last day of presence in the United States during the year or following the abandonment or rescission of your status as a lawful permanent resident during the year.
6) The date that your status as a lawful permanent resident was abandoned or rescinded.
7) Sufficient facts (including copies of relevant documents) to establish that your status as a lawful permanent resident has been abandoned or rescinded.
8) If you can exclude days under the de minimis presence rule, discussed earlier, include the dates of the days you are excluding and sufficient facts to establish that you have maintained your tax home in and that you have a closer connection to a foreign country during the period you are excluding.

Attach the required statement to your income tax return. If you are not required to file a return, send the statement to the Internal Revenue Service Center, Philadelphia, PA 19255, on or before the due date for filing Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ. The due date for filing is discussed in chapter 7.

If you do not file the required statement as explained above, you cannot claim that you have a closer connection to a foreign country or countries. This does not apply if you can show by clear and convincing evidence that you took reasonable actions to become aware of the requirements for filing the statement and significant steps to comply with those requirements.

Nonresident Spouse Treated as a Resident

If, at the end of your tax year, you are married and one spouse is a U.S. citizen or a resident alien and the other spouse is a nonresident alien, you can choose to treat the nonresident spouse as a U.S. resident. This includes situations in which one spouse is a nonresident alien at the beginning of the tax year, but a resident alien at the end of the tax year, and the other spouse is a nonresident alien at the end of the tax year.

If you make this choice, you and your spouse are treated for income tax purposes as residents for your entire tax year. Generally, neither you nor your spouse can claim tax treaty benefits as a resident of a foreign country for a tax year for which the choice is in effect and you are both taxed on worldwide income. You must file a joint income tax return for the tax year, including the choice, but you and your spouse can file joint or separate returns in later years.

If you file a joint return under this provision, the special instructions and restrictions for dual-status taxpayers in chapter 6 do not apply to you.

Example. Bob and Sharon Williams are married and both are nonresident aliens at the beginning of the year. In June, Bob became a resident alien and remained a resident for the rest of the year. Bob and Sharon both choose to be treated as resident aliens by attaching a statement to their joint return. Bob and Sharon must file a joint return for the year they make the choice, but they can file either joint or separate returns for later years.

How To Make the Choice

Attach a statement, signed by both spouses, to your joint return for the first tax year for which the choice applies. It should contain the following information:

1) A declaration that one spouse was a nonresident alien at the end of the tax year, and that the other spouse is a resident alien at the end of the tax year.
2) The name, address, and identification number of each spouse. (If one spouse died, include the name and address of the person making the choice for the deceased spouse.)

Amended return. You generally make this choice when you file your joint return. However, you can also make this choice on a joint amended return on Form 1040X, Attach Form 1040, Form 1040A, or Form 1040EZ and print ‘Amended’ across the top of the corrected return. If you make the choice with an amended return, you and your spouse must also amend any returns that you may have filed after the year for which you made the choice.

You generally must file the amended joint return within 3 years from the date you filed your original U.S. income tax return or 2 years from the date you paid your income tax for that year, whichever is later.

SUSPENDING THE CHOICE

The choice to be treated as a resident alien does not apply to any tax year (after the tax year you made the choice) if neither spouse is a U.S. citizen or resident alien at any time during the tax year.

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The Internal Revenue Service can end the choice for any tax year that either spouse has failed to keep adequate books, records, and other information necessary to determine the correct income tax liability or to provide adequate access to those records.

Special Situations

If you are a nonresident alien from American Samoa or Puerto Rico, you may be treated as a resident alien.

If you are a nonresident alien in the United States and a bona fide resident of American Samoa or Puerto Rico during the entire tax year, you are taxed, with certain exceptions, according to the rules for resident aliens of the United States. For more information, see chapter 5.

Example. Dick Brown was a resident alien on December 31, 1999, and married to Judy, a nonresident alien. They chose to treat Judy as a resident alien and filed joint 1999 and 2000 income tax returns. On January 10, 2001, Dick became a nonresident alien. Judy had remained a nonresident alien throughout the period. Dick and Judy could have filed joint or separate returns for 2001. However, since neither Dick nor Judy is a resident alien at any time during 2001, their choice is suspended for that year. If either has U.S. source income or foreign source income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business in 2002, they must file separate returns as nonresident aliens. If Dick becomes a resident alien again in 2002, their choice is no longer suspended.

Ending the Choice

Once made, the choice to be treated as a resident applies to all later years unless suspended (as explained earlier under Suspending the Choice) or ended in one of the following ways.

If the choice is ended in one of the following ways, neither spouse can make this choice in any later tax year.

1) Revocation. Either spouse can revoke the choice for any tax year, provided he or she makes the revocation by the due date for filing the tax return for that tax year.

The spouse who revokes must attach a signed statement declaring that the choice is being revoked. The statement must include the name, address, and identification number of each spouse. (If one spouse dies, include the name and address of the person who is revoking the choice for the deceased spouse.) The statement also must include a list of any states, foreign countries, and possessions that have community property laws in which either spouse is domiciled or where real property is located from which either spouse receives income. File the statement as follows:

a) If the spouse revoking the choice must file a return, attach the statement to the return for the first year the revocation applies.

b) If the spouse revoking the choice does not have to file a return, but does file a return (for example, to obtain a refund), attach the statement to the return.

c) If the spouse revoking the choice does not have to file a return and does not file a claim for refund, send the statement to the Internal Revenue Service Center where you filed the last joint return.

2) Death. The death of either spouse ends the choice, beginning with the first tax year following the year the spouse died. However, if the surviving spouse is a U.S. citizen or resident and is entitled to the joint tax rates as a surviving spouse, the choice will not end until the close of the last year for which these joint rates may be used. If both spouses die in the same tax year, the choice ends on the first day after the close of the tax year in which the spouses died.

3) Legal separation. A legal separation under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance ends the choice as of the beginning of the tax year in which the legal separation occurs.

4) Inadequate records. The Internal Revenue Service can end the choice for any tax year that either spouse has failed to keep adequate books, records, and other information necessary to determine the correct income tax liability or to provide adequate access to those records.

Tax Guide to U.S. Civil Service Retirement Benefits

See chapter 12 for information about getting these publications.

Resident Aliens

A resident alien’s income is generally subject to tax in the same manner as a U.S. citizen. If you are a resident alien, you must report all interest, dividends, wages, or other compensation for services, income from rental property or royalties, and other types of income on your U.S. tax return. You must report these amounts whether from sources within or outside the United States.

Nonresident Aliens

A nonresident alien usually is subject to U.S. income tax only on U.S. source income. Under limited circumstances, certain foreign source income is subject to U.S. tax. See Foreign Income in chapter 4.

The general rules for determining U.S. source income that apply to most nonresident aliens are shown in Table 2-1. The following discussions cover the general rules as well as the exceptions to these rules.

Not all items of U.S. source income are taxable. See chapter 3.

Interest Income

Generally, U.S. source interest income includes the following items.

- Interest on bonds, notes, or other interest-bearing obligations of U.S. residents or domestic corporations.
- Interest paid by a domestic or foreign partnership or foreign corporation engaged in a U.S. trade or business at any time during the tax year.
- Original issue discount.
- Interest from a state, the District of Columbia, or the U.S. Government.

The place or manner of payment is immaterial in determining the source of your income. A substitute interest payment made to the transferor of a security in a securities lending transaction or a sale-repurchase transaction is sourced in the same manner as the interest on the transferred security.

Exceptions. U.S. source interest income does not include the following items.

1) Interest paid by a resident alien or a domestic corporation if for the 3-year period ending with the close of the payor’s tax year preceding the interest payment at least 80% of the payor’s total gross income:

a) Is from sources outside the United States, and

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b) Is attributable to the active conduct of a trade or business by the individual or corporation in a foreign country or a U.S. possession.

2) Interest paid by a foreign branch of a domestic corporation or a domestic partnership on deposits or withdrawable accounts with mutual savings banks, cooperative banks, credit unions, domestic building and loan associations, and other savings institutions chartered and supervised as savings and loan or similar associations under federal or state law if the interest paid or credited can be deducted by the association.

3) Interest on deposits with a foreign branch of a domestic corporation or domestic partnership, but only if the branch is in the commercial banking business.

Dividends

In most cases, dividend income received from domestic corporations is U.S. source income. Dividend income from foreign corporations is usually foreign source income. Exceptions to both of these rules are discussed below.

A substitute dividend payment made to the transferor of a security in a securities lending transaction or a sale–repurchase transaction is sourced in the same manner as a distribution on the transferred security.

First exception. Dividends received from a domestic corporation are not U.S. source income if the corporation elects to take the Puerto Rico economic activity credit or the possession tax credit.

Second exception. Part of the dividends received from a foreign corporation is U.S. source income if 25% or more of its total gross income for the 3-year period ending with the close of its tax year preceding the declaration of dividends was effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. If the corporation was formed less than 3 years before the declaration, use its total gross income from the time it was formed. Determine the part that is U.S. source income by multiplying the dividend by the following fraction:

\[
\text{Foreign corporation's gross income connected with a U.S. trade or business for the 3-year period} \times \frac{\text{Foreign corporation's gross income from all sources for that period}}{\text{Foreign corporation's gross income connected with a U.S. trade or business for the 3-year period}}
\]

Personal Services

All wages and any other compensation for services performed in the United States are considered to be from sources in the United States. The only exception to this rule is discussed in chapter 3 under Employees of foreign persons, organizations, or offices.

If your compensation is for personal services performed both inside and outside the United States, you must figure the amount of income that is for services performed in the United States. You usually do this on a time basis. That is, you must include in gross income as U.S. source income the amount that results from multiplying the total amount of compensation by the following fraction:

\[
\text{Number of days of services performed in the United States} \div \text{Total number of days of service for which you receive payment}
\]

Example. Jean Blanc, a nonresident alien, is a professional hockey player with a U.S. hockey club. Under Jean’s contract, he received $98,500 for 242 days of play during the year. This includes days spent at pre-season training camp, days during the regular season, and playoff game days. Of the 242 days, Jean spent 194 days performing services in the United States and 48 days playing hockey in Canada. Jean’s U.S. source income is $78,963, figured as follows:

\[
194 \times \frac{98,500}{242} = 78,963
\]

Reenlistment bonus. A reenlistment bonus received by a nonresident alien for reenlistment in the U.S. Navy while in a foreign country is not U.S. source income.

Crew members. Compensation for services performed by a nonresident alien in connection with the individual’s temporary presence in the United States as a regular crew member of a foreign vessel engaged in transportation between the United States and a foreign country or U.S. possession is not U.S. source income.

Transportation Income

Transportation income is income from the use of a vessel or aircraft or for the performance of services directly related to the use of any vessel or aircraft. This is true whether the vessel or aircraft is owned, hired, or leased. The term “vessel or aircraft” includes any container used in connection with a vessel or aircraft.

All income from transportation that begins and ends in the United States is treated as derived from sources in the United States. If the transportation begins or ends in the United States, 50% of the transportation income is treated as derived from sources in the United States.

For transportation income from personal services, 50% of the income is U.S. source income if the transportation is between the United States and a U.S. possession. For nonresident aliens, this only applies to income derived from, or in connection with, an aircraft.

For information on how U.S. source transportation income is taxed, see chapter 4.
Scholarships, Grants, Prizes, and Awards

Generally, the source of scholarships, fellow-ship grants, grants, prizes, and awards is the residence of the payer regardless of who actu-ally disburses the funds. However, see Activities to be performed outside the United States, later.

For example, payments for research or study in the United States made by the United States, a noncorporate U.S. resident, or a domestic corpora-tion, are from U.S. sources. Similar pay-ments from a foreign government or foreign cor-poration are foreign source payments even-though the funds may be disbursed through a U.S. agent.

Payments made by an entity designated as a public international organization under the Inter-national Organizations Immunities Act are from foreign sources.

Activities to be performed outside the United States. Scholarships, fellowship grants, targeted grants, and achievement awards re-ceived by nonresident aliens for activities per-formed, or to be performed, outside the United States are not U.S. source income.

These rules do not apply to amounts paid as salary or other compensation for services. See Personal Services, earlier, for the source rules that apply.

Pensions and Annuities

When you receive a pension from a domestic trust for services performed both in and outside the United States, part of the pension payment is from U.S. sources. That part is the amount at-ttributable to earnings of the trust and the em-ployer contributions made for services performed in the United States. This applies, whether the distribution is made under a quali-fied or nonqualified stock bonus, pension, profit-sharing, or annuity plan (whether or not funded).

If you performed services as an employee of the United States, you may receive a distribution from the U.S. Government under a plan, such as the Civil Service Retirement System, that is treated as a qualified pension plan. Your U.S. source income is the otherwise taxable amount of the distribution that is attributable to your total U.S. Government basic pay other than tax-ex-empt pay for services performed outside the United States.

Rents or Royalties

Your U.S. source income includes rent and roy-altiy income received during the tax year from property located in the United States or from any interest in that property. U.S. source income also includes rents or royalties for the use of, or for the privilege of using, in the United States, intangible property such as patents, copyrights, secret processes and formulas, goodwill, trademarks, franchises, and similar property.

Real Property

Real property is land and buildings and gener-ally anything built on, growing on, or attached to land.

Gross income from sources in the United States includes gains, profits, and income from the sale of real property located in the United States.

Natural resources. The income from the sale of products of any farm, mine, oil or gas well, other natural deposit, or timber located in the United States and sold in a foreign country, or located in a foreign country and sold in the United States, is partly from sources in the United States. For information on determining that part, see section 1.863–1(b) of the regula-tions.

Personal Property

Personal property is property, such as machin-equipment, or furniture, that is not real prop-erty.

Gain or loss from the sale or exchange of personal property generally has its source in the United States if you have a tax home in the United States. If you do not have a tax home in the United States, the gain or loss is generally considered to be from sources outside the United States.

Tax home. Your tax home is the general area of your principal place of business, employment, or post of duty, regardless of where you maintain your U.S. tax home. You may be considered to have a tax home in a country in which the intangible property was generated. The amount of personal property used there to produce income is considered to be from sources outside the United States.

Inventory property. inventory property is per-sonal property that is stock in trade or that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordi-nary course of your trade or business. Income from the sale of inventory that you purchased is sourced where the property is sold. Generally, this is where title to the property passes to the buyer. For example, income from the sale of inventory in the United States is U.S. source income, whether you purchased it in the United States or in a foreign country.

Income from the sale of inventory property that you produced in the United States and sold outside the United States (or vice versa) is partly from sources in the United States and partly from sources outside the United States. For in-formation on making this allocation, see section 1.863–3 of the regulations.

These rules apply even if your tax home is not in the United States.

Depreciable property. To determine the source of any gain from the sale of depreciable personal property, you must first figure the part of the gain that is not more than the total depre-ciation adjustments on the property. You allo-cate this part of the gain to sources in the United States based on the ratio of U.S. depreciation adjustments to total depreciation adjustments. The source of the gain is considered to be from sources outside the United States.

For this purpose, “U.S. depreciation adjust-ments” are the depreciation adjustments to the basis of the property that are allowable in figur-ing taxable income from U.S. sources. However, if the property is used predominantly in the United States during a tax year, all depreciation deductions allowable for that year are treated as U.S. source income. There are some exceptions for certain transportation, communications, and other property used inter-nationally.

Gain from the sale of depreciable property that is more than the total depreciation adjust-ments on the property is sourced as if the prop-erty were inventory property, as discussed above.

A loss recognized after January 7, 2002, is sourced in the same way as the depreciation deductions were sourced. However, if the prop-erty was used predominantly in the United States, the entire loss reduces U.S. source in-come. You can choose to apply this rule to losses recognized in tax years beginning after 1986. For details about making this choice, see section 1.865–1(f)(2) of the regulations.

The basis of property usually means the cost (money plus the fair market value of other property or services) of property you acquire. Depreciation is an amount deducted to recover the cost or other basis of a trade or business asset. The amount you can deduct depends on the property’s cost, when you began using the property, how long it will take to recover your cost, and which depreciation method you use. A depreciation deduction is any deduction for de-preciation or amortization or any other allowable deduction that treats a capital expenditure as a deductible expense.

Intangible property. Intangible property in-cludes patents, copyrights, secret processes or formulas, goodwill, trademarks, trade names, or other like property. The gain from the sale of amortizable or depreciable intangible property, up to the previously allowable amortization or depreciation deductions, is sourced in the same way as the original deductions were sourced. This is the same as the source rule for gain from the sale of depreciable property. See Deprecia-ble property, earlier, for details on how to apply this rule.

Gain in excess of the amortization or depre-ciation deductions disallowed. If there is any source outside the United States where the property is used if the income from the sale is contingent on the productivity, use, or disposi-tion of that property. If the income is not con-tingent on the productivity, use, or disposi-tion of the property, the income is sourced ac-cording to your tax home as discussed earlier. If payments for goodwill do not depend on its pro-ductivity, use, or disposition, their source is the country in which the goodwill was generated.

Sales through offices or fixed places of busi-ness. Despite any of the above rules, if you do not have a tax home in the United States, but you maintain an office or other fixed place of business in the United States, treat the income from any sale of personal property (including inventory property) that is attributable to that office or place of business as U.S. source income. However, this rule does not apply to sales of inventory property for use, disposition, or con-sumption outside the United States if your office or other fixed place of business outside the United States materially participated in the sale.

If you have a tax home in the United States but maintain an office or other fixed place of business outside the United States, income from sales of personal property, other than inventory, depreciable property, or intangibles, that is at-
Community Income

If you are married and you or your spouse is subject to the community property laws of a foreign country, a U.S. state, or a U.S. possession, you generally must follow those laws to determine the income of yourself and your spouse for U.S. tax purposes. But you must disregard certain community property laws if:

1) Both you and your spouse are nonresident aliens, or
2) One of you is a nonresident alien and the other is a U.S. citizen or resident and you do not both choose to be treated as U.S. residents as explained in chapter 1.

In these cases, you and your spouse must report community income as explained below.

Earned income. Earned income of a spouse, other than trade or business income and a partner’s distributive share of partnership income, is treated as the income of the spouse whose services produced the income. That spouse must report all of it on his or her separate return.

Trade or business income. Trade or business income, other than a partner’s distributive share of partnership income, is treated as the income of the spouse carrying on the trade or business. That spouse must report all of it on his or her separate return.

Partnership income (or loss). A partner’s distributive share of partnership income (or loss) is treated as the income (or loss) of the partner. The partner must report all of it on his or her separate return.

Separate property income. Income derived from the separate property of one spouse (and which is not earned income, trade or business income, or partnership distributive share income) is treated as the income of that spouse. That spouse must report all of it on his or her separate return. Use the appropriate community property law to determine what is separate property.

Other community income. All other community income is treated as provided by the applicable community property laws.

Exclusions From Gross Income

Introduction

Resident and nonresident aliens are allowed exclusions from gross income if they meet certain conditions. An exclusion from gross income is generally income you receive that is not included in your U.S. income and is not subject to U.S. tax. This chapter covers some of the more common exclusions allowed to resident and nonresident aliens.

Topics

This chapter discusses:

- Non-taxable interest
- Certain compensation paid by a foreign employer
- Gain from sale of home
- Scholarships and fellowship grants

Useful Items

You may want to see:

Publication

- §54 Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad
- §523 Selling Your Home

See chapter 12 for information about getting these publications.

Resident Aliens

Resident aliens may be able to exclude the following items from their gross income.

Foreign Earned Income and Housing Amount

If you are physically present in a foreign country or countries for at least 330 full days during any period of 12 consecutive months, you may qualify for the foreign earned income exclusion. For tax years beginning in 2002, the exclusion is $48,000. In addition, you may be able to exclude or deduct certain foreign housing amounts. You may also qualify if you are a bona fide resident of a foreign country and you are a citizen or national of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty. For more information, see Publication 54.

Foreign country. The term "foreign country" means any territory under the sovereignty of a government other than that of the United States. The term also includes territorial waters of the foreign country, the airspace over the foreign country, and the seabed and subsoil of submarine areas adjacent to the territorial waters of the foreign country.

Nonresident Aliens

Nonresident aliens can exclude the following items from their gross income.

Interest Income

U.S. source interest income that is not connected with a U.S. trade or business is excluded from income if it is from:

1) Deposits (including certificates of deposit) with persons in the banking business,
2) Deposits or withdrawable accounts with mutual savings banks, cooperative banks, credit unions, domestic building and loan associations, and other savings institutions chartered and supervised as savings and loan or similar associations under federal or state law (if the interest paid or credited can be deducted by the association), and
3) Amounts held by an insurance company under an agreement to pay interest on them.

Government obligations. Interest on obligations of a state or political subdivision, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. possession, generally is not included in income. However, interest on certain private activity bonds, arbitrage bonds, and certain bonds not in registered form is included in income.

Portfolio interest. U.S. source interest income that is not connected with a U.S. trade or business and that is portfolio interest on obligations issued after July 18, 1984, is excluded from income. Portfolio interest is interest (including original issue discount) that is paid on obligations:

1) Not in registered form (bearer obligations) that are sold only to foreign investors, and the interest on which is payable only outside the United States and its possessions, and that has on its face a statement that any U.S. person holding the obligation will be subject to limitations under the U.S. income tax laws,
2) In registered form that are targeted to foreign markets and the interest on which is paid through financial institutions outside the United States, or
3) In registered form that are not targeted to foreign markets, if you furnished the payee of the interest (or the withholding agent) a statement that you are not a U.S. person. You should have made this statement on a Form W–8BEN or on a substitute form similar to Form W–8BEN. In either case, the statement should have been signed under penalties of perjury, should have certified that you are not a U.S. citizen or resident, and should have included your name and address. Portfolio interest does not include the following types of interest.
1) Interest you receive on an obligation is- sued by a corporation of which you own, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the total voting power of all classes of voting stock.

2) Interest you receive on an obligation is- sued by a partnership of which you own, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the capital or profits interests.

3) Contingent interest.

**Contingent interest.** Portfolio interest does not include contingent interest. Contingent in- terest is either of the following:

1) Interest that is determined by reference to:
   a) Any receipts, sales, or other cash flow of the debtor or related person,
   b) Income or profits of the debtor or re- lated person,
   c) Any change in value of any property of the debtor or a related person, or
   d) Any dividend, partnership distributions, or similar payments made by the debtor or a related person.

2) Any other type of contingent interest that is identified by the Secretary of the Treasury in regulations.

For the definition of “related person” in connec- tion with any contingent interest, and for the exceptions that apply to interest described in item (1), see subparagraphs (B) and (C) of Internal Revenue Code section 871(h)(4).

**Exception for existing debt.** Contingent interest does not include interest paid or ac- crued on any debt with a fixed term that was is- sued:

1) On or before April 7, 1993, or
2) After April 7, 1993, pursuant to a written binding contract in effect on that date and at all times thereafter before that debt was issued.

**Services Performed for Foreign Employer**

If you were paid by a foreign employer, your U.S. source income may be exempt from U.S. tax, but only if you meet one of the situations dis- cussed next.

**Employees of foreign persons, organiza- tions, or offices.** Income for personal serv- ices performed in the United States as a nonresident alien is not considered to be from U.S. sources and is tax exempt if you meet all three of the following conditions.

1) You perform personal services as an em- ployee of or under a contract with a non- resident alien individual, foreign partnership, or foreign corporation, not en- gaged in a trade or business in the United States; or you work for an office or place of business maintained in a foreign country or possession of the United States by a U.S. corporation, a U.S. partnership, or a U.S. citizen or resident.

2) You perform these services while you are a nonresident alien temporarily present in the United States for a period or periods of not more than a total of 90 days during the tax year.

3) Your pay for these services is not more than $3,000. If you do not meet all three conditions, your income from personal services performed in the United States is U.S. source income and is taxed according to the rules in chapter 4.

If your pay for these services is more than $3,000, the entire amount is income from a trade or business within the United States. To find if your pay is more than $3,000, do not include any amounts you get from your employer for ad- vances or reimbursements of business travel expenses, if you were required to and did ac- count to your employer for those expenses. If the advances or reimbursements are more than your expenses, include the excess in your pay for these services.

A day means a calendar day during any part of which you are physically present in the United States.

**Example 1.** During 2002, Henry Smythe, a nonresident alien from a nontreaty country, worked for an overseas office of a U.S. partner- ship. Henry, who uses the calendar year as his tax year, was temporarily present in the United States for 60 days during 2002 performing per- sonal services for the overseas office of the partnership. That office paid him a total gross salary of $2,800 for those services. During 2002, he was not engaged in a trade or business in the United States. The salary is not considered U.S. source income and is exempt from U.S. tax.

**Example 2.** The facts are the same as in Example 1, except that Henry’s total gross sal- ary for the services performed in the United States during 2002 was $4,500. He received $2,875 in 2002, and $1,625 in 2003. During 2002, he was engaged in a trade or business in the United States because the compensation for his personal services in the United States was more than $3,000. Henry’s salary is U.S. source income and is taxed under the rules in chapter 4.

**Crew members.** Compensation for services performed by a nonresident alien in connection with the individual’s temporary presence in the United States as a regular crew member of a foreign vessel engaged in transportation be- tween the United States and a foreign country or U.S. possession is not U.S. source income and is exempt from U.S. tax.

**Students and exchange visitors.** Nonresi- dent alien students and exchange visitors pres- ent in the United States under “F,” “J,” or “Q” visas can exclude from gross income pay re- ceived from a foreign employer.

This group includes bona fide students, scholars, trainees, teachers, professors, re- search assistants, specialists, or leaders in a field of specialized knowledge or skill, or per- sons of similar description. It also includes the alien’s spouse and minor children if they come with the alien or come later to join the alien.

A nonresident alien temporarily present in the United States under a “J” visa includes an alien individual entering the United States as an exchange visitor under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

**Foreign employer.** A foreign employer is:

1) A nonresident alien individual, foreign part- nership, or foreign corporation, or
2) An office or place of business maintained in a foreign country or in a U.S. possess- sion by a U.S. corporation, a U.S. partner- ship, or an individual who is a U.S. citizen or resident.

The term “foreign employer” does not include a foreign government. Pay from a foreign gov- ernment that is exempt from U.S. income tax is discussed in chapter 10.

**Income from certain annuities.** Do not in- clude in income any annuity received under a qualified annuity plan or from a qualified trust exempt from U.S. income tax if you meet both of the following conditions.

1) You receive the annuity only because:
   a) You performed personal services outside the United States while you were a nonresident alien, or
   b) You performed personal services inside the United States while you were a nonresident alien and you met the three conditions described earlier under Em- ployees of foreign persons, organiza- tions, or offices.

2) At the time the first payment is made as an annuity under the plan (or by the trust), 90% or more of the employees for whom contributions or benefits are provided under the annuity plan (or under the plan of which the trust is a part) are U.S. citi- zens or residents.

If the annuity qualifies under condition (1) but not condition (2) above, you do not have to include the amount in income if:

1) You are a resident of a country that gives a substantially equal exclusion to U.S. citi- zens and residents, or
2) You are a resident of a beneficiary devel- oping country under the Trade Act of 1974.

If you are not sure whether the annuity is from a qualified annuity plan or qualified trust, ask the person who made the payment.

**Income affected by treaties.** Income of any kind that is exempt from U.S. tax under a treaty to which the United States is a party is excluded from your gross income. Income on which the tax is only limited by treaty, however, is included in gross income. See chapter 9.

**Gain From the Sale of Your Main Home**

If you sold your main home, you may be able to exclude up to $250,000 of the gain on the sale of your home. If you are married and file a joint return, you may be able to exclude up to $500,000. For information on the requirements for this exclusion, see Publication 523.
This page discusses how income of aliens is taxed. The topics covered include scholarships and fellowship grants, how income of aliens is taxed, and nonresident aliens. The page also provides tips for understanding and applying the tax rules.
tural Exchange Act of 1961. The taxable part of any scholarship or fellowship grant that is U.S. source income is taxed as effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States.

Business operations. If you own and operate a business in the United States selling services, products, or merchandise, you are, with certain exceptions, engaged in a trade or business in the United States.

Partnerships. If you are a member of a partnership that at any time during the tax year is engaged in a trade or business in the United States, you are considered to be engaged in a trade or business in the United States.

Beneficiary of an estate or trust. If you are the beneficiary of an estate or trust that is engaged in a trade or business in the United States, you are treated as being engaged in the same trade or business.

Trading in stocks, securities, and commodities. If you own stocks, securities, or commodities (including futures transactions) through a U.S. broker or other agent, you are not engaged in a trade or business in the United States.

For transactions in stocks or securities, this applies to any nonresident alien, including a dealer or broker in stocks and securities.

For transactions in commodities, this applies to commodities that are usually traded on an organized commodity exchange and to transactions that are usually carried out at such an exchange.

This discussion does not apply if you have a U.S. office or other fixed place of business at any time during the tax year through which, or by the direction of which, you carry out your transactions in stocks, securities, or commodities.

Trading for a nonresident alien’s own account. You are not engaged in a trade or business in the United States if trading for your own account in stocks, securities, or commodities is your only U.S. business activity. This applies even if the trading takes place while you are present in the United States or is done by your employee or your broker or other agent.

This does not apply to trading for your own account if you are a dealer in stocks, securities, or commodities. This does not necessarily mean, however, that as a dealer you are considered to be engaged in a trade or business in the United States. Determine that based on the facts and circumstances in each case or under the rules given above in Trading in stocks, securities, and commodities.

Effectively Connected Income

If you are engaged in a U.S. trade or business, all income, gain, or loss for the tax year that you get from sources within the United States (other than certain investment income) is treated as effectively connected income. This income includes whether or not there is any connection between the income and the trade or business being carried on in the United States during the tax year.

Two tests, described under Investment Income, determine whether certain items of income (such as interest, dividends, and royalties) are treated as effectively connected with that business.

In limited circumstances, some kinds of foreign source income may be treated as effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. For a discussion of these rules, see Foreign Income, later.

Investment Income

Investment income from U.S. sources that may or may not be treated as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business generally falls into the following three categories.

1) Fixed or determinable income (interest, dividends, rents, royalties, premiums, annuities, etc.).

2) Gains (some of which are considered capital gains) from the sale or exchange of the following types of property.

a) Timber, coal, or domestic iron ore with a retained economic interest.

b) Patents, copyrights, and similar property on which you receive contingent payments after October 4, 1966.

3) Capital gains (and losses).

Use the tests, described next, to determine whether an item of U.S. source income falling in one of the three categories above and received during the tax year is effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business. If the tests indicate that the item of income is effectively connected, you must include it with your other effectively connected income. If the item of income is not effectively connected, include it with all other income discussed under the 30% Tax, later, in this chapter.

Asset-use test. This test usually applies to income that is not directly produced by trade or business activities. Under this test, if an item of income is from assets (property) used in, or held for use in, the trade or business in the United States, it is considered effectively connected.

An asset is used in, or held for use in, the trade or business in the United States if the asset is:

1) Held for the principal purpose of promoting the conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

2) Acquired and held in the ordinary course of the trade or business conducted in the United States (for example, an account receivable or note receivable arising from that trade or business), or

3) Otherwise held to meet the present needs of the trade or business in the United States and not its anticipated future needs. Generally, stock of a corporation is not treated as an asset used in, or held for use in, a trade or business in the United States.

Business-activities test. This test usually applies when income, gain, or loss comes directly from the active conduct of the trade or business. The business-activities test is most important when:

1) Dividends or interest are received by a nonresident alien through a dealer in stocks or securities.

2) Royalties are received in the trade or business of licensing patents or similar property, or

3) Service fees are earned by a serving business.

Under this test, if the conduct of the U.S. trade or business was a material factor in producing the income, the income is considered effectively connected.

Personal Service Income

You usually are engaged in a U.S. trade or business when you perform personal services in the United States. Personal service income you receive in a tax year in which you are engaged in a U.S. trade or business is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. Income received in a year other than the year you performed the services is also effectively connected if it would have been effectively connected if received in the year you performed the services. Personal service income includes wages, salaries, commissions, fees, per diem allowances, and employee allowances and bonuses. The income may be paid to you in the form of cash, services, or property.

If you are engaged in a U.S. trade or business only because you perform personal services in the United States during the tax year, income and gains from assets, and gains and losses from the sale or exchange of capital assets are generally not effectively connected with your trade or business. However, if there is a direct economic relationship between your holding of the asset and your trade or business of performing personal services, the income, gain, or loss is effectively connected.

Pensions. If you were a nonresident alien engaged in a U.S. trade or business after 1986 because you performed personal services in the United States, and you later receive a pension or retirement payment attributable to these services, such payments are effectively connected income in each year you receive them. This is true whether or not you are engaged in a U.S. trade or business in the year you receive the retirement pay.

Transportation Income

Transportation income is effectively connected if you meet the following two conditions.

1) You had a fixed place of business in the United States in the conduct of your transportation business.

2) At least 90% of your U.S. source transportation income is attributable to regularly scheduled transportation.

"Fixed place of business" generally means a place, site, structure, or other similar facility through which you engage in a trade or business. "Regularly scheduled transportation" means that a ship or aircraft follows a published
Real Property Gain or Loss

Gains and losses from the sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests (whether or not they are capital assets) are taxed as if you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States. You must treat the gain or loss as effectively connected with that trade or business.

U.S. real property interest. This is any interest in real property located in the United States or in the Virgin Islands or any interest in a domestic corporation that is a U.S. real property holding corporation. Real property includes the following:

1) Land and unsevered natural products of the land, such as growing crops and timber, and minerals, wells, and other natural deposits.
2) Improvements on land, including buildings, other permanent structures, and their structural components.
3) Personal property associated with the use of real property, such as equipment used in farming, mining, forestry, or construction or properly used in lodging facilities or rented office space, unless the personal property is:
   a) Disposed of more than one year before or after the disposition of the real property, or
   b) Separately sold to persons unrelated either to the seller or to the buyer of the real property.

U.S. real property holding corporation. A corporation is a U.S. real property holding corporation if the fair market value of the corporation's U.S. real property interests are at least 50% of the total fair market value of:

1) The corporation's U.S. real property interests, plus
2) The corporation's interests in real property located outside the United States, plus
3) The corporation's other assets that are used in, or held for use in, a trade or business.

Gain or loss on the sale of any domestic corporation is taxed as if you are engaged in a U.S. trade or business unless you establish that the corporation is not a U.S. real property holding corporation.

A U.S. real property interest does not include a class of stock of a corporation that is regularly traded on an established securities market, unless you hold more than 5% of the market value of that class of stock. An interest in a foreign corporation owning U.S. real property generally is not a U.S. real property interest unless the corporation chooses to be treated as a domestic corporation.

Alternative minimum tax. There may be a minimum tax on your net gain from the disposition of U.S. real property interests. Figure the amount of this tax, if any, on Form 6251.

Withholding of tax. If you dispose of a U.S. real property interest, the buyer may have to withhold tax. See the discussion of Tax Withheld on Real Property Sales, in chapter 8.

Foreign Income

Under limited circumstances, you must treat three kinds of foreign source income as effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. These circumstances are:

1) You have an office or other fixed place of business in the United States to which the income can be attributed,
2) That office or place of business is a material factor in the performance of services, or any other personal services you perform for the corporation,
3) You hold more than 5% of the fair market value of foreign property purchased either in this country or in a foreign country.

All profits or losses from U.S. sources that are effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States are effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States.

Income you receive during the tax year that is effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business in the United States is, after allowable deductions, taxed at the rates that apply to U.S. citizens and residents.

Generally, you can receive effectively connected income only if you are a nonresident alien engaged in trade or business in the United States during the tax year. However, income you receive from the sale or exchange of property, the performance of services, or any other transaction in another tax year is treated as effectively connected in that year if it would have been effectively connected in the year the transaction took place or you performed the services.


During 2001, Ted was engaged in the trade or business of performing personal services in the United States. Therefore, all amounts paid to him in 2001 for services performed in the United States during 2001 are effectively connected with that trade or business during 2001.

The salary payment Ted received in January 2002 is U.S. source income in 2002. It is not effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States because he was engaged in a trade or business in the United States during 2001 when he performed the services that earned the income.

Real property income. You may be able to choose to treat all income from real property as effectively connected. See Income From Real Property, later, in this chapter.

The 30% Tax

Tax at a 30% (or lower treaty) rate applies to certain items of income or gains from U.S. sources but only if the items are not effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business.

schedule with repeated sailings or flights at regular intervals between the same points for voyages or flights that begin or end in the United States. This definition applies to both scheduled and chartered air transportation.

If you do not meet the two conditions above, the income is not effectively connected and is taxed at a 4% rate. See Transportation Tax, later, in this chapter.

Business Profits and Losses and Sales Transactions

All profits or losses from U.S. sources that are from the operation of a business in the United States are effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. For example, profit from the sale in the United States of inventory property purchased either in this country or in a foreign country is effectively connected trade or business income. A share of U.S. source profits or losses of a partnership that is engaged in a trade or business in the United States is also effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States.


During 2001, Ted was engaged in the trade or business of performing personal services in the United States. Therefore, all amounts paid to him in 2001 for services performed in the United States during 2001 are effectively connected with that trade or business during 2001.

The salary payment Ted received in January 2002 is U.S. source income in 2002. It is not effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States because he was engaged in a trade or business in the United States during 2001 when he performed the services that earned the income.

Real property income. You may be able to choose to treat all income from real property as effectively connected. See Income From Real Property, later, in this chapter.

The 30% Tax

Tax at a 30% (or lower treaty) rate applies to certain items of income or gains from U.S. sources but only if the items are not effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business.

4) Income, gain, or loss from the sale outside the United States, through the U.S. office or other permanent place of business, of stock in trade or other business, property that would be included in inventory if on hand at the end of the tax year, or property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business. This will not apply if you sold the property for use, consumption, or disposition in your trade or business.

5) Income, gain, or loss from the sale of property located in the United States to a domestic corporation. This is any interest in real property purchased either in this country or in a foreign country that is effectively connected trade or business income. A share of U.S. source profits or losses of a partnership that is engaged in a trade or business in the United States is also effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States.


During 2001, Ted was engaged in the trade or business of performing personal services in the United States. Therefore, all amounts paid to him in 2001 for services performed in the United States during 2001 are effectively connected with that trade or business during 2001.

The salary payment Ted received in January 2002 is U.S. source income in 2002. It is not effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States because he was engaged in a trade or business in the United States during 2001 when he performed the services that earned the income.

Real property income. You may be able to choose to treat all income from real property as effectively connected. See Income From Real Property, later, in this chapter.

The 30% Tax

Tax at a 30% (or lower treaty) rate applies to certain items of income or gains from U.S. sources but only if the items are not effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business.
Fixed or Determinable Income

The 30% (or lower treaty) rate applies to the gross amount of U.S. source fixed or determinable annual or periodic gains, profits, or income. Income is fixed when it is paid in amounts known ahead of time. Income is determinable whenever there is a basis for figuring the amount to be paid. Income can be periodic if it is paid from time to time. It does not have to be paid annually or at regular intervals. Income can be determinable or periodic even if the length of time during which the payments are made is increased or decreased.

Items specifically included as fixed or determinable income are interest (other than original issue discount), dividends, rents, premiums, annuities, salaries, wages, and other compensations. A substitute dividend or interest payment received under a securities lending transaction or a sale-repurchase transaction is treated the same as the amounts received on the transferred security. Other items of income, such as royalties, also may be subject to the 30% tax.

Some fixed or determinable income may be exempt from U.S. tax. See chapter 3 if you are not sure whether the income is taxable.

Original issue discount (OID). If you sold, exchanged, or received a payment on a bond or other debt instrument that was issued at a discount after March 31, 1972, all or part of the original issue discount (OID) (other than portfolio interest) may be subject to the 30% tax. The amount of OID is the difference between the stated redemption price at maturity and the issue price of the debt instrument. The 30% tax applies in the following circumstances:

1) You received a payment on a debt instrument. In this case, the amount of OID subject to tax is the OID that accrued while you held the debt instrument minus the amount already taxed in (1) above.

2) You sold or exchanged the debt instrument. The amount of OID subject to tax is the OID that accrued while you held the debt instrument minus the amount already taxed in (1) above.

Report on your return the amount of OID shown on form 1042--5, Foreign Person’s U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding, if you bought the debt instrument at original issue. However, you must recompute your proper share of OID shown on Form 1042--5 if any of the following apply:

1) You bought the debt instrument at a premium or paid an acquisition premium. If you held the debt instrument at a premium or paid an acquisition premium, you may have to recalculate the OID. For the definition of premium and acquisition premium and instructions on how to recompute OID, get Publication 1212.

2) The debt instrument is a stripped bond or a stripped coupon (including zero coupon instruments backed by U.S. Treasury securities).

3) The debt instrument is a contingent payment or inflation-indexed debt instrument. For the definition of premium and acquisition premium and instructions on how to recompute OID, get Publication 1212.

If you held a bond or other debt instrument that was issued at a discount before April 1, 1972, contact the IRS for further information. See chapter 12.

Social Security Benefits

A nonresident alien must include 85% of any U.S. social security benefit (and the social security equivalent part of a tier 1 railroad retirement benefit) in U.S. source fixed or determinable annual or periodic income. This income is exempt under some tax treaties. See Table 1 in Publication 901, U.S. Tax Treaties, for a list of tax treaties that exempt U.S. social security benefits from U.S. tax.

Sales or Exchanges of Capital Assets

These rules apply only to those capital gains and losses from sources in the United States that are not effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. They apply even if you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States. These rules do not apply to the sale or exchange of a U.S. real property interest or to the sale of any property that is effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. See Real Property Gain or Loss, earlier, Under Effectively Connected Income.

A capital asset is everything you own except:

• Inventory.
• Business accounts or notes receivable.
• Depreciable property used in a trade or business.
• Real property used in a trade or business.
• Supplies regularly used in a trade or business.
• Certain copyrights, literary or musical or artistic compositions, letters or memora-
• Certain U.S. government publications.
• Certain commodities derivative financial instruments held by a commodities deriva-
 • Hedging transactions.

A capital gain is a gain on the sale or exchange of a capital asset. A capital loss is a loss on the sale or exchange of a capital asset.

The following gains are subject to the 30% (or lower treaty) rate without regard to the 183-day rule, discussed later.

1) Gains on the disposal of timber, coal, or domestic iron ore with a retained economic interest.
2) Gains on contingent payments received from the sale or exchange of patents, copyrights, and similar property after October 4, 1966.
3) Gains on certain transfers of all substantial rights to, or an undivided interest in, patents if the transfers were made before October 5, 1966.
4) Gains on the sale or exchange of original issue discount obligations.

Gains in (1) are subject to the 30% (or lower treaty) rate if you choose to treat the gains as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. See Income From Real Property, later.

183-day rule. If you were in the United States for 183 days or more during the tax year, your net gain from sales or exchanges of capital as-
sets is taxed at a 30% (or lower treaty) rate. For purposes of the 30% (or lower treaty) rate, net gain is the excess of your capital gains from U.S. sources over your capital losses from U.S. sources. This rule applies even if any of the transactions occurred while you were not in the United States.

To determine your net gain, consider the amount of your gains and losses that would be recognized and taken into account only if, and to the extent that, they would have been recognized and taken into account if you were in a U.S. trade or business during the year and the gains and losses were effectively connected with that trade or business during the tax year.

In arriving at your net gain, do not take the following into consideration:

• The four types of gains listed earlier.
• The deduction for a capital loss carryover.
• Capital losses in excess of capital gains.
• Exclusion for gain from the sale or ex-
change of qualified small business stock
(section 1202 exclusion).
• Losses from the sale or exchange of prop-
erly held for personal use. However, losses resulting from casualties or thefts may be deductible on Schedule A (Form 1040NR). See Itemized Deductions in chapter 5.

If you are not engaged in a trade or business in the United States and have not established a tax year for a prior period, your tax year will be the calendar year for purposes of the 183-day rule. Also, you must file your tax return on a calendar-year basis.

If you were in the United States for less than 183 days during the tax year, capital gains (other than gains listed earlier) are tax exempt unless they are effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States during your tax year.

Reporting. Report your gains and losses from the sales or exchanges of capital assets that are not effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States on page 4 of Form 1040NR. Report gains and losses from sales or
exchanges of capital assets (including real property) that are effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States on a separate Schedule D (Form 1040). Form 4797, or both. Attach them to Form 1040NR.

Income From Real Property

If you have income from real property located in the United States that you own or have an interest in and hold for the production of income, you can choose to treat all income from that property as income effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. The choice applies to all income from real property located in the United States and held for the production of income and to all income from any interest in such property. This includes income from rents, royalties from mines, oil or gas wells, or other natural resources. It also includes gains from the sale or exchange of timber, coal, or domestic iron ore with a retained economic interest.

You can make this choice only for real property income that is not otherwise effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business. If you make the choice, you can claim deductions attributable to the real property income and your net income from real property is taxed.

This choice does not treat a nonresident alien, who is not otherwise engaged in a U.S. trade or business, as being engaged in a trade or business in the United States during the year.

Example. You are a nonresident alien and are not engaged in a U.S. trade or business. You own a single family house in the United States that you rent out. Your rental income for the year is $10,000. This is your only U.S. source income. As discussed earlier under The 30% Tax, the rental income is subject to a tax at a 30% (or lower treaty) rate. You received a Form 1042–S showing that your tenants properly withheld this tax from the rental income. You do not have to file a U.S. tax return (Form 1040NR) because your U.S. tax liability is satisfied by the withholding of tax.

If you make the choice discussed above, you can offset the $10,000 income by certain rental expenses. (See Publication 527, Rental Property, for information on rental expenses.) Any resulting net income is taxed at graduated rates. If you make this choice, report the rental income and expenses on Schedule E (Form 1040) and attach the schedule to Form 1040NR. For the first year you make the choice, also attach the statement discussed next.

Making the choice. Make the initial choice by attaching a statement to your return, or amended return, for the year of the choice. Include the following in your statement.

1) That you are making the choice.
2) Whether the choice is under Internal Revenue Code section 871(d)(explained above) or a tax treaty.
3) A complete list of all your real property, or any interest in real property, located in the United States. Give the legal identification of U.S. timber, coal, or iron ore in which you have an interest.
4) The extent of your ownership in the property.
5) The location of the property.
6) A description of any major improvements to the property.
7) The dates you owned the property.
8) Your income from the property.
9) Details of any previous choices and revocations of the real property income choice.

This choice stays in effect for all later tax years unless you revoke it.

Revoking the choice. You can revoke the choice about IRS approval by filing Form 1040X, Amended Individual Income Tax Return, for the year you made the choice and for later tax years. You must file Form 1040X within 5 years from the date you file your return with the IRS and not later than 5 years from the time the tax was paid, whichever is later. If this time period has expired for the year of choice, you cannot revoke the choice for that year. However, you may revoke the choice for later tax years only if you have IRS approval.

For information on how to get IRS approval, see Regulation section 1.871–10(g)(2).

Transportation Tax

A 4% tax rate applies to transportation income that is not effectively connected because it does not meet the two conditions listed earlier under Transportation Income. If you receive transportation income subject to the 4% tax, you should figure the tax and show it on line 55 of Form 1040NR. Attach a statement to your return that includes the following information (if applicable).

1) Your name, taxpayer identification number, and tax year.
2) A description of the types of services performed (whether on or off board).
3) Names of vessels or registration numbers of aircraft on which you performed the services.
4) Amount of U.S. source transportation income derived from each type of service for each vessel or aircraft for the calendar year.
5) Total amount of U.S. source transportation income derived from all types of services for the calendar year.

This 4% tax applies to your U.S. source gross transportation income. This only includes transportation income that is treated as derived from sources in the United States if the transportation begins or ends in the United States. Transportation income from personal services, the transportation must be between the United States and a U.S. possession. For personal services of a nonresident alien, this only applies to income derived from, or in connection with, an aircraft.

Expatriation Tax

The expatriation tax provisions apply to U.S. citizens who have renounced their citizenship and long-term residents who have ended their residency, if one of the principal purposes of the action is the avoidance of U.S. taxes. The expatriation tax applies to the 10-year period following the date of the action.

If you expatriated in 2002, you are presumed to have tax avoidance as a principal purpose if:
1) Your average annual net income tax for the last five tax years ending before the date of the action is more than $120,000, or
2) Your net worth on the date of the action is $599,000 or more.

Ruling request. If you are presumed to have tax avoidance as a principal purpose because you meet either of the previous tests, you may be eligible to request a ruling from the IRS that you did not expatriate to avoid U.S. taxes. You must request this ruling within one year from the date of expatriation. For information that must be included in your ruling request, see section IV of Notice 97–19 in Cumulative Bulletin 1997–1 and Notice 98–34 in Cumulative Bulletin 1998–2.

Former U.S. citizen. If you are a former U.S. citizen, you are eligible to request a ruling if you are in one of the following categories.
1) You became at birth a U.S. citizen and a citizen of another country and continue to be a citizen of that other country.
2) You become (within a reasonable period after loss of U.S. citizenship) a citizen of the country in which you, your spouse, or one of your parents were born.
3) You were present in the United States for no more than 30 days during each year of the 10-year period ending on the date of expatriation.
4) You lost your U.S. citizenship before reaching age 18½.

Former long-term resident. If you are a former long-term resident, you are eligible to request a ruling if you are in one of the following categories.
1) You become (within a reasonable period after your expatriation) a resident fully liable for income tax in one of the following countries.
   a) The country in which you were born.
   b) The country where your spouse was born.
   c) The country where either of your parents was born.
2) You were present in the United States for no more than 30 days during each year of the 10-year period prior to expatriation.
3) You ceased to be a long-term resident before reaching age 18½.

You will not qualify under category (1) if you are not domiciled in that country unless your income is taxed in the same manner as a resident domiciled in that country.

Long-term residents. You are a long-term resident if you were a lawful permanent resident of the United States in at least 8 of the last 15 tax years ending with the year your residency ends. In determining if you meet the 8-year requirement, do not count any year that you are treated
as a resident of a foreign country under a tax treaty and do not waive treaty benefits. Your U.S. residency is considered to have ended when you cease to be a lawful permanent resident or you begin to be treated as a resident of another country under a tax treaty and do not waive treaty benefits.

Tax. If the expatriation tax applies to you, you are generally subject to tax on your U.S. source gross income and gains on a net basis at the graduated rates applicable to individuals (with allowable deductions), unless you would be subject to a higher tax under the 30% tax (discussed earlier) on income not connected with a U.S. trade or business. In making this determination, you may not claim that an income tax treaty in effect on August 21, 1996, reduces your tax liability under the 30% tax on any items of U.S. source income.

For this purpose, U.S. source gross income (defined in chapter 2) includes gains from the sale or exchange of:

- Property (other than stock or debt obligations) located in the United States,
- Stock issued by a U.S. domestic corporation, and
- Debt obligations of U.S. persons or of the United States, a state or political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia.

U.S. source income also includes any income or gain derived from stock in certain controlled foreign corporations if you owned, or were considered to own, at any time during the 2-year period ending on the date of expatriation, more than 50% of:

- The total combined voting power of all classes of that corporation's stock, or
- The total value of the stock.

The income or gain is considered U.S. source income only to the extent of your share of earnings and profits earned or accumulated before the date of expatriation.

Any exchange of property is treated as a sale of the property at its fair market value on the date of the exchange and any gain is treated as U.S. source gross income in the tax year of the exchange unless you enter into a gain recognition agreement under Notice 97–19.

Other information. For more information on the expatriation tax provisions, including exceptions to the tax and special U.S. source rules, see section 877 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Reporting Requirements

If you lost your U.S. citizenship, you must file Form 8854, Expatriation Information Statement, with a consular office or a federal court at the time of loss of citizenship. If you end your long-term residency, you must file Form 8854 with the Internal Revenue Service when you file your dual-status tax return for the year your residency ends.

Penalties. If you fail to file Form 8854, you may have to pay a penalty equal to the greater of 5% of the expatriation tax or $1,000. The penalty will be assessed for each year during which your failure to file continues for the 10-year period.

The penalty will not be imposed if you can show that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect. Expatriation tax return. If you are subject to the expatriation tax, you must file Form 1040NR for each year of the 10-year period following expatriation. Complete line “P” on page 5 of Form 1040NR. See Special Rules for Former U.S. Citizens and Former U.S. Long-Term Residents in the instructions for Form 1040NR. You must attach a statement to Form 1040NR listing, by category (dividends, interest, etc.), all items of U.S. and foreign source income, whether or not taxable in the United States.

If you do not attach a complete statement in any year you are liable for any U.S. taxes, you will not be considered to have filed a true and accurate return. You will not be entitled to any tax deductions or credits if your tax liability for that year is later adjusted.

Interrupted Period of Residence

You are subject to tax under a special rule if you interrupt your period of U.S. residence with a period of nonresidence. The special rule applies if you meet all of the following conditions:

1) You were a U.S. resident for a period that includes at least 3 consecutive calendar years.
2) You were a U.S. resident for at least 183 days in each of those years.
3) You ceased to be treated as a U.S. resident.
4) You then again became a U.S. resident before the end of the third calendar year after the end of the period described in (1) above.

Under this special rule, you are subject to tax on your U.S. source gross income and gains on a net basis at the graduated rates applicable to individuals (with allowable deductions) for the period you were a nonresident alien, unless you would be subject to a higher tax under the 30% tax (discussed earlier) on income not connected with a U.S. trade or business.

Example. John Willow, a citizen of New Zealand, entered the United States on April 1, 1997, as a lawful permanent resident. On August 1, 1999, John ceased to be a lawful permanent resident and returned to New Zealand. During his period of residence, he was present in the United States for at least 183 days in each of three consecutive years (1997, 1998, and 1999). He returned to the United States on October 5, 2002, as a lawful permanent resident. He became a resident before the close of the third calendar year (2002) beginning after the end of his first period of residence (August 1, 1999). Therefore, he is subject to tax under the special rule for the period of nonresidence (August 2, 1999, through October 4, 2002) if it is more than the tax that would normally apply to him as a nonresident alien.

Reporting requirements. If you are subject to this tax for any year in the period you were a nonresident alien, you must file Form 1040NR for that year. The return is due by the due date (including extensions) for filing your U.S. income tax return for the year that you again become a U.S. resident. If you already filed returns for that period, you must file amended returns. You must attach a statement to your return that identifies the source of all of your U.S. and foreign gross income and the items of income subject to this special rule.

5. Figuring Your Tax

Introduction

After you have determined your alien status, the source of your income, and if and how that income is taxed in the United States, your next step is to figure your tax. The information in this chapter is not as comprehensive for resident aliens as it is for nonresident aliens. Resident aliens should get publications, forms, and instructions for U.S. citizens, because the information for filing returns for resident aliens is generally the same as for U.S. citizens.

If you are both a nonresident alien and a resident alien in the same tax year, see chapter 6 for a discussion of dual-status aliens.

Topics

This chapter discusses:
- Identification numbers,
- Filing status,
- Deductions,
- Exemptions,
- Tax credits and payments, and
- Special rules for bona fide residents of American Samoa and Puerto Rico.

Useful Items

You may want to see:

Publication

- 463 Travel, Entertainment, Gift, and Car Expenses
- 501 Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information
- 521 Moving Expenses
- 526 Charitable Contributions
- 535 Business Expenses
- 597 Information on the United States—Canada Income Tax Treaty

Form (and Instructions)

- W–7 Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number
- 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return

Chapter 5 Figuring Your Tax
Tax Year
You must figure your income and file a tax return on the basis of an annual accounting period called a tax year. If you have not previously established a fiscal tax year, your tax year is the calendar year. A calendar year is 12 consecutive months ending on December 31. If you have previously established a regular fiscal year (12 consecutive months ending on the last day of a month other than December or a 52–53 week year) and are considered to be a U.S. resident for any calendar year, you will be treated as a U.S. resident for any part of your fiscal year that falls within that calendar year.

Identification Number
A taxpayer identification number must be furnished on returns, statements, and other tax-related documents. For an individual, this is a social security number (SSN). If you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, the IRS will issue you an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). An employer identification number (EIN) is required if you are engaged in a trade or business as a sole proprietor and have employees or a qualified retirement plan. You must furnish a taxpayer identification number if you are:

1. An alien who has income effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business at any time during the year,
2. An alien who has a U.S. office or place of business at any time during the year,
3. A nonresident alien spouse treated as a resident, as discussed in chapter 1, or
4. Any other alien who files a tax return, an amended return, or a refund claim (but not information returns).

Social security number. Generally, you can get an SSN if you have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence or under other immigration categories that authorize U.S. employment.

To apply for this number, get Form SS–5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local Social Security Administration office or call the SSA at 1–800–772–1213. The completed form should be returned to the SSA. It usually takes about 2 weeks to get an SSN.

Individual taxpayer identification number. If you are not eligible to obtain an SSN, you must get an ITIN. Enter your ITIN wherever an SSN is required on your tax return.

ITINs are for tax use only. They do not affect your immigration status or your right to be legally employed in the United States.

To apply for an ITIN, file Form W–7 with the IRS. It usually takes 4 to 6 weeks to get an ITIN.

In addition to those aliens who are required to furnish a taxpayer identification number and are not eligible for an SSN, a Form W–7 should be filed if:

- Alien individuals who are claimed as dependents and are not eligible for an SSN, and
- Alien individual spouses who are claimed as exemptions and are not eligible for an SSN.

Employer identification number. An individual may use an SSN (or ITIN) for individual taxes and an EIN for business taxes. To apply for an EIN, file Form SS–4, Application for Employer Identification Number, with the IRS.

Resident Aliens
Resident aliens can use the same filing statuses available to U.S. citizens. See your form instructions or Publication 501 for more information on filing status.

Married filing jointly. Generally, you can file as married filing jointly only if both you and your spouse were resident aliens for the entire tax year, or if you make one of the choices discussed in chapter 1 to treat your spouse as a resident alien for the entire tax year.

Qualifying widow(er). If your spouse died in 2000 or 2001, you have not remarried, and you have a dependent child living with you, you may qualify to file as a qualifying widow(er) and use the joint return tax rates. This applies only if you could have filed a joint return with your spouse for the year your spouse died.

Head of household. You can qualify as head of household if you are unmarried or considered unmarried on the last day of the year and you pay more than half the cost of keeping up a home for you and a qualifying person. You must be a resident alien for the entire tax year.

You are considered unmarried for this purpose if your spouse was a nonresident alien at any time during the year and you do not make one of the choices discussed in chapter 1 to treat your spouse as a resident alien for the entire tax year.

Filing Status
The amount of your tax depends on your filing status. Your filing status is important in determining whether you can take certain deductions and credits. The rules for determining your filing status are different for resident aliens and nonresident aliens.

Nonresident Aliens
If you are a nonresident alien filing Form 1040NR, you may be able to use one of the filing statuses discussed below. If you are filing Form 1040NR–EZ, you can only claim “Single nonresident alien” as your filing status.

Married filing jointly. Generally, you cannot file as married filing jointly if either spouse was a nonresident alien at any time during the tax year. However, nonresident aliens married to U.S. citizens or residents can choose to be treated as U.S. residents and file joint returns. For more information on these choices, see chapter 1.

Qualifying widow(er). You may be eligible to file as a qualifying widow(er) and use the joint return tax rates if:

1) You were a resident of Canada, Mexico, Japan, or South Korea, or a U.S. national (defined below),
2) Your spouse died in 2000 or 2001 and you have not remarried, and
3) You have a dependent child living with you.

See the instructions for Form 1040NR for the rules for filing as a qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child.

A U.S. national is an individual who, although not a U.S. citizen, owes his or her allegiance to the United States. U.S. nationals include American Samoans and Northern Marianas Islanders who chose to become U.S. nationals instead of U.S. citizens.

Head of household. You cannot file as head of household if you are a nonresident alien at any time during the tax year. However, if you are married, your spouse can qualify as a head of household if:

1) Your spouse is a resident alien or U.S. citizen for the entire tax year,
2) You do not choose to be treated as a resident alien, and
3) Your spouse meets the other requirements for this filing status, as discussed earlier under Resident Aliens.

Even if your spouse is considered unmarried for head of household purposes because you are married to a nonresident alien, you may still be considered married for purposes of the earned income credit. In that case, your spouse will not be entitled to the credit. See Publication 501 for more information.

Married filing separately. Married nonresident aliens who are not married to U.S. citizens or residents generally must use the Tax Table column or the Tax Rate Schedule for married filing separate returns when determining the tax on income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. They normally cannot use the
Report your Income
You must report each item of income that is taxable according to the rules in chapters 2, 3, and 4. For resident aliens, this includes income from sources both within and outside the United States. For nonresident aliens, this includes both income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business and income from U.S. sources that is not effectively connected (subject to a flat 30% tax rate or lower tax treaty rate).

Deductions
Resident and nonresident aliens can claim similar deductions on their U.S. tax returns. However, nonresident aliens generally cannot claim only deductions related to income that is effectively connected with their U.S. trade or business.

Resident Aliens
You can claim the same deductions allowed to U.S. citizens if you are a resident alien for the entire tax year. While the discussion that follows contains some of the same general rules and guidelines that apply to you, it is specifically directed toward nonresident aliens. You should get Form 1040 and instructions for more information on how to claim your allowable deductions.

Nonresident Aliens
You can claim deductions to figure your effectively connected taxable income. You generally cannot claim deductions related to income that is not connected with your U.S. business activities.

The type and rule above prints on all proofs including departmental reproduction proofs. MUST be removed before printing.
spouse, or someone who was your depend- 
dent when the loan was taken out.

5) The education expenses were paid or in-
curred within a reasonable period of time 
before or after the loan was taken out.

6) The person for whom the expenses were 
paid or incurred was an eligible student.

For more information, see Publication 970, Tax
Benefits for Education.

Exemptions

Resident aliens can claim personal exemp-
tions and dependents for the same way 
as U.S. citizens. However, nonresident aliens 
generally can claim only a personal exemption 
for themselves on their U.S. tax return.

Resident Aliens

You can claim personal exemptions and exemp-
tions for dependents according to the depen-
dency rules for U.S. citizens. You can claim an 
exemption for your spouse on a separate return 
if your spouse had no gross income for U.S. 
tax purposes and was not the dependent of another 
taxpayer. You can claim this exemption even if 
your spouse has not been a resident alien for a 
full tax year or is an alien who has not come to 
the United States.

You can claim an exemption for each person 
who qualifies as a dependent according to the 
rules for U.S. citizens. The dependent must be a 
citizen or national (defined earlier) of the United States 
States or be a resident of the United States, 
Canada, or Mexico for some part of the calendar 
year in which your tax year begins. Get Publica-
tion 501 for more information.

Your spouse and each dependent for 
whom you claim an exemption must have 
either an SSN or an ITIN. See Identification Number, earlier.

Phase-out of exemptions. If the adjusted 
gross income shown on your tax return is more 
than the amount shown below for your filing 
status, your deduction for exemptions may 
be reduced or eliminated. Use the worksheet 
in your income tax return instructions to figure the 
amount, if any, you can deduct.

• $103,000 if married filing separately
• $137,300 if single
• $171,650 if head of household
• $206,000 if married filing jointly or a quali-
fying widow(er) with dependent child

Nonresident Aliens

Generally, if you are a nonresident alien en-
gaged in a trade or business in the United States, 
you can claim only one personal exemp-
tion ($3,000 for 2002). You may be able to claim 
an exemption for a spouse and a dependent if 
you are described in any of the following discus-
sions.

Nonresident aliens can claim the same of the 
same itemized deductions that resident aliens can 
claim. However, nonresident aliens can claim 
itemized deductions only if they have income 
effectively connected with their U.S. trade or 
business.

Resident and nonresident aliens may not 
be able to claim all of their itemized deductions. 
If your adjusted gross income is more than 
$137,300 ($68,650 if married filing separately), 
use the worksheet in your income tax return 
instructions to figure the amount you can de-
duct.

Resident Aliens

You can claim the same itemized deductions as 
U.S. citizens, using Schedule A of Form 1040. 
These deductions include certain medical and 
dental expenses, state and local income taxes, 
real estate taxes, interest you paid on a home 
mortgage, charitable contributions, casualty 
and theft losses, and miscellaneous deductions.

If you do not itemize your deductions, you can 
claim the standard deduction for your partic-
ular filing status. For further information, see 
Form 1040 and instructions.

Nonresident Aliens

You can deduct certain itemized deductions if 
you receive income effectively connected with 
your U.S. trade or business. These deductions 
include state and local income taxes, charitable 
contributions to U.S. organizations, casualty 
and theft losses, and miscellaneous deductions.

Use Schedule A of Form 1040NR to claim item-
ized deductions.

If you are filing Form 1040NR–EZ, you can 
only claim a deduction for state or local income 
taxes. If you are claiming any other deduction, 
you must file Form 1040NR.

Standard deduction. Nonresident aliens 
cannot claim the standard deduction. However, 
see Students and business apprentices from 
India, next.

Students and business apprentices from 
India. Special rules apply to students and 
business apprentices who are eligible for the 
benefits of Article 21(2) of the United States–India Income Tax Treaty. You can 
claim the standard deduction provided you do 
not claim itemized deductions.

Use Table 7, 8, or 9 in Publication 501 to 
figure your standard deduction. If you are mar-

Deductible travel expenses.
Charitable contributions.
You can deduct property not connected with a U.S. trade or business in the same country at the end of your time of the casualty or theft. You can deduct children or animals. Certain organizations that promote international amateur sport competition are also qualified organizations.

Foreign organizations. Contributions made directly to a foreign organization are not deductible. However, you can deduct contributions to a U.S. organization that transfers funds to a charitable foreign organization if the U.S. organization controls the use of the funds. 

Casualty and theft losses. You can deduct your loss from fire, storm, shipwreck, or other casualty, or theft of property even though your property is not connected with a U.S. trade or business. The property can be personal use property or income-producing property not connected with a U.S. trade or business. The property must be located in the United States at the time of the casualty or theft. You can deduct theft losses only in the year in which you discover the loss. The fair market value of the property immediately before the casualty or theft less its fair market value immediately after the casualty or theft (but not more than its cost or adjusted basis) less any insurance or other compensation is the amount of the loss. The fair market value of property immediately after a theft is considered zero, since you no longer have the property.

If your property is covered by insurance, you should file a timely insurance claim for reimbursement. If you do not, you cannot deduct this loss as a casualty or theft loss.

Deductible casualty and theft losses on Form 4684, Casualties and Thefts.

Losses from personal use property.

You cannot deduct the first $100 of each casualty or theft loss to property held for personal use. You can deduct only the total of these losses for the year that is more than 10% of your adjusted gross income (line 34, Form 1040NR) for the year.

Losses from income-producing property.

These losses are not subject to the limitations that apply to personal use property. Use Section B of Form 4684 to figure your deduction for these losses.

Job expenses and other miscellaneous deductions.

You can deduct job expenses, such as allowable unreimbursed travel expenses (discussed next), and other miscellaneous deductions. Generally, the allowable deductions must be related to effectively connected income. Deductible expenses include:

- Union dues,
- Safety equipment and small tools needed for your job,
- Dues to professional organizations,
- Subscriptions to professional journals,
- Tax return preparation fees, and
- Casualty and theft losses of property used in performing services as an employee (employee property).

Most miscellaneous itemized deductions are deductible only if they are more than 2% of your adjusted gross income (line 34, Form 1040NR).

For more information on miscellaneous deductions, see the instructions for Form 1040NR.

Travel expenses. You may be able to deduct your ordinary and necessary travel expenses while you are temporarily performing personal services in the United States. Generally, a temporary assignment in a single location is one that is realistically expected to last (and does in fact last) for one year or less. You must be able to show you were present in the United States on an activity that requires a temporary absence from your regular place of work.

For example, if you have established a “tax home” through regular employment in a foreign country, and intend to return to similar employment in the same country at the end of your temporary stay in the United States, you can deduct reasonable travel expenses. You cannot deduct travel expenses for other members of your family or party.

Deductible travel expenses. If you qualify, you can deduct your expenses for:

1) Transportation—airfare, local transportation, including train, bus, etc.,
2) Lodging—rent paid, utilities (do not include telephone), hotel or motel room expenses, and
3) Meal expenses—actual expenses allowed if you keep records of the amounts, or, if you do not wish to keep detailed records, you are generally allowed a standard meal allowance amount depending on the date and area of your travel. You can deduct only 50% of unreimbursed meal expenses. The standard meal allowance rates are given in Publication 1542, Per Diem Rates (For Travel Within the Continental United States).

Use Form 2106 or 2106–EZ to figure your allowable expenses that you claim on line 9 of Schedule A (Form 1040NR).

Expenses allocable to U.S. tax-exempt income. You cannot deduct an expense, or part of an expense, that is allocable to U.S. tax-exempt income, including income exempt by tax treaty.

Example. Irlana Oak, a citizen of Poland, resides in the United States for part of the year to acquire business experience from a U.S. company. During her stay in the United States, she received a salary of $8,000 from her Polish employer. She received no other U.S. source income. She spent $3,000 on travel expenses, of which $1,000 were for meals. None of these expenses were reimbursed, and she entered the remaining total of $937 on line 9 of Schedule A (Form 1040NR). She completes the remaining lines according to the instructions for Schedule A.

More information. For more information about deductible expenses, reimbursements, and recordkeeping, get Publication 463.

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Tax Credits and Payments

This discussion covers tax credits and payments for resident aliens, followed by a discussion of the credits and payments for nonresident aliens.

Resident Aliens

Resident aliens generally claim tax credits and report tax payments, including withholding, using the same rules that apply to U.S. citizens. The following items are some of the credits you may be able to claim.

Foreign tax credit. You can claim a credit, subject to certain limits, for income tax you paid or accrued to a foreign country on foreign source income. You cannot claim a credit for taxes paid or accrued on excluded foreign earned income. To claim a credit for income taxes paid or accrued to a foreign country, you generally will file Form 1116, Foreign Tax Credit (Individual, Estate, Trust), with your Form 1040.

For more information, get Publication 514, Foreign Tax Credit for Individuals.

Child and dependent care credit. You may be able to take this credit if you pay someone to care for your dependent who is under age 13, or your disabled dependent or disabled spouse, so that you can work or look for work. Generally, you must be able to claim an exemption for your dependent.

For more information, get Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses, and Form 2441, Child and Dependent Care Expenses.

Credit for the elderly or the disabled. You may qualify for this credit if you are 65 or older or if you retired on permanent and total disability. For more information on this credit, get Publication 524, Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled, and Schedule R (Form 1040).

Education credits. You may qualify for these credits if you paid qualified tuition and related expenses for yourself, your spouse, or your dependent. There are two education credits: the Hope credit and the lifetime learning credit. You cannot claim these credits if you are married filing separately. Use Form 8863, Education Credits (Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits), to figure the credit. For more information, see Publication 970.

Retirement savings contributions credit. You may qualify for this credit if you made eligible contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA) in 2002. You cannot claim this credit if:

1) You were born after January 1, 1985,
2) You are a full-time student,
3) Your exemption is claimed by someone else on his or her tax return, or
4) Your adjusted gross income is more than:
   a) $50,000 if your filing status is married filing jointly,
   b) $37,500 if your filing status is head of household, or
   c) $25,000 if your filing status is single, married filing separately, or qualifying widow(er).

Use Form 8880, Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions, to figure the credit. For more information, see Publication 590.

Child tax credit. You may be able to take this credit if you have a qualifying child. For this credit, a qualifying child:

1) Is a U.S. citizen, national, or resident alien, or qualifies as certain married couples filing separately,
2) Is claimed as a dependent on your tax return, and
3) Is:
   a) Your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild, or foster child, or
   b) Your brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of your brother, stepbrother, or stepsister, whom you cared for as your own child; and
4) Was under age 17 at the end of the year.

Use the Child Tax Credit Worksheet in your form instructions to figure the amount of your credit.

Adoption credit. You may qualify to take a tax credit of up to $10,000 for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. To claim the adoption credit, file Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses, with your Form 1040 or Form 1040A. For more information, get Publication 966, Tax Benefits for Adoption.

Earned income credit. You may qualify for an earned income credit of up to $2,506 if your child lived with you in the United States and your earned income and adjusted gross income were each less than $29,201. If two or more children lived with you in the United States and your earned income and adjusted gross income were each less than $33,178, your credit could be as much as $4,140. If you do not have a qualifying child and your earned income and adjusted gross income were each less than $11,060, your credit could be as much as $376. You cannot claim the earned income credit if your filing status is married filing separately.

You and your spouse (if filing a joint return) and any qualifying child must have valid SSNs to claim this credit. You cannot claim the credit using an ITIN. If a social security card has a legend that says Not Valid for Employment and the number was issued so that you (or your spouse or your qualifying child) could receive a federally funded benefit, you cannot claim the earned income credit. An example of a federally funded benefit is Medicaid. If a card has this legend and the individual’s immigration status has changed so that the individual is now a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, you should request that the SSA issue a new social security card without the legend.

Advance earned income credit. You may be able to get advance payments of part of the credit for one child in 2003 instead of waiting until you file your 2003 tax return. Fill out the 2003 Form W–5, Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate. If you expect to qualify for the credit in 2003, give the bottom part of the form to your employer. Your employer will include part of the credit regularly in your pay during 2003.

If you received advance payments of the earned income credit in 2002, you must file a 2002 tax return to report the payments. Your Form W–2 will show the amount you received.

Other information. There are other eligibility rules that are not discussed here. For more information, get Publication 596, Earned Income Credit.

Nonresident Aliens

You cannot claim the same credits that resident aliens can claim. You can also report certain taxes you paid, are considered to have paid, or that were withheld from your income.

Credits

Credits are allowed only if you receive effectively connected income. You may be able to claim some of the following credits.

Foreign tax credit. If you receive income from sources outside the United States that is effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States, you can claim a credit for any income taxes paid or accrued to any foreign country or U.S. possession on that income.

If you do not have foreign source income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, you cannot claim credits against your U.S. tax for taxes paid or accrued to a foreign country or U.S. possession.

You cannot take any credit for taxes imposed by a foreign country or U.S. possession on your U.S. source income if those taxes were imposed only because you are a citizen or resident of the foreign country or possession.

If you claim a foreign tax credit, you generally will have to attach to your return a Form 1116 which contains additional information about the credit and limits. See Publication 514 for more information.

Child and dependent care credit. You may qualify for this credit if you pay someone to care for your dependent who is under age 13, or your disabled dependent or disabled spouse, so that you can work or look for work. Generally, you must be able to claim an exemption for your dependent.

Married nonresident aliens can claim the credit only if they choose to file a joint return with a U.S. citizen or resident spouse as discussed in chapter 1, or if they qualify as certain married individuals living apart (see Married Persons Who Live Apart Under Filing Status in the Form 1040NR instructions). The amount of your child and dependent care expense that qualifies for the credit in any tax year cannot be more than your earned income from the United States for that tax year. Earned income generally means wages, salaries, and professional fees for personal services performed. For more information, get Publication 503.

Education credits. If you are a nonresident alien you generally cannot claim the education credits. However, if you are married and choose to file a joint return...
with a U.S. citizen or resident spouse as dis-
cussed in chapter 1, you may be eligible for these credits.

Retirement savings contributions credit.
You may qualify for this credit if you made eligi-ble contributions to an employer-sponsored re-
tirement plan or to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA) in 2002. You cannot claim this credit if:
1) You were born after January 1, 1985,
2) You are a full-time student,
3) Your exemption is claimed by someone
else on his or her tax return, or
4) Your adjusted gross income is more than:
   a) $50,000 if your filing status is married filing jointly,
   b) $37,500 if your filing status is head of household, or
   c) $25,000 if your filing status is single, married filing separately, or qualifying widow(er).

Use Form 8880, Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions, to figure the credit. For more information, see Publication 590.

Child tax credit. You may be able to take this credit if you have a qualifying child. For this credit, a qualifying child:
1) Is a U.S. citizen, national, or resident alien,
2) Is claimed as a dependent on your tax return,
3) Is:
   a) Your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild, or foster child;
   b) Your brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of your brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister, whom you cared for as your own child; and
4) Was under age 17 at the end of the year.

Use the Child Tax Credit Worksheet in the Form 1040NR instructions to figure the amount of your credit.

Adoption credit. You may qualify to take a tax credit of up to $10,000 for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. To claim the adoption credit, file Form 8839 with your Form 1040NR. For more information, get Publication 968.

Married nonresident aliens can claim the credit only if they choose to file a joint return with a U.S. citizen or resident spouse as discussed in chapter 1, or if they qualify as certain married individuals living apart (see Married Persons Who Live Apart under Filing Status in the Form 1040NR instructions).

Credit for prior year minimum tax. If you paid alternative minimum tax in a prior year, get Form 8801, Credit for Prior Year Minimum Tax—Individuals, Estates, and Trusts, to see if you qualify for this credit.

Earned income credit. If you are a nonresi-dent alien for any part of the tax year, you gener-
ally cannot get the earned income credit. However, if you are married and choose to file a joint return with a U.S. citizen or resident spouse as discussed in chapter 1, you may be eligible for the credit.

You, your spouse, and any qualifying child must have valid SSNs to claim this credit. You cannot claim the credit using an ITIN. If a social security card has a legend that says Not Valid for Employment and the number was issued so that you (or your spouse or your qualifying child) could receive a federally funded benefit, you cannot claim the earned income credit. An example of a federally funded benefit is Medicaid. If a card has this legend and the individual’s immigration status has changed so that the individual is now a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, you should request that the SSA issue a new social security card without the legend.

See Publication 596 for more information on the credit.

Tax Withheld
You can claim the tax withheld during the year as a payment against your U.S. tax. You claim it in the “Payments” section on page 2 of Form 1040NR. The tax withheld reduces any tax you owe with Form 1040NR.

Withholding from wages. Any federal in-
come tax withheld from your wages during the tax year while you were a nonresident alien is allowed as a payment against your U.S. income tax liability for the same year. You can claim the income tax withheld whether or not you were engaged in a trade or business in the United States during the year, and whether or not the wages (or any other income) were connected with a trade or business in the United States.

Excess social security tax withheld. If you have two or more employers, you may be able to claim a credit against your U.S. income tax liability for social security tax withheld in excess of the maximum required. See Social Security and Medicare Taxes in chapter 8 for more informa-
tion.

Regulated investment company credit. If you are a shareholder in a regulated investment company or mutual fund, you can claim a credit for your share of any taxes paid by the company on its undistributed capital gains. You will re-
ceive information on Form 2439. Notice to Shareholder of Undistributed Long-Term Capital Gains, which you must attach to your return.

Tax withheld at the source. You can claim as a payment any tax withheld at the source on investment and other fixed or determinable an-
nual or periodic income paid to you. Fixed or determinable income includes interest, divi-
dend, rental, and royalty income that you do not claim to be effectively connected income. Wage or salary payments can be fixed or determinable income to you, but usually are subject to with-
holding as discussed above. Taxes on fixed or determinable income are withheld at a 30% rate or at a lower treaty rate.

Tax withheld on partnership income. If you are a foreign partner in a partnership, the part-
nership will withhold tax on your share of effec-
tively connected taxable income from the partnership. The partnership will give you a statement on Form 8805, Foreign Partner’s In-
formation Statement of Section 1446 Withhold-
ing Tax, showing the tax withheld. A partnership that is publicly traded may withhold on your actual distributions of effectively connected in-
come. In this case, the partnership will give you a statement on Form 1042–S. Claim the tax withheld as a payment on line 66a or 66b of Form 1040NR, as appropriate.

Claiming tax withheld on your return. When you fill out your tax return, take extra care to enter the correct amount of any tax withheld shown on your information documents. The fol-
lowing table lists some of the more common information documents and shows where to find the amount of tax withheld.

Bona Fide Residents of American Samoa or Puerto Rico
If you are a nonresident alien who is a bona fide resident of American Samoa or Puerto Rico for the entire tax year, you generally are taxed the same as resident aliens. You should file Form 1040 and report all income from sources both in and outside the United States.

Residents of Puerto Rico. If you are a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico for the entire year, you can exclude from gross income all income from sources in Puerto Rico (other than amounts for services performed as an employee of the United States or any of its agencies).

If you report income on a calendar year basis and you do not have wages subject to withhold-
ing, file your return and pay your tax by June 15. You must also make your first payment of esti-

te tax by June 15. You cannot file a joint income tax return or make joint payments of estimated tax. However, if you are married to a U.S. citizen or resident, see Nonresident Spouse Treated as a Resident in chapter 1.

If you earn wages subject to withholding, your U.S. income tax return is due on April 15. Your first payment of estimated tax is also due by April 15. For information on withholding and estimated tax, see chapter 8.

You cannot claim exemptions for depen-
dents who are residents of Puerto Rico unless the dependents are citizens of the United States.

Residents of American Samoa. If you are a bona fide resident of American Samoa for the
entire year, you can exclude from gross income all income from sources in American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (other than amounts for services performed as an employee of the U.S. government or any of its agencies). For more information about this exclusion, get Form 4563 and Publication 570, Tax Guide for Individuals With Income From U.S. Possessions.

6. Dual-Status Tax Year

Introduction
You have a dual-status tax year when you have been both a resident alien and a nonresident alien in the same year. Dual status does not refer to your citizenship, only to your resident status in the United States. In determining your U.S. income tax liability for a dual-status tax year, different rules apply for the part of the year you are a resident of the United States and the part of the year you are a nonresident.

The most common dual-status tax years are the years of arrival and departure. See Dual-Status Aliens in chapter 1.

If you are married and choose to be treated as a U.S. resident for the entire year, as explained in chapter 1, the rules of this chapter do not apply to you for that year.

Topics
This chapter discusses:
- Income subject to tax,
- Restrictions for dual-status taxpayers,
- Exemptions,
- How to figure the tax,
- Forms to file,
- When and where to file, and
- How to fill out a dual-status return.

Useful Items
You may want to see:
- Publication
  - 503 Child and Dependent Care Expenses
  - 514 Foreign Tax Credit for Individuals
  - 524 Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled
  - 575 Pension and Annuity Income
- Form (and Instructions)
  - 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
  - 1040-C U.S. Departing Alien Income Tax Return
  - 1040-ES Estimated Tax for Individuals
  - 1040-ES (NR) U.S. Estimated Tax for Nonresident Alien Individuals
  - 1040NR U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return
  - 1116 Foreign Tax Credit

See chapter 12 for information about getting these publications and forms.

Tax Year
You must file your tax return on the basis of an annual accounting period called a tax year. If you have not previously established a fiscal tax year, your tax year is the calendar year. A calendar year is 12 consecutive months ending on December 31. If you have previously established a regular fiscal year (12 consecutive months ending on the last day of a month other than December, or a 52–53 week year) and are considered to be a U.S. resident for the entire tax year, you will be treated as a U.S. resident for any part of your fiscal year that falls within that calendar year.

Income Subject to Tax
For the part of the year you are a resident alien, you are taxed on income from all sources. Income from sources outside the United States is taxable if you receive it while you are a resident alien. The income is taxable even if you earned it while you were a nonresident alien or if you became a nonresident alien after receiving it and before the end of the year.

For the part of the year you are a nonresident alien, you are taxed on income from U.S. sources and on certain foreign source income treated as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. (The rules for treating foreign source income as effectively connected are discussed in chapter 4 under Foreign Income.) Income from sources outside the United States that is not effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States is not taxable if you receive it while you are a nonresident alien. The income is not taxable even if you earned it while you were a resident alien or if you became a resident alien or a U.S. citizen after receiving it and before the end of the year.

Income from U.S. sources is taxable whether you receive it while a nonresident alien or a resident alien unless specifically exempt under the Internal Revenue Code or a tax treaty provision. Generally, tax treaty provisions apply only to the part of the year you were a nonresident. In certain cases, however, treaty provisions may apply while you are a resident alien. See chapter 9 for more information.

When determining what income is taxed in the United States, you must consider exemptions under U.S. tax law as well as the reduced tax rates and exemptions provided by tax treaties between the United States and certain foreign countries. For a further discussion of tax treaties, see chapter 9.

Restrictions for Dual-Status Taxpayers
The following restrictions apply if you are filing a tax return for a dual-status tax year.

1) Standard deduction. You cannot use the standard deduction allowed on Form 1040. However, you can itemize any allowable deductions.

2) Exemptions. Your total deduction for the exemptions for your spouse and allowable dependents cannot be more than your taxable income (figured without deducting personal exemptions) for the period you are a resident alien.

3) Head of household. You cannot use the head of household Tax Table column or Tax Rate Schedule.

4) Joint return. You cannot file a joint return. However, see Choosing Resident Alien Status under Dual-Status Aliens in chapter 1.

5) Tax rates. If you are married and a nonresident of the United States for all or part of the tax year and you do not choose to file jointly as discussed in chapter 1, you must use the Tax Table column or Tax Rate Schedule for married filing separately to figure your tax on income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. You cannot use the Tax Table column or Tax Rate Schedule for married filing jointly or single. However, if you are a married resident of Canada, Mexico, Japan, or South Korea, or are a married U.S. national, you may be able to file as single if you lived apart from your spouse during the last 6 months of the year. See the instructions for Form 1040NR to see if you qualify.

A U.S. national is an individual who, although not a U.S. citizen, owes his or her allegiance to the United States. U.S. nationals include American Samoans and Northern Marianas Islanders who chose to become U.S. nationals instead of U.S. citizens.

Exemptions
As a dual-status taxpayer, you will usually be able to claim your own personal exemption. Subject to the general rules for qualification, you can claim exemptions for your spouse and dependents when you figure taxable income for the part of the year you are a resident alien. The amount you can claim for these exemptions is limited to your taxable income (figured before subtracting exemptions) for the part of the year you are a resident alien. You cannot use exemptions (other than your own) to reduce taxable income to less than zero for that period.

Special rules apply to exemptions for the part of the tax year you are a nonresident alien if you are a resident of Canada, Mexico, Japan, or South Korea, are a U.S. national, or are a student or business apprentice from India. For more information, see Exemptions in chapter 5.
How To Figure Tax

When you figure your U.S. tax for a dual-status year, you are subject to different rules for the part of the year you are a resident and the part of the year you are a nonresident.

Income

All income for your period of residence and all income that is effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States for your period of nonresidence, after allowable deductions, is added and taxed at the rates that apply to U.S. citizens and residents. Income that is not connected with a trade or business in the United States for your period of nonresidence is subject to the flat 30% rate or lower treaty rate. You cannot take any deductions against this income.

Social security and railroad retirement benefits.

During the part of the year you are a resident alien, benefit payments from foreign sources may apply. These restrictions are discussed later in this chapter.

Foreign tax credit.

If you have paid or are liable for the payment of income tax to a foreign country, you may be able to claim a credit for the foreign taxes.

Married dual-status aliens can claim the child tax credit only if they choose to file a joint return as discussed in chapter 1, or if they qualify as certain married individuals living apart.

Credit for the elderly or the disabled.

You must be a U.S. citizen or resident to claim this credit. You cannot claim the credit if you were a nonresident alien at any time during your tax year. However, the credit can be taken by a dual-status alien who is married to a U.S. citizen or resident and chooses to be treated as a U.S. citizen for the entire year. For more information, get Publication 524.

Education credits.

If you are a nonresident alien for any part of the year, you generally cannot claim the education credits. However, if you are married and choose to file a joint return with your spouse who is a U.S. citizen or resident, as discussed in chapter 1, you may be eligible for these credits.

Retirement savings contributions credit.

If you make eligible contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), you may be able to take a tax credit. However, you cannot claim the credit if any of the following apply:

1) You were born after January 1, 1985.
2) You are a full-time student.
3) Someone else claims an exemption for you on his or her tax return.
4) Your adjusted gross income is more than:
   a) $50,000 if you are married filing a joint return,
   b) $37,500 if you are a head of household with a qualifying person, or
   c) $25,000 if you are single, married filing a separate return, or a qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child.

Use Form 8880, Credit for Retirement Savings Contributions, to figure the credit. For more information, see Publication 590.

Child tax credit.

You may be able to take this credit if you have a qualifying child. For this credit, a qualifying child:

1) Is a U.S. citizen, national, or resident alien,
2) Is claimed as a dependent on your tax return,
3) Is:
   a) Your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild, or foster child; or
   b) Your brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, a descendant of your brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister, whom you cared for as your own child; and
4) Was under age 17 at the end of the year. Use the Child Tax Credit Worksheet in the form instructions to figure the amount of your credit.

Adoption credit.

You may qualify to take an adoption credit of up to $10,000 for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. To claim the adoption credit, file Form 8839 with the U.S. income tax return that you file. For more information, get Publication 968.

Married dual-status aliens can claim the adoption credit only if they choose to file a joint return with a U.S. citizen or resident spouse as discussed in chapter 1, or if they qualify as certain married individuals living apart.

Earned income credit.

You cannot claim the earned income credit unless:

1) You are married, and
2) You choose to be treated as a resident for all of 2002 by filing a joint return as discussed in chapter 1.

For more information about this credit, get Publication 596.

Payments

You can report as payments against your U.S. income tax liability certain taxes you paid, are liable for the payment of, or that were withheld.

1) Tax withheld from wages earned in the United States.
2) Taxes withheld at the source from various items of income from U.S. sources other than wages.
3) Estimated tax paid with Form 1040–ES or Form 1040–ES(NR), and
4) Tax paid with Form 1040–C, at the time of departure from the United States.

Forms To File

The U.S. income tax return you must file as a dual-status alien depends on whether you are a resident alien or a nonresident alien at the end of the tax year.

Resident at end of year. You must file Form 1040 if you are a dual-status taxpayer who becomes a resident during the year and who is a resident alien.
U.S. resident on the last day of the tax year. Write "Dual-Status Return" across the top of the return. Attach a statement to your return to show the income for the part of the year you are a nonresident. You can use Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ as the statement, but be sure to mark "Dual-Status Statement" across the top.

Nonresident at end of year. You must file Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ if you are a dual-status taxpayer who gives up residence in the United States during the year and who is not a U.S. resident on the last day of the tax year. Write "Dual-Status Return" across the top of the return. Attach a statement to your return to show the income for the part of the year you are a resident. You can use Form 1040 as the statement, but be sure to mark "Dual-Status Statement" across the top.

Illustration of Dual-Status Return

Sam R. Brown is single and a subject of the United Kingdom (U.K.). He temporarily entered the United States with an H-1 visa to develop a new product line for the Major Product Co. He arrived in the United States March 18, 2002, and left May 25, 2002, returning to his home in Eng-

land. The Major Product Co. later offered Sam a permanent job, and he returned to the United States with a permanent visa on September 10, 2002. During Sam’s temporary assignment in the United States, the Major Product Co. paid him $6,500. He accounted to his employer for his expenses for travel, meals, and lodging while on temporary assignment, and was reimbursed for his expenses. This amount was not included on his wage statement, Form W–2, given to him when he left the United States.

After Sam became permanently employed, his wages for the rest of the year were $21,800, including reimbursement of his moving expenses. He received a separate Form W–2 for this period. His other income received in 2002 was:

- Income paid by the U.S. Bank (not effectively connected):
  - March 31: $45
  - June 30: $48
  - September 30: $88
  - December 31: $89

- Dividend income paid by Major Product Co. (not effectively connected):
  - April 3: $120
  - July 3: $120
  - October 2: $120

- Interest income (in U.S. dollars) paid by the U.K. Bank:
  - March 31: $90
  - June 30: $110
  - September 30: $118
  - December 31: $120

- Sam paid the following expenses while he was in the United States:
  - Moving expenses incurred and paid in the United Kingdom (U.K.): $8,300
  - VA State income tax: $612
  - Contributions to U.S. charities: $310

Before Sam left the United States in May, he filed Form 1040–C (see chapter 11). He owed no tax when he left the United States.

Form 1040NR
Sam completes Form 1040NR as follows.

Pages 1, 2, and 3. Sam prints his name, address, and social security number on page 1 of Form 1040NR. He prints "Dual-Status Statement" across the top of the form.

On line 8, Sam enters his salary while a nonresident. He enters the state income tax withheld from his salary on line 36 (carried from page 3, line 17, Schedule A) and the federal income tax withheld ($356) from his salary on line 58. He also carries these amounts to Form 1040 (discussed later).

Page 4. Sam also reports the not effectively connected U.S. income received while he was a nonresident alien. He reports the April and July dividends from the Major Product Co. in column (c) of line 74a, page 4. He figures the tax on his dividend income on lines 86 and 87 and carries it forward to page 2, line 52 on Form 1040NR.

The rate of tax on this income is limited to 15% by Article 10 of the U.S.–U.K. income tax treaty. Treaty rates vary from country to country, so be sure to check the provisions in the treaty you are claiming.

Sam also reports $36, the amount of tax withheld at source by the Major Product Co. in column (a) of line 74a, Form 1040NR, and carries it forward to page 2, line 65. Later he will report the amount on Form 1040.

Page 5. Sam is not required to report the interest credited to his account by the U.S. Bank during the period he was a nonresident alien. Interest on deposits with U.S. banks that is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business generally is treated as income from sources in the United States but is not taxable to a nonresident alien. He checks the "Year" box on page 5, item L, of Form 1040NR, and explains why this income is not included on his return.

The interest income received from the U.K. Bank while Sam was a nonresident alien is foreign source income and not taxable on his U.S. return.

Sam completes all applicable items on page 5 of Form 1040NR. This provides the dates of arrival and departure, types of visas, and information concerning tax benefit that he has claimed.

Form 1040
Sam completes Form 1040 as follows.

Page 1. Sam prints his name, social security number, and address on page 1 of Form 1040. He checks "Yes" for the Presidential Election Campaign Fund and "Single" under filing status. He also checks the exemption block for himself and prints "Dual-Status Return" across the top of the form.

Sam reports on line 7, Form 1040, all wages received during the period he was a resident of the United States ($21,800) and the wages received during the period he was a nonresident alien ($6,500) that was effectively connected with his U.S. trade or business. This income is taxed at the graduated rates.

Sam reports on Form 1040 the interest income credited to his account by the U.S. Bank and the U.K. Bank in September and December, while he was a U.S. resident. If any of the interest income received while he was a nonresident alien was effectively connected with his U.S. trade or business, he would also report these amounts on Form 1040. If he had paid foreign income tax on the interest income received from the U.K. Bank, he would claim a foreign tax credit.

The dividend income includes only the Octo-

ber dividend, which was received while Sam was a U.S. resident. The dividend income re-

ceived during his period of nonresidence was not effectively connected with his U.S. trade or
business and, therefore, not taxed at the graduated rates.

Sam completes Form 3903 (not illustrated) to figure his moving expense deduction and reports the total on line 28, Form 1040. 

Schedule A (Form 1040). Sam cannot claim the standard deduction because he has a dual-status tax year. He reports his itemized deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040). The only itemized deduction he had while he was a nonresident alien was the state income tax withheld from his pay. For information purposes, he lists this amount on line 1, Schedule A, Form 1040NR, in addition to including it on Schedule A, Form 1040.

Sam totals his itemized deductions on line 28, Schedule A (Form 1040). 

Page 2. Sam reports the amount from line 28 of Schedule A (Form 1040) on line 38, Form 1040. 

Sam enters $3,000 for one personal exemption on line 40, Form 1040. He subtracts the amount on line 40 from the amount on line 39 to figure his taxable income, line 41.

Sam is now ready to figure the tax on his income taxed at the graduated rates. He uses the column in the Tax Table for single individuals. To this tax ($2,186), he must add the tax on the income not effectively connected ($36), the income taxed at the 30% or lower treaty rate. Since there is no line on Form 1040 for this computation, he reports the two amounts in the margin in the Tax and Credits area of Form 1040.

Sam reports the total amount of tax withheld ($2,700) from his wages on line 62, Form 1040. He includes in this amount the tax withheld at source ($36 from line 65, Form 1040NR) on dividends paid to him while he was a nonresident alien. He also writes a brief explanation.

Sam compares the total tax on line 61, Form 1040, to the total payments on line 69, to see if he has overpaid his tax or if he owes an additional amount. Since the amount of tax withheld and the amount of tax paid at source are more than his total tax, he has overpaid his tax. He subtracts the amount on line 61 from the amount on line 69 to figure his refund.

Sam checks to be sure that he has completed all parts of Form 1040 that apply to him. He also checks to see if he has completed the necessary parts of the Form 1040NR that he is attaching as a statement. He then signs and dates the return and enters his occupation.

Page 31 of 62 of Publication 519

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**U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return**

**Form 1040NR**

**Department of the Treasury**

**Internal Revenue Service**

**Page 33**

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### Schedule A—Itemized Deductions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>State and local income taxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Itemized property taxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Real estate taxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Local income taxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>State and local income taxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Federal income tax withheld</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Other income tax withheld</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Disregard if married resident of Canada or Mexico, or a married U.S. national.

### Deductions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Home mortgage interest paid (See page A-3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Local property taxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>State and local income taxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>State income tax withheld</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Disregard if married resident of Canada or Mexico, or a married U.S. national.

### Total Itemized Deductions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Total itemized deductions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Disregard if married resident of Canada or Mexico, or a married U.S. national.

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**For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see Form 1040 Instructions.**

Cat. No. 11364D

**Issue:** 2002

**Rev.:** 2002

**U.S. Gov't Printing Office 2002**

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**For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see Form 1040 Instructions.**
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### Tax on Income Not Effectively Connected With a U.S. Trade or Business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of income</th>
<th>Enter amount of income under the appropriate rate of tax (see pages 23 and 24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74 Dividends paid:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a U.S. corporations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b Foreign corporations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a Mortgage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b Paid by foreign corporations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 Industrial royalties (patents, trademarks, etc.),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 Motion picture or TV copyright royalties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 Other royalties (copyrights, recording, publishing, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 Real property income and natural resources royalties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 Pensions and annuities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 Social security benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 Other (specify)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82 Gains (include capital gain from line 90 below)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 Other (specify)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84 Total U.S. tax withheld at source.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 Add lines 74a through 83 in columns (b)-(e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86 Multiply line 85 by rate of tax at top of each column</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 Tax on income not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Capital Gains and Losses From Sales or Exchanges of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Kind of property and description (if necessary, attach statement of descriptive details not shown above)</th>
<th>(b) Date acquired (mm, dd, yr)</th>
<th>(c) Date sold (mm, dd, yr)</th>
<th>(d) Sales price</th>
<th>(e) Cost or other basis</th>
<th>(f) Loss of (g) gain if more than (d), subtract (e) from (a)</th>
<th>(g) Gain if (g) is more than (d), subtract (a) from (e)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>88 Add columns (f) and (g) of line 88</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes:
- Report property sales or exchanges that are effectively connected with a U.S. business on Schedule D (Form 1040).
- Report property sales or exchanges that are not effectively connected with a U.S. business on Schedule D (Form 1040), Form 4797, or both.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Other Information (If an item does not apply to you, enter “N/A.”)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>J</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>K</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>O</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What, When, and Where To File

Introduction

What return you must file, as well as when and where you file that return, depends on your status at the end of the tax year as a resident or a nonresident alien.

Topics

This chapter discusses:

- Forms aliens must file,
- When and where to file,
- Amended returns and claims for refund, and
- Transportation of currency or monetary instruments.

Useful Items

You may want to see:

Forms (and Instructions)

- 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return,
- 1040A U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- 1040EZ Income Tax Return for Single and Joint Filers With No Dependents
- 1040NR U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return
- 1040NR–EZ U.S. Income Tax Return for Certain Nonresident Aliens With No Dependents

See chapter 12 for information about getting these forms.

Nonresident Aliens

Nonresident aliens who are required to file an income tax return should use Form 1040NR if, qualified, Form 1040NR–EZ.

If you are any of the following, you must file a return:

1. A nonresident alien individual engaged or considered to be engaged in a trade or business in the United States during 2002. You must file even if:
   a) Your income did not come from a trade or business conducted in the United States,
   b) You have no income from U.S. sources, or
   c) Your income is exempt from income tax.
2. A nonresident alien individual not engaged in a trade or business in the United States with U.S. income on which the tax liability was not satisfied by the withholding of tax at the source.
3. A representative or agent responsible for filing the return of an individual described in (1) or (2).
4. A fiduciary for a nonresident alien estate or trust.

When and Where To File

If you are an employee and you receive wages subject to U.S. income tax withholding, you will generally file by the 15th day of the 4th month after your tax year ends. If you file for the 2002 calendar year, your return is due April 15, 2003. If you are not an employee who receives wages subject to U.S. income tax withholding, you must file by the 15th day of the 6th month after your tax year ends. For the 2002 calendar year, your return is due June 16, 2003, because June 15, 2003, falls on a Sunday. You can use Form 1040NR–EZ if you cannot file your return by the due date, file Form 4868 or use one of the electronic filing options explained in the Form 4868 instructions. This will extend the due date to August 15, 2003. You must file the extension by the regular due date of your return.

Resident Aliens

Resident aliens should file Form 1040EZ, 1040A, or 1040 at the address shown in the instructions for that form. The due date for filing the return and paying any tax due is April 15 of the year following the year for which you are filing a return (but see the TIP, below).

You are allowed an automatic extension to June 15 to file if your main place of business and the home you live in are outside the United States and Puerto Rico on April 15. You can get an extension of time to August 15 to file your return if you get an extension by April 15 (June 15 if you qualify for the June 15 extension). Use Form 4868 to get the extension to August 15.

Even if you have left the United States and filed a Form 1040–C, U.S. Depart- ing Alien Income Tax Return, on depart- ure, you still must file an annual U.S. income tax return. If you are married and both you and your spouse are required to file, you must each file a separate return.
Chapter 8 discusses withholding from U.S. wages of Virgin Islanders. Aliens from Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. If you are a resident of Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) on the last day of your tax year, you must file your return and pay any tax due to Guam or the CNMI. Report all income, including income from U.S. sources, on your return. It is not necessary to file a separate U.S. income tax return. Guam residents should file their Guam returns at the following address.

Department of Revenue and Taxation
Government of Guam
P.O. Box 23607
GMF, GU 96921

Residents of the CNMI should file their CNMI income tax returns at the following address.

Division of Revenue and Taxation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 5234 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950

If you are a resident of the United States on the last day of your tax year, you should file your return with the Internal Revenue Service Center, Philadelphia, PA 19255. Include with your return any balance of your tax due on income derived from all sources.

Penalties. The law imposes penalties for filing your tax return late or for late payment of any tax due. However, a penalty is not charged if you can show that there was reasonable cause for your filing or paying late.

You may be subject to additional penalties for:
1) Not supplying a taxpayer identification number when required,
2) Filing a frivolous income tax return,
3) Not including a tax shelter identification number on a return when required.

Amended Returns and Claims for Refund
If you find changes in your income, deductions, or credits after you mail your return, file Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. Attach Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ showing the changes to your original return and print “Amended” across the top. Ordinarily, an amended return claiming a refund must be filed within 3 years from the date your return was filed or within 2 years from the time the tax was paid, whichever is later. A return filed before the final due date is considered to have been filed on the due date.

Transportation of Currency or Monetary Instruments
Customs Form 4790, Report of International Transportation of Currency or Monetary Instru-

ments, must be filed by each person who physically transports, mails, or ships, or causes or attempts to cause to be physically transported, mailed, or shipped, currency or other monetary instruments in a total amount of more than $10,000 at one time from the United States to any place outside the United States, or into the United States from any place outside the United States. The filing requirement also applies to each person who receives in the United States currency or monetary instruments totaling more than $10,000 at one time from any place outside the United States.

The term “monetary instruments” means the following:

- Coin and currency of the United States or of any other country,
- Travelers’ checks in any form,
- Money orders,
- Investment securities in bearer form or otherwise not required to be physically transported,
- Negotiable instruments in bearer form, endorsed without restriction, made out to a fictitious payee, or otherwise in such form that title to them passes upon delivery,
- Checks, promissory notes, and money orders which are signed but on which the name of the payee has not been endorsed.

However, the term does not include:

- Checks or money orders made payable to the order of a named person which have not been endorsed or which contain restrictive endorsements,
- Warehouse receipts, or
- Bills of lading.

A transfer of funds through normal banking procedures (wire transfer) that does not involve the physical transportation of currency or bearer monetary instruments is not required to be reported on Customs Form 4790.

Filing requirements. Customs Form 4790 filing requirements follow.

Recipients. Each person who receives currency or other monetary instruments from a place outside the United States must file Customs Form 4790 within 15 days after receipt, with the Customs officer in charge at any port of entry or departure, or by mail to the following address.

Commissioner of Customs
Attention: Currency Transportation Reports
Washington, DC 20229

Shippers or mailers. If the currency or other monetary instrument does not accompany the person entering or departing the United States, Customs Form 4790 can be filed by mail at the above address on or before the date of entry, departure, mailing, or shipping.

Travelers. Travelers must file Customs Form 4790 with the Customs officer in charge at any Customs port of entry or departure, when entering or departing the United States.
6.

Paying Tax Through Withholding or Estimated Tax

Introduction

This chapter discusses how to pay your U.S. income tax as you earn or receive income during the year. In general, the federal income tax is a pay-as-you-go tax. There are two ways to pay as you go:

1) Withholding. If you are an employee, your employer probably withholds income tax from your pay. Tax may also be withheld from certain other income—including pensions, bonuses, commissions, and gambling winnings. In each case, the amount withheld is paid to the U.S. Treasury in your name.

2) Estimated tax. If you do not pay your tax through withholding, or do not pay enough tax that way, you might have to pay estimated tax this way. You may have to pay estimated tax if you receive income such as dividends, interest, rent, and royalties. Estimated tax is used to pay not only income tax, but self-employment tax and alternative minimum tax as well.

Topics

This chapter discusses:

- How to notify your employer of your alien status,
- Income subject to withholding of income tax,
- Exemptions from withholding,
- Social security and Medicare taxes, and
- Estimated tax rules.

Useful Items

You may want to see:

Publication

- 515 Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities
- 533 Self-Employment Tax
- 901 U.S. Tax Treaties

Form (and Instructions)

- W–4 Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate
- W–8BEN Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding
- W–8ECI Certificate of Foreign Person’s Claim for Exemption From Withholding on Income Effectively Connected With the Conduct of a Trade or Business in the United States
- W–9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification
- 1040–ES(NR) U.S. Estimated Tax for Nonresident Alien Individuals
- 8233 Exemption From Withholding on Compensation for Independent (and Certain Dependent) Personal Services of a Nonresident Alien Individual
- 8288–B Application for Withholding Certificate for Dispositions by Foreign Persons of U.S. Real Property Interests

See chapter 12 for information about getting these publications and forms.

Notification of Alien Status

You must let your employer know whether you are a resident or a nonresident alien so your employer can withhold the correct amount of tax from your wages.

If you are a resident alien under the rules discussed in chapter 1, you may file Form W–9 or a similar statement with your employer. If you are a nonresident alien under those rules, you must furnish to your employer Form 8233 or Form W–8BEN, establishing that you are a foreign person, or Form W–4, establishing that your compensation is subject to graduated withholding at the same rates as resident aliens or U.S. citizens.

If you are a resident alien and you receive income other than wages (such as dividends and royalties) from sources within the United States, you may file Form W–9 or similar statement with the withholding agent (generally, the payer of the income) so the agent will not withhold tax on the income at the 30% (or lower treaty) rate. If you receive this type of income as a nonresident alien, file Form W–8BEN with the withholding agent so that the agent will withhold tax at the 30% (or lower treaty) rate. However, if the income is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, file Form W–BECI instead.

Withholding From Compensation

The following discussion generally applies only to nonresident aliens. Tax is withheld from resident aliens in the same manner as U.S. citizens.

Wages and other compensation paid to a nonresident alien for services performed as an employee are usually subject to graduated withholding at the same rates as resident aliens and U.S. citizens. Therefore, your compensation, unless it is specifically excluded from the term “wages” by law, or is exempt from tax by treaty, is subject to graduated withholding.

Withholding on Wages

If you are an employee and you receive wages subject to graduated withholding, you will be required to fill out a Form W–4. Also fill out Form W–9 for a scholarship or fellowship grant that is not a payment for services and for which you are not claiming a tax treaty withholding exemption on Form 8233 (discussed later under Income Entitled to Tax Treaty Benefits). These are services you are required to perform as an employee and as a condition of receiving the scholarship or fellowship (or tuition reduction). Nonresident aliens should fill out Form W–4 using the following instructions instead of the instructions on the Form W–4. This is because of the restrictions on a nonresident alien’s filing status, the limited number of personal exemptions a nonresident alien is allowed, and because a nonresident alien cannot claim the standard deduction.

1) Check only “Single” marital status on line 3 (regardless of your actual marital status).

2) Claim only one allowance on line 5, unless you are a resident of Canada, Mexico, Japan, or South Korea, or a U.S. national.

3) Request that your employer withhold an additional amount of $7.60 per week on line 6. If your wages are paid based on a 2-week pay period, the additional amount will be $15.30. For other payroll periods, ask your employer for the amount to enter.

4) Do not claim “Exempt” withholding status on line 7.

A U.S. national is an individual who, although not a U.S. citizen, owes his or her allegiance to the United States. U.S. nationals include American Samoans, and Northern Marian Islands who chose to become U.S. nationals instead of U.S. citizens.

See Withholding on Scholarships and Fellowship Grants, later, for how to fill out Form W–4 if you receive a U.S. source scholarship or fellowship grant that is not a payment for services.

Students and business apprentices from India. If you are eligible for the benefits of Article 21(2) of the United States–India Income Tax Treaty, you may claim additional withholding allowances for the standard deduction and Penalties.

Civil and criminal penalties are provided for failing to file a report, filing a report containing material omissions or misstatements, or filing a false or fraudulent report. Also, the entire amount of the currency or monetary instrument may be subject to seizure and forfeiture.

More information regarding the filing of Customs Form 4790 can be found in the instructions on the back of the form.

Useful Items

You may want to see:

Publication

- 515 Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities
- 533 Self-Employment Tax
- 901 U.S. Tax Treaties

Form (and Instructions)

- W–4 Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate
- W–8BEN Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding
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- 8233 Exemption From Withholding on Compensation for Independent (and Certain Dependent) Personal Services of a Nonresident Alien Individual
- 8288–B Application for Withholding Certificate for Dispositions by Foreign Persons of U.S. Real Property Interests

See chapter 12 for information about getting these publications and forms.
Withholding on Tip Income

Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands may be exempt from withholding. The events or performances scheduled during the following paragraphs explain these exemptions.

1) Perform duties in transportation service between the United States and Canada or Mexico, or
2) Perform duties connected to the construction, maintenance, or operation of a railroad.
3) A list of the names and addresses of the household employees. If you work as a household employee, your employer does not have to withhold income tax. However, you may agree to voluntary income tax withholding by filing a Form W–4 with your employer. The agreement goes into effect when your employer accepts the agreement by beginning the withholding. You or your employer may end the agreement by letting the other know in writing.

Wages Exempt From Withholding

Wages that are exempt from U.S. income tax under an income tax treaty are generally exempt from withholding on payment. The following paragraphs explain these exemptions.

1) A list of the names and addresses of the employees, agents, and representatives of the withholding agent, each nonresident alien covered by the withholding agreement, and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue Service on the amount of withholding if you reach an agreement with the IRS.
2) Employers, agents, and promoters, or those persons pay their income tax to the Virgin Islands.
3) Expects to perform duties previously described during the tax year in question. The statement can be in any form, but it must be dated and signed by the employee and must include a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury.

Withholding on Pensions

Resident alien employees who are a resident alien and a resident of the United States or any of its agencies in Puerto Rico. If you are a nonresident alien employee who is a resident of Puerto Rico, wages for services performed in Puerto Rico are generally not subject to withholding unless you are an employee of the United States or any of its agencies in Puerto Rico.

Residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Non-resident aliens who are bona fide residents of the Virgin Islands are not subject to withholding provided certain requirements are met. Under no circumstances will such a withholding agreement reduce taxes withheld to less than the anticipated amount of income tax liability.

1) A list of the names and addresses of the nonresident aliens to be covered by the agreement.
2) Copies of all contracts that the aliens or their agents and representatives have entered into regarding the time period and performances or events to be covered by the agreement including, but not limited to, contracts with:
   a) Employers, agents, and promoters,
   b) Exhibition halls,
   c) Persons providing lodging, transportation, and advertising,
   d) Accompanying personnel, such as band members or trainers.

Withholding on Tip Income

Tips you receive during the year for personal services performed in the United States, the pension income is subject to the 30% (or lower treaty) rate of withholding. You may, however, have tax withheld at graduated rates on the portion of the pension that arises from the performance of services in the United States after December 31, 1986. You must fill out Form W–BECI and give it to the withholding agent or payer before the income is paid or credited to you.

Withholding Agreement

An agreement that you reach with the IRS regarding withholding from your compensation for independent personal services is effective for payments covered by the agreement after it is agreed to by all parties. You must agree to timely file an income tax return for the current tax year.

Central withholding agreements. If you are a nonresident alien entertainer or athlete performing or participating in athletic events in the United States, you may be able to enter into a withholding agreement with the IRS for reduced withholding provided certain requirements are met. Under no circumstances will such a withholding agreement reduce taxes withheld to less than the anticipated amount of income tax liability.

Nonresident alien entertainers or athletes requesting a central withholding agreement must submit the following information.

1. A list of the names and addresses of the nonresident aliens to be covered by the agreement.
2. Copies of all contracts that the aliens or their agents and representatives have entered into regarding the time period and performances or events to be covered by the agreement including, but not limited to, contracts with:
   a) Employers, agents, and promoters,
   b) Exhibition halls,
   c) Persons providing lodging, transportation, and advertising,
   d) Accompanying personnel, such as band members or trainers.

An itinerary of dates and locations of all events or performances scheduled during the period to be covered by the agreement.

A proposed budget containing itemized estimates of all gross income and expenses for the period covered by the agreement, including any documents to support these estimates.

The name, address, and telephone number of the person the IRS should contact if additional information or documentation is needed.

The name, address, and employer identification number of the agent or agents who will be the central withholding agents for the aliens and who will enter into a contract with the IRS. A central withholding agent ordinarily receives contract payments, keeps books of account for the aliens covered by the agreement, and pays expenses (including tax liabilities) for the aliens during the period covered by the agreement.

When the IRS approves the estimated budget and the designated central withholding agents, the Associate Chief Counsel (International) will prepare a withholding agreement. The agreement must be signed by each withholding agent, each nonresident alien covered by the agreement, and the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service or his delegate.

Generally, each withholding agent must agree to withhold income tax from payments made to the nonresident alien, to pay over the withheld tax to the IRS on the dates and in the amounts specified in the agreement, and to have the IRS apply the payments of withheld tax to the withholding agent’s Form 1042 account. Each withholding agent will be required to file Form 1042 and Form 1042–S for each tax year in which income is paid to a nonresident alien covered by the withholding agreement. The IRS will credit the withheld tax payments, posted to the withholding agent’s Form 1042 account, in accordance with the Form 1042–S. Each non-
Final payment exemption. Your final pay-ment of compensation during the tax year for independent personal services may be entirely or partly exempt from withholding. This exemp-tion is available only once during your tax year and applies to a maximum of $5,000 of compen-sation. To obtain this exemption, you or your agent must give the following statements and information to the Commissioner or his dele-gate.

1) A statement by each withholding agent from whom you have received gross in-come effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States during the tax year, showing the amount of income paid and the tax withheld. Each statement must be signed by the withholding agent and verified by a declaration that it is made under penalties of perjury.

2) A statement by each withholding agent from whom you expect to receive the final pay-ment of compensation, showing the amount of the payment and the amount of tax that would be withheld if a final pay-ment were not granted. This statement must also be signed by the with-holding agent and verified by a declaration that it is made under penalties of perjury.

3) A statement by you that you do not intend to receive any other income effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States during the current tax year.

4) The amount of tax that has been withheld or paid under any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code or regulations for any income effectively connected with your trade or business in the United States during the current tax year.

5) The amount of your outstanding tax liabili-ties, taxes, including interest and penal-ties, for the current tax year or prior tax periods.

6) Any provision of an income tax treaty under which a partial or complete exemp-tion from withholding may be claimed, the country of your residence, and a statement of sufficient facts to justify an exemption under the treaty.

7) A statement signed by you, and verified by a declaration that it is made under penal-ties of perjury, that all the information given is true and that to your knowledge no relevant information has been omitted.

If satisfied with the information, the IRS will determine the amount of your tentative income tax for the tax year on gross income effectively connected with your trade or business in the United States. Ordinary and necessary busi-ness expenses can be taken into account if proven to the satisfaction of the Commissioner or his delegate.

The Commissioner or his delegate will send you a letter, directed to the withholding agent, showing the amount of the final payment of compensation that is exempt from withholding and the amount that can be paid to you because of the exemption. You must give two copies of the letter to the withholding agent and must also attach a copy of the letter to your income tax return for the tax year for which the exemption is effective.

Allowance for Personal Exemption

Withholding on payments for independent personal services is generally based on the amount of your compensation payment minus the value of one exemption ($3,050 for 2003). To determine the income for independent personal services performed in the United States to which the 30% (or lower treaty rate) rate will apply, you are allowed one personal exemption if you are not a U.S. national and are not a resident alien of Canada, Mexico, Japan, or South Korea. For purposes of 30% withholding, the exemption is prorated at $8.36 a day in 2003 for the period that labor or personal services are performed in the United States. To claim an exemption from withholding on the personal ex-emption amount, file the applicable forms of Form 8233 and give it to the withholding agent.

Example. Eric Schmidt, who is a resident of Germany, worked under a contract with a U.S. firm (not as an employee) in the United States for 100 days during 2003 before returning to his country. He earned $6,000 for the services performed (not considered wages) in the United States. Eric is married and has three dependent children. His wife is not employed and has no income subject to U.S. tax. The amount of the personal exemption to be allowed against the income for his personal services performed within the United States in 2003 is $836 (100 days x $8.36), and withholding at 30% is applied against the balance. Thus, $1,549.20 is tax is withheld from Eric's earnings (30% of $5,164 ($6,000 – $836)).

U.S. nationals or residents of Canada, Mex-ico, Japan, or South Korea. If you are a non-resident alien who is a resident of Canada, Mexico, Japan, or South Korea, or who is a national of the United States, you are subject to the same 30% withholding on your compensa-tion for independent personal services per-formed in the United States. However, if you are a U.S. national or a resident of Canada or Mex-ico, you are allowed the same personal exemp-tions as U.S. citizens. For the 30% (or lower treaty rate) withholding, you can take $8.36 per day for each allowable exemption in 2003. If you are a resident of Japan or Korea, you are al-lowed personal exemptions for yourself and for your spouse and children who live with you in the United States at any time during the tax year. However, the additional exemptions for your spouse and children must be further prorated as explained in chapter 5 under Exemptions.

Students and business apprentices from India. If you are eligible for the benefits of Article 21(2) of the United States–India Income Tax Treaty, you are allowed an exemption for your spouse only if your spouse has no gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer. You are also allowed an exemption for each dependent not admitted to the United States on “F–2,” “J–2,” or “M–2” visas if they meet the requirements of the treaty.

For the 30% (or lower treaty rate) withholding on compensation for independent personal serv-ices performed in the United States in 2003, you are allowed $8.36 per day for each applicable ex-emption.

Withholding From Other Income

Other income subject to 30% withholding gener-ally includes fixed or determinable income such as interest (other than portfolio interest), divi-dends, pensions and annuities, and gains from certain sales and exchanges, discussed in chapter 4. It also includes 85% of social security benefits paid to nonresident aliens.

The following income is not subject to with-holding at the 30% (or lower treaty) rate: if you file Form W–8ECI with the payer of the income.

• Income (other than compensation) that is effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business.

• Income from real property that you choose to treat as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. See Income From Real Property in chapter 4 for details about this choice.

Special rules for withholding on partnership income, scholarships, and fellowships are ex-plained next.

Tax Withheld on Partnership Income

If you are a foreign partner in a U.S. or foreign partnership, the partnership will withhold tax on your share of effectively connected taxable in-come from the partnership. The partnership will give you a statement on Form 1042-S, Foreign Person’s U.S. Source Income Subject to With-holding, that is publicly traded may withhold tax on your actual distributions of effectively con-nected income. In this case the partnership will give you a statement on Form 1042–S, Foreign Person’s U.S. Source Income Subject to With-holding. For 2002, the withholding rate was 36.6%. Claim the withheld as a credit on line 6b or 6bb of Form 1040NR, as appropriate.

If you are a foreign partner responsible for withholding, see Partnership Withholding on Ef-fectively Connected Income in Publication 515.

Withholding on Scholarships and Fellowship Grants

There is no withholding on a qualified scholar-ship received by a candidate for a degree. See chapter 3.
If you are a nonresident alien student or granteen an F-, J-, M-, or Q visa and you receive a U.S. source grant or scholarship W-4 is not fully exempt, the withholding agent (usually the payer of the scholarship) withholds tax at 14% (or lower treaty rate) of the taxable part of the grant or scholarship that is not a payment for services. However, if you are not a candidate for a degree and the grant does not meet certain requirements, tax will be withheld at the 30% (or lower treaty) rate.

Any part of a scholarship or fellowship grant that is a payment for services is subject to gradual withholding as discussed earlier under Withholding on Wages.

Alternate Withholding Procedure
Your withholding agent may choose to use an alternate procedure by asking you to fill out Form W-4 and the Personal Allowances Worksheet (attached to Form W-4). Use the following instructions instead of the Form W-4 instructions to complete the worksheet.

Line A. Enter the total of the following amounts on Line A.

Personal exemption. Include the prorated part of your allowable personal exemption. Figure the amount by multiplying the number of days you expect to be in the United States in 2003 by the daily exemption amount ($836).

Expenses. Include expenses that will be deductible on your return. These include away-from-home expenses (meals, lodging, and transportation), certain state and local income taxes, charitable contributions, and casualty losses, discussed earlier under Itemized Deductions in chapter 5. They also include business expenses, moving expenses, and the IRA deduction discussed under Deductions in chapter 5.

The amount of away-from-home expenses should be the anticipated actual amount, if known. If you do not know the amount of actual expenses, you must complete Form W-4 to determine the amount of your personal exemption. You can claim the current per diem allowance for participants in the Career Education Program under the Federal Travel Regulations. The current per diem allowance is $18 per day.

Nontaxable grant or scholarship. Include the part of your grant or scholarship that is not taxable under U.S. law or under a tax treaty.

Line B. Enter —0— unless the following paragraphs apply to you.

If you are a student who qualifies under Article 21(2) of the United States–India income tax treaty, and you are not claiming deductions for away-from-home expenses or other itemized deductions (discussed earlier), enter the standard deduction on line B. The standard deduction amount for 2003 is $4,750 if you are single, or $3,975 if you are married.

Lines C and D. Enter —0— on both lines unless the following paragraphs apply to you.

If you are a resident of Canada, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, or a U.S. national, an additional daily exemption amount may be allowed for your spouse and each of your dependents. If you are a resident of India who is eligible for the benefits of Article 21(2) of the United States–India income tax treaty, you can claim an additional daily exemption amount for your spouse. You can also claim an additional amount for each of your dependents not admitted to the United States on “F-2,” “J-2,” or “M-2” visas if they meet the same rules that apply to U.S. citizens.

Enter any additional amount for your spouse on line C. Enter any additional amount for your dependents on line D.

Lines E, F, and G. No entries should be made on lines E, F, and G.

Line H. Add the amounts on lines A through D and enter the total on line H.

Form W-4. Complete lines 1 through 4 of Form W-4. Sign and date the form and give it with the Personal Allowances Worksheet to your withholding agent.

If you file a Form W-4 to reduce or eliminate the withholding on your scholarship or grant, you must file an annual income tax return. If the income is not fully exempt, the withholding agent (usually the payer of your grant) may allow the exemptions and deductions you claimed on that form. If you are in the United States for more than one tax year, you must attach a statement to your yearly Form W-4 indicating that you have filed a U.S. income tax return for the previous year. If you have not been in the United States long enough to be required to file a return, you must attach a statement to your Form W-4 saying you will file a U.S. income tax return when required.

After the withholding agent has accepted your Form W-4, tax will be withheld on your scholarship or grant at the graduated rates that apply to wages. The gross amount of the income is reduced by the amount on line H of the worksheet and the withholding tax is figured on the remainder.

You will receive a Form 1042–S from the withholding agent (usually the payer of your grant) showing the gross amount of your taxable scholarship or fellowship grant less the withholding allowance amount, the tax rate, and the amount of tax withheld. Use this form to figure your annual U.S. income tax return.

Income Entitled to Tax Treaty Benefits
If you are a resident of Canada, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, or a U.S. national, an additional daily exemption amount may be allowed for your spouse and each of your dependents. If you are a resident of India who is eligible for the benefits of Article 21(2) of the United States–India income tax treaty, you can claim an additional daily exemption amount for your spouse. You can also claim an additional amount for each of your dependents not admitted to the United States on “F-2,” “J-2,” or “M-2” visas if they meet the same rules that apply to U.S. citizens.

Enter any additional amount for your spouse on line C. Enter any additional amount for your dependents on line D.

Lines E, F, and G. No entries should be made on lines E, F, and G.

Line H. Add the amounts on lines A through D and enter the total on line H.

Form W-4. Complete lines 1 through 4 of Form W-4. Sign and date the form and give it with the Personal Allowances Worksheet to your withholding agent.

If you file a Form W-4 to reduce or eliminate the withholding on your scholarship or grant, you must file an annual income tax return. If the income is not fully exempt, the withholding agent (usually the payer of your grant) may allow the exemptions and deductions you claimed on that form. If you are in the United States for more than one tax year, you must attach a statement to your yearly Form W-4 indicating that you have filed a U.S. income tax return for the previous year. If you have not been in the United States long enough to be required to file a return, you must attach a statement to your Form W-4 saying you will file a U.S. income tax return when required.

After the withholding agent has accepted your Form W-4, tax will be withheld on your scholarship or grant at the graduated rates that apply to wages. The gross amount of the income is reduced by the amount on line H of the worksheet and the withholding tax is figured on the remainder.

You will receive a Form 1042–S from the withholding agent (usually the payer of your grant) showing the gross amount of your taxable scholarship or fellowship grant less the withholding allowance amount, the tax rate, and the amount of tax withheld. Use this form to figure your annual U.S. income tax return.

Income Entitled to Tax Treaty Benefits
If a tax treaty between the United States and your country provides an exemption from, or a reduced rate of, tax for certain items of income, you should notify the payor of the income (the withholding agent) of your foreign status to claim a tax treaty withholding exemption. Generally, you do this by filing either Form W-8BEN or Form 8233 with the withholding agent.

File Form W-8BEN for income that is not personal services income. File Form 8233 for personal services income as discussed next.

Employees and independent contractors.
If you receive personal services as an employee or as an independent contractor and you can claim an exemption from withholding on that personal services income because of a tax treaty, give Form 8233 to each withholding agent from whom amounts will be received.

Even if you submit Form 8233, the withholding agent may have to withhold tax from your income. This is because the factors on which the treaty exemption is based may not be determined until after the close of the tax year. In this case, you must file Form 1040NR to recover any overwithheld tax and to provide the IRS with proof that you are entitled to the treaty exemption.

Students, teachers, and researchers.
Students, teachers, and researchers must attach the appropriate statement shown in Appendix A (for students) or Appendix B (for teachers and researchers) at the end of this publication to the Form 8233 and give it to the withholding agent. For treaties not listed in the appendices, attach a statement in a format similar to those for other treaties.

If you received a scholarship or fellowship and personal services income from the same withholding agent, use Form 8233 to claim an exemption from withholding based on a tax treaty for both types of income.

Special events and promotions.
Withholding at the full 30% rate is required for payments made to a nonresident alien or foreign corporation for gate receipts (or television or other receipts) from rock music festivals, boxing promotions, and other entertainment or sporting events, unless the withholding agent has been specifically advised otherwise by letter from the IRS. This is true even if the income may be exempt from taxation by provisions of a tax treaty. One reason for this is that the partial or complete exemption is usually based on factors that cannot be determined until after the close of the tax year.

The required letter should be requested from the:

Internal Revenue Service
Compliance Area Director, Area 15
1950 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20024.

Entertainers and athletes can also apply for reduced withholding on the basis of their net income after expenses. See Central withholding agreements under Withholding From Compensation, earlier.

You will be required to pay U.S. tax, at the time of your departure from the United States, on any income for which you incorrectly claimed a treaty exemption. For more details on treaty provisions that apply to compensation, see Publication 901.

Tax Withheld on Real Property Sales
If you are a nonresident alien and you dispose of a U.S. real property interest, the transferee (buyer) of the property generally must withhold a tax equal to 10% of the amount realized on the disposition. Withholding is also required on certain distributions and other transactions by domestic or foreign corporations, partnerships, trusts, and estates. These rules are covered in Publication 515 under U.S. Real Property Interest.

If you are a partner in a domestic partnership, and the partnership disposes of a U.S. real property interest at a gain, the partnership will
withhold tax on the amount of gain allocable to its foreign partners. Your share of the income and tax withheld will be reported to you on Form 8805, Foreign Partner’s Information Statement of Section 1446 Withholding Tax, or Form 1042–S, Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding (in the case of a publicly traded partnership).

Withholding is not required in the following situations.

1) The property is acquired by the buyer for use as a residence and the amount realized (sales price) is not more than $300,000.
2) The property disposed of is an interest in a U.S. corporation if any class of stock of the corporation is regularly traded on an established securities market.
3) The property disposed of is an interest in a U.S. corporation that is not regularly traded on an established market and you (the seller) give the buyer a copy of a statement issued by the corporation certifying that the interest is not a U.S. real property interest.
4) You (the seller) give the buyer a certification stating, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a foreign person, and containing your name, U.S. taxpayer identification number, and home address.
5) The buyer receives a withholding certificate from the Internal Revenue Service.
6) You give the buyer written notice that you are not required to recognize any gain or loss on the property transferred because of a nonrecognition provision in regulation sections 1.1445–2(d)(2).

Withholding certificates. The tax required to be withheld on a disposition can be reduced or eliminated under a withholding certificate issued by the IRS. Either you or the buyer can request a withholding certificate.

A withholding certificate can be issued due to any of the following.
1) The IRS determines that reduced withholding is appropriate because either:
   a) The amount required to be withheld would be more than your maximum tax liability, or
   b) Withholding of the reduced amount would not jeopardize collection of the tax.
2) All of your realized gain is exempt from U.S. tax.
3) You or the buyer enter into an agreement for the payment of tax providing security for the tax liability.

Get Publication 515 and Form 8288–B for information on procedures to request a withholding certificate.

Credit for tax withheld. The buyer must report and pay over the withheld tax within 20 days after the transfer using Form 8288, U.S. Withholding Tax Return for Dispositions by Foreign Persons of U.S. Real Property Interests. This form is filed with the IRS with copies A and B of Form 8288–A. Statement of Withholding on Dispositions by Foreign Persons of U.S. Real Property Interests. Copy B of this statement will be stamped received by the IRS and returned to you (the seller). You must file Copy B with your tax return to take credit for the tax withheld.

Social Security and Medicare Taxes

If you work as an employee in the United States, you must pay social security and Medicare taxes in most cases. Your payments of these taxes contribute to your coverage under the U.S. social security system. Social security coverage provides retirement benefits and medical insurance (Medicare) benefits to individuals who meet certain eligibility requirements.

In most cases, the first $84,900 of taxable wages received in 2002 for services performed in the United States is subject to social security tax. All taxable wages are subject to Medicare tax. Your employer deducts these taxes from each wage payment. Your employer must deduct these taxes even if you do not expect to qualify for social security or Medicare benefits. You can claim a credit for excess social security tax on your income tax return if you have more than one employer and the amount deducted from your combined wages for 2002 is more than $5,263.80. Use the worksheet in chapter 3 of Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax, to figure your credit.

If any one employer deducted more than $5,263.80, you cannot claim a credit for that amount. Ask your employer to refund the excess.

In general, U.S. social security and Medicare taxes apply to payments of wages for services performed as an employee in the United States, regardless of the citizenship or residence of either the employee or the employer. In limited situations, these taxes apply to wages for services performed outside the United States. Your employer should be able to tell you if social security and Medicare taxes apply to your wages. You cannot make voluntary payments if no taxes are due.

Students and Exchange Visitors

Generally, services performed by you as a nonresident alien temporarily in the United States as a nonimmigrant under subparagraph (F), (J), (M), or (Q) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act are not covered under the social security program if the services are performed to carry out the purpose for which you were admitted to the United States. This means that there will be no withholding of social security or Medicare taxes from the pay you receive for these services. These types of services are very limited, and generally include only on-campus work, practical training, and economic hardship employment.

However, you are covered under the social security program for these services if you are considered a resident alien as discussed in chapter 1, even though your nonimmigrant classification ("F," "J," "M," or "Q") remains the same. Social security and Medicare taxes will be withheld from your pay.

Nonresident Alien Students

If you are a nonresident alien admitted to the United States as a student, you generally are not permitted to work for a wage or salary or to engage in business while you are in the United States. In some cases, a student admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant under subparagraph (F), (J), (M), or (Q) status is granted permission to work, and it is so noted on the student’s I-94 Arrival Departure Record. Social security and Medicare taxes are not withheld from pay for the work unless the student is considered a resident alien.

Any student who is enrolled and regularly attending classes at a school may be exempt from social security and Medicare taxes on pay for services performed for that school.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) (and its successor organizations) permits on-campus work for students in “F”-1 status if it does not displace a U.S. resident. On-campus work means work performed on the school’s premises. Off-campus work includes work performed at an off-campus location that is educationally affiliated with the school. On-campus work under the terms of a scholarship, fellowship, or assistantship is considered part of the academic program of the student taking a full course of study and is permitted by the INS. In this case, the educational institution endorses the Form I–20. Social security and Medicare taxes are not withheld from pay for this work unless the student is considered a resident alien.
Students in “F – 1” status may be permitted to participate in a curricular practical training program that is an integral part of an established curriculum. Curricular practical training includes work/study programs, internships, and cooperative education programs. In this case, the educational institution endorses the Form I-20. Social security and Medicare taxes are not withheld from pay for this work unless the student is considered a resident alien.

Employment due to severe economic necessity and for optional practical training is sometimes permitted for students in “F – 1” status. Students granted permission to work due to severe economic necessity or for optional practical training will be issued Form I-688B or Form I-766 by INS. Social security and Medicare taxes are not withheld from pay for this work unless the student is considered a resident alien.

Students in “M – 1” status who have completed a course of study can accept employment or practical training for up to six months and must have a Form I-688B or Form I-766 issued by INS. Social security and Medicare taxes are not withheld from “M – 1” students’ pay for these services unless the student is considered a resident alien.

In all other cases, any services performed by a nonresident alien student are not considered as performed to carry out the purpose for which the student was admitted to the United States. Social security and Medicare taxes will be withheld from pay for the services unless the pay is exempt under the Internal Revenue Code.

Exchange Visitors
Nonresident aliens are admitted to the United States as nonimmigrant exchange visitors under section 101(a)(15)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act through the sponsorship of approved organizations and institutions that are responsible for establishing a program for the exchange of students and teachers and for the administration and operation of the program. Generally, an exchange visitor who has the permission of the sponsor can work for the same reasons as the students discussed above. In these cases, permission is granted by a letter from the exchange visitor’s sponsor or by endorsement from the program sponsor on Form IAP–66, Certificate of Eligibility or Form DS–2019.

Social security and Medicare taxes are not withheld on pay for services of an exchange visitor who has been given permission to work and who possesses or obtains a letter of authorization from the sponsor unless the exchange visitor is considered a resident alien.

In all other cases, services performed by an exchange visitor are not considered as performed to carry out the purpose for which the visitor was admitted to the United States. Social security and Medicare taxes are withheld from pay for the services unless the pay is exempt under the Internal Revenue Code.

If you are a “J – 1” visa holder, your spouse or child may be permitted to work in the United States with the prior approval of the INS and issuance of Form I–688B or Form I–766.

Nonresident aliens admitted to the United States as participants in cultural exchange programs under section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act may be exempt from social security and Medicare taxes. Aliens with “Q” visas are aliens whose employment or training affords the opportunity for culture-sharing with the American public. They are allowed to work in the United States for a specific employer in an approved cultural exchange program. The employer must be the petitioner through whom the alien obtained the “Q” visa. Social security and Medicare taxes are not withheld from pay for this work unless the alien is considered a resident alien. Aliens with “Q” visas are not permitted to engage in employment outside the exchange program activities.

Refund of Taxes Withheld in Error
If social security or Medicare taxes were withheld from pay that is not subject to these taxes, contact the employer who withheld the taxes for a refund. If you are unable to get a full refund of the amount from your employer, file a claim for refund with the Internal Revenue Service on Form 843, Claim for Refund and Request for Abatement. Attach the following items to Form 843:

- A copy of your Form W–2 to prove the amount of social security and Medicare taxes withheld.
- A copy of your visa.
- Immigration and Naturalization Form I–94 (Arrival–Departure Record).
- If you have an F–1 visa, Form I–20.
- If you have a J–1 visa, Form IAP–66 or Form DS–2019.
- If you are engaged in optional practical training, Form I–766 or Form I–688B.
- A statement from your employer indicating the amount of the reimbursement your employer provided and the amount of the credit or refund your employer claimed or you authorized your employer to claim. If you cannot obtain this statement from your employer, you must provide this information on your own statement and explain why you are not attaching a statement from your employer or on Form 8316 claiming your employer will not issue the refund.

File Form 843 (with attachments) with the IRS office where your employer’s returns were filed. If you do not know where your employer’s returns were filed, file Form 843 with the Internal Revenue Service Center, Philadelphia, PA 19255.

Self-Employment Tax
Self-employment tax is the social security and Medicare taxes for individuals who are self-employed. Nonresident aliens are not subject to self-employment tax. Residents of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa are considered U.S. residents for this purpose and are subject to the self-employment tax.

Resident aliens must pay self-employment tax under the same rules that apply to U.S. citizens. However, a resident alien employed by an international organization, a foreign government, or a wholly-owned instrumentality of a foreign government is not subject to the self-employment tax on income earned in the United States.

Employment income you receive while you are a resident alien is subject to self-employment tax even if it was paid for services you performed as a nonresident alien.

Example. Bill Jones is an author engaged in the business of writing books. Bill had several books published in a foreign country while he was a citizen and resident of that country. During 2002, Bill entered the United States as a resident alien. After becoming a U.S. resident, he continued to receive royalties from his foreign publisher. Bill reports his income and expenses on the cash basis (he reports income on his tax return when received and deducts expenses when paid). Bill’s 2002 self-employment income includes the royalties received after he became a U.S. resident even though the books were published while he was a nonresident alien.

Reporting self-employment tax. Use Schedule SE (Form 1040) to report and figure your self-employment tax. Then enter the tax on line 66 of Form 1040 and attach Schedule SE to Form 1040.


International Social Security Agreements
The United States has entered into social security agreements with foreign countries to coordinate social security coverage and taxation of workers employed for part or all of their working careers in one of the countries. These agreements are commonly referred to as totalization agreements. Under these agreements, dual coverage and dual contributions (taxes) for the same work are eliminated. The agreements generally make sure that social security taxes (including self-employment tax) are paid only to one country. Agreements are in effect with the following countries:

- Australia (effective 10/01/2002).
- Austria.
- Belgium.
- Canada.
- Chile.
- Finland.
- France.
- Germany.
- Greece.
- Ireland.
- Italy.
- Korea (South).
- Luxembourg.
- The Netherlands.
Employees. Generally, under these agreements, you are subject to social security taxes only in the country where you are working. However, if you are temporarily sent to work for the same employer in the United States and your pay would normally be subject to social security taxes in both countries, most agreements provide that you remain covered only by the social security system of the country from which you were sent. You can get more information on any agreement by contacting the U.S. Social Security Administration at the address given later. If you have access to the Internet, you can get more information at www.ssa.gov/international.

To establish that your pay is subject only to foreign social security taxes and is exempt from U.S. social security taxes (including the Medicare tax) under an agreement, you or your employer should request a certificate of coverage from the appropriate agency of the foreign country. This will usually be the same agency to which you or your employer pays your foreign social security taxes. The foreign agency will be able to tell you what information is needed for them to issue the certificate. Your employer should keep a copy of the certificate because it may be needed to show why you are exempt from U.S. social security taxes. Only wages paid on or after the effective date of the agreement can be exempt from U.S. social security taxes.

Some of the countries with which the United States has agreements will not issue certificates of coverage. In this case, either you or your employer should request a statement that your wages are not covered by the U.S. social security system. Request the statement from the following address:

U.S. Social Security Administration
Office of International Programs
P.O. Box 17741
Baltimore, MD 21235—7741

Self-employed individuals. Under most agreements, self-employed individuals are covered by the social security system of the country where they reside. However, under some agreements, you may be exempt from U.S. self-employment tax if you temporarily transfer your business activity to or from the United States. If you believe that your self-employment income is subject only to U.S. self-employment tax and is exempt from foreign social security taxes, request a certificate of coverage from the U.S. Social Security Administration at the address given earlier. This certificate will establish your exemption from foreign social security taxes.

To establish that your self-employment income is subject only to foreign social security taxes and is exempt from U.S. self-employment tax, request a certificate of coverage from the appropriate agency of the foreign country. If the foreign country will not issue the certificate, you should request a statement that your income is not covered by the U.S. social security system. Request it from the U.S. Social Security Administration at the address given earlier. Attach a photocopy of either statement to Form 1040 each year you are exempt. Also print “Exempt, see attached statement” on the line for self-employment tax.

Estimated Tax

You may have income from which no U.S. income tax is withheld. Or the amount of tax withheld may be less than the income tax you estimate you will owe at the end of the year. If so, you may have to pay estimated tax.

Generally, you must make estimated tax payments for 2003 if you expect to owe at least $1,000 in tax and you expect your withholding and credits to be less than the smaller of:

1) 90% of the tax to be shown on your 2003 income tax return, or
2) 100% of the tax shown on your 2002 income tax return (if your 2002 return covered all 12 months of the year).

If your adjusted gross income for 2002 was more than $150,000 ($75,000 if your filing status for 2003 is married filing separately), substitute 110% for 100% in (2) above if you are not a farmer or fisherman.

A nonresident alien should use Form 1040—ES (NR) to figure and pay estimated tax. Checks should be made payable to the “United States Treasury.”

How to estimate your tax for 2003. If you filed a 2002 return on Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ and expect your income, number of exemptions, and total deductions for 2003 to be nearly the same, you should use your 2002 return as a guide to complete the Estimated Tax Worksheet in the Form 1040—ES (NR) instructions. If you did not file a return for 2002, or if your income, exemptions, deductions, or credits will be different for 2003, you must estimate these amounts. Figure your estimated tax liability using the Tax Rate Schedule in the 2003 Form 1040—ES (NR) instructions for your filing status.

Note. If you expect to be a resident of Puerto Rico during the entire year, use Form 1040—ES or Form 1040—ES (Español). When to pay estimated tax. Make your first estimated tax payment by the due date for filing the previous year’s Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ. If you have wages subject to the same withholding rules that apply to U.S. citizens, you must file Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ and make your first estimated tax payment by April 15, 2003. If you do not have wages subject to withholding, file your income tax return and make your first estimated tax payment by June 16, 2003.

If your first estimated tax payment is due April 15, 2003, you can pay your estimated tax in full at that time or in four equal installments by the dates shown next.


The type and rule above prints on all proofs including departmental reproduction proofs. MUST be removed before printing.
Treaty Income

A nonresident alien’s treaty income is the gross income on which the tax is limited by a tax treaty. Treaty income includes, for example, dividends from sources in the United States that are subject to tax at a tax treaty rate not to exceed 15%. Nonresident income is the gross income of a nonresident alien on which the tax is not limited by a tax treaty. Figure the tax on treaty income on each separate item of income at the reduced rate that applies to that item under the treaty.

To determine tax on non-treaty income, figure the tax at either the flat 30% rate or the graduated rate, depending upon whether or not the income is effectively connected with your trade or business in the United States.

Your tax liability is the sum of the tax on treaty income plus the tax on non-treaty income, but cannot be more than the tax liability figured as if the tax treaty had not come into effect.

Example. Arthur Banks is a nonresident alien who is single and a resident of a foreign country that has a tax treaty with the United States. He received gross income of $25,500 during the tax year from sources within the United States, consisting of the following items:

- Dividends on which the tax is limited to a 15% rate by the tax treaty: $1,400
- Compensation for personal services on which the tax is not limited by the tax treaty: $24,100

Total gross income: $25,500

Arthur was engaged in business in the United States during the tax year. His dividends are not effectively connected with that business. He has no deductions other than his own personal exemption.

His tax liability, figured as though the tax treaty had not come into effect, is $3,289, determined as follows:

- Total compensation: $24,100
- Less: Personal exemption: $3,000
- Taxable income: $21,100
- Tax determined by graduated rate (Tax Table column for single taxpayers): $2,869
  - Plus: Tax on gross dividends ($1,400 × 30%): $420
  - Tax determined as though treaty had not come into effect: $3,289

Arthur’s tax liability, figured by taking into account the reduced rate on dividend income as provided by the tax treaty, is $3,079, determined as follows:

- Tax determined by graduated rate (same as figured above): $2,869
  - Plus: Tax on gross dividends ($1,400 × 15%): $210
  - Tax on compensation and dividends: $3,079

His tax liability, therefore, is limited to $3,079, the tax liability figured using the tax treaty rate on the dividends.

Some Typical Tax Treaty Benefits

The following paragraphs briefly explain the exemptions that are available under tax treaties for personal services income, remunerations, scholarships, fellowships, and capital gain income. The conditions for claiming the exemptions vary under each tax treaty. For more information about the conditions under a particular tax treaty, see Publication 901.

Tax treaty benefits also cover income such as dividends, interest, rentals, royalties, pensions, and annuities. These types of income may be exempt from U.S. tax or may be subject to a reduced rate of tax. For more information, see Publication 901.

Personal Services

Nonresident aliens from treaty countries who are in the United States for a short stay and also meet certain other requirements may be exempt from tax on their compensation received for personal services performed in the United States. Many tax treaties require that the nonresident alien claiming this exemption be present in the United States for a total of not more than 183 days during the tax year. Other tax treaties specify different periods of maximum presence in the United States, such as 180 days or 90 days. Spending part of a day in the United States counts as a day of presence.

Tax treaties may also require that:

1. The compensation cannot be more than a specific amount (frequently $3,000), and
2. The individual have a foreign employer.

That is, an individual, corporation, or entity of a foreign country.

Teachers and Professors

Under many income tax treaties, nonresident alien teachers or professors who temporarily visit the United States for the primary purpose of teaching at a university or other accredited educational institution are not subject to U.S. income tax on compensation received for teaching for the first 2 or 3 years after their arrival in the United States. Many treaties also provide exemption for engaging in research.

Generally, the teacher or professor must be in the United States primarily to teach, lecture, instruct, or engage in research. A substantial part of that person’s time must be devoted to those duties. The normal duties of a teacher or professor include not only formal classroom work involving regularly scheduled lectures, demonstrations, or other student-participation activities, but also the less formal method of presenting ideas in seminars or other informal groups and in joint efforts in the laboratory.
### Table 9–1. Table of Tax Treaties (Updated through December 31, 2002)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Official Text Symbol</th>
<th>General Effective Date</th>
<th>Citation</th>
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<td>Venezuela</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

¹ (TIAS) — Treaties and Other International Act Series.
² Information on the treaty can be found in Publication 597, Information on the United States-Canada Income Tax Treaty.
³ The U.S.-U.S.S.R. income tax treaty applies to the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
⁴ The general effective date for the area that was the German Democratic Republic is January 1, 1991.
Employees of Foreign Governments

All treaties have provisions for the exemption of income earned by certain employees of foreign governments. However, a difference exists among treaties as to who qualifies for this benefit. Under many treaties, aliens admitted to the United States for permanent residence do not qualify. Under most treaties, aliens who are not naturalized citizens of the foreign country do not qualify. Employees of foreign governments should read the pertinent treaty carefully to determine whether they qualify for benefits. Chapter 10 of this publication also has information for employees of foreign governments.

Students, Apprentices, and Trainees

Under many income tax treaties, students, apprentices, and trainees are exempt from tax on remittances (including scholarship and fellowship grants) received from abroad for study and maintenance. Also, under some treaties, a limited amount of compensation received by students, apprentices, and trainees may be exempt from tax.

Nonresident aliens who become resident aliens. Generally, you must be a nonresident alien student, apprentice, or trainee in order to claim a tax treaty exemption for remittances from abroad (including scholarship and fellowship grants) for study, or maintenance in the United States. However, if you entered the United States as a nonresident alien, but are now a resident alien for U.S. tax purposes, the treaty exemption will continue to apply if the treaty has an exception to the treaty’s saving clause. If you qualify under an exception to the treaty’s saving clause, you can avoid income tax withholding by giving the payor a Form W-3 (three) withholding tax exemption certificate for any of the following situations.

1. A reduction or modification in the taxation of gain or loss from the disposition of a U.S. real property interest based on a treaty.
2. A credit for a specific foreign tax for which foreign tax credit would not be allowed by the Internal Revenue Code.

You must also file Form 8833 if you receive payments or income items totaling more than $100,000 and you determine your country of residence under a treaty and not under the rules for residency discussed earlier in this publication.

Reporting Treaty Benefits Claimed

If you claim treaty benefits that override or modify any provision of the Internal Revenue Code, and by claiming these benefits your tax is, or might be, reduced, you must attach a fully completed Form 8833 to your tax return. See Exceptions below, for the situations where you are not required to file Form 8833.

You must file a U.S. tax return and Form 8833 if you claim the following treaty benefits.

1. A reduction or modification in the taxation of gain or loss from the disposition of a U.S. real property interest based on a treaty.
2. A credit for a specific foreign tax for which foreign tax credit would not be allowed by the Internal Revenue Code.

You must also file Form 8833 if you receive payments or income items totaling more than $100,000 and you determine your country of residence under a treaty and not under the rules for residency discussed earlier in this publication.

These are the more common situations for which Form 8833 is required.

Exceptions. You do not have to file Form 8833 for any of the following situations:

1. You claim a reduced rate of withholding tax under a treaty on interest, dividends, rent, royalties, or other fixed or determinable annual or periodic income ordinarily subject to the 30% rate.
2. You claim a treaty reduces or modifies the taxation of income from dependent personal services, pensions, annuities, social security and other public pensions, or income of artists, athletes, students, trainees, or teachers. This includes taxable scholarship and fellowship grants.
3. You claim a reduction or modification of taxation of income under an International Social Security Agreement or a Diplomatic or Consular Agreement.
4. You are a partner in a partnership or a beneficiary of an estate or trust and the partnership, estate, or trust reports the required information on its return.
5. The payments or items of income that are otherwise required to be disclosed total no more than $10,000.

Penalty for failure to provide required information on Form 8833. You must file Form 8833 with the IRS if you qualify for treaty benefits. Failure to file could result in a penalty of $10,000 on your tax return.

Mr. Yu should submit Form W-9 and the required statement to the payor. If you are not required to report the treaty benefits but do not, you may be subject to a penalty of $1,000 for each failure.

Additional information. For additional information, see section 301.6114–1(c) of the Income Tax Regulations.

Treaty Benefits for Residents

In certain circumstances, individuals who are treated as residents of the United States under an income tax treaty (after application of the so-called “tie-breaker” rule) will be entitled to treaty benefits. If this applies to you, you generally will not need to file a Form 8833 for the income for which treaty benefits are claimed. This is because the income will typically be of a category for which disclosure on a Form 8833 is waived. See the Exceptions earlier under Reporting Treaty Benefits Claimed.

In most cases, you also will not need to report the income on your Form 1040 because the income will be exempt from U.S. tax under the treaty. However, if the income has been reported as taxable income on a Form W-2 or other information return, you should report it on the appropriate line of Form 1040 (for example, line 7 in the case of wages or salaries). Enter the amount for which treaty benefits are claimed in parentheses on Form 1040, line 21.

In most cases, you also will not need to report the income on your Form 1040 because the income will be exempt from U.S. tax under the treaty. However, if the income has been reported as taxable income on a Form W-2 or other information return, you should report it on the appropriate line of Form 1040 (for example, line 7 in the case of wages or salaries). Enter the amount for which treaty benefits are claimed in parentheses on Form 1040, line 21.

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10.

**Exemption Under U.S. Tax Law**

Employees of foreign governments who do not qualify under a tax treaty provision and employees of international organizations may qualify for exemption by meeting the following requirements of U.S. tax law.

1) By a provision in a tax treaty or consular convention between the United States and their country, or
2) By meeting the requirements of U.S. tax law.

Employees of international organizations can only exempt their wages by meeting the requirements of U.S. tax law.

The exemption discussed in this chapter applies only to current employees and not to former employees. Pensions received by former employees living in this country do not qualify for exemption.

**Employees of international organizations.** If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if you are a U.S. citizen but also a citizen of the Philippines, and you work for a foreign government in the United States, your foreign government salary is exempt from U.S. tax if you perform services similar to those performed by U.S. Government employees in that foreign country and that foreign government grants an equivalent exemption.

**Certification.** To qualify for the exemption under U.S. tax law, the foreign government for which you work must certify to the Department of State that you are their employee and that you perform services similar to those performed by employees of the United States in your country. However, see Aliens who keep immigrant status, later, for a special rule that may affect your qualifying for this exemption.

**Employees of international organizations.** If you work for an international organization in the United States and you are not a U.S. citizen (or you are a U.S. citizen but are also a citizen of the Philippines), your salary from that organization is exempt from U.S. tax. However, see Aliens who keep immigrant status, later, for a special rule that may affect your qualifying for this exemption.

An international organization is an organization designated by the President of the United States through Executive Order to qualify for the privileges, exemptions, and immunities provided in the International Organizations Immunities Act.

You should find out if you have been made known to, and have been accepted by, the Secretary of State as an officer or an employee of that organization, or if you have been designated by the Secretary of State, before formal notification and acceptance, as a prospective officer or employee.

If you are claiming exemption, you should know the number of the Executive Order covering the international organization and should have some written evidence of your acceptance or designation by the Secretary of State.

The exemption is denied when, because the Secretary of State determines your presence in the United States is no longer desirable, you leave the United States (or after a reasonable time allowed for leaving the United States). The exemption is also denied when a foreign country does not allow similar exemptions to U.S. citizens. Then the Secretary of State can withdraw the privileges, exemptions, and immunities from the nationals of that foreign country.

11.

**Departing Aliens and the Sailing or Departure Permit**

**Introduction**

Before leaving the United States, all aliens (except those listed under Aliens Not Required To Obtain Sailing or Departure Permits) must obtain a certificate of compliance. This document, also popularly known as the sailing permit or departure permit, is part of the income tax form you must file before leaving. You will receive a sailing or departure permit after filing a Form 1040-C or Form 2063. These forms are discussed in this chapter.

To find out if you need a sailing or departure permit, first read Aliens Not Required To Obtain Sailing or Departure Permits. If you do not fall into one of the categories in that discussion, you must obtain a sailing or departure permit. Read Aliens Required To Obtain Sailing or Departure Permits.

**Topics**

This chapter discusses:

- Who needs a sailing permit,
- How to get a sailing permit, and
- Forms you file to get a sailing permit.
Useful Items
You may want to see:

- **Form (and Instructions)**
  - 1040–C U.S. Departing Alien Income Tax Return
  - 2063 U.S. Departing Alien Income Tax Statement

See chapter 12 for information about getting these forms.

**Aliens Not Required To Obtain Sailing or Departure Permits**

If you are included in one of the following categories, you do not have to get a sailing or departure permit before leaving the United States.

If you are in one of these categories and do not have to get a sailing or departure permit, you must be able to support your claim for exemption with proper identification or give the authority for the exemption.

**Category 1.** Representatives of foreign governments with diplomatic passports, whether accredited to the United States or other countries, members of their households, and servants accompanying them. Servants who are leaving, but not with a person with a diplomatic passport, must get a sailing or departure permit. However, they can get a sailing or departure permit on Form 2063 without examination of their income tax liability by presenting a letter from the chief of their diplomatic mission certifying that:

1. Their name appears on the “White List” (a list of employees of diplomatic missions), and
2. They do not owe to the United States any income tax, and will not owe any tax up to and including the intended date of departure.

The statement must be presented to an IRS office.

**Category 2.** Employees of international organizations and foreign governments (other than diplomatic representatives exempt under category 1) and members of their households:

1. Whose compensation for official services is exempt from U.S. tax under U.S. tax laws (described in chapter 10), and
2. Who receive no other income from U.S. sources.

If you are an alien in category (1) or (2), above, who filed the waiver under section 247(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, you must get a sailing or departure permit. This is true even though you filed the waiver and your income is exempt from U.S. tax because of an income tax treaty, consular agreement, or international agreement.

**Category 3.** Alien students, industrial trainees, and exchange visitors, including their spouses and children, who enter on an “F–1,” “F–2,” “J–1,” “J–2,” or “Q” visa only and who receive no income from U.S. sources while in the United States under those visas other than:

1. Allowances to cover expenses incident to study or training in the United States, such as expenses for travel, maintenance, and tuition,
2. The value of any services or food and lodging connected with this study or training,
3. Income from employment authorized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), or
4. Interest income on deposits that is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. (See Interest in chapter 3.)

**Category 4.** Alien students, including their spouses and children, who enter on an “M–1” or “M–2” visa only and who receive no income from U.S. sources while in the United States on those visas, other than:

1. Income from employment authorized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), or
2. Interest income on deposits that is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. (See Interest in chapter 3.)

**Category 5.** Certain other aliens temporarily in the United States who have received no taxable income during the tax year up to and including the date of departure or during the preceding tax year. If the IRS has reason to believe that an alien has received income subject to tax and that the collection of income tax is jeopardized by departure, it may then require the alien to obtain a sailing or departure permit. Aliens covered by this paragraph are:

1. Alien military trainees who enter the United States for training under the sponsorship of the Department of Defense and who leave the United States on official military travel orders,
2. Alien visitors for business on a “B–1” visa, or on both a “B–1” visa and a “B–2” visa, who do not remain in the United States or a U.S. possession for more than 90 days during the tax year,
3. Alien visitors for pleasure on a “B–2” visa,
4. Aliens in transit through the United States or any of its possessions on a “C–1” visa, or under a contract, such as a bond agreement, between a transportation line and the Attorney General, and
5. Aliens who enter the United States on a border-crossing identification card or for whom passports, visas, and border-crossing identification cards are not required, if they are:
   a. Visitors for pleasure,
   b. Visitors for business who do not remain in the United States or a U.S. possession for more than 90 days during the tax year, or
   c. In transit through the United States or any of its possessions.

**Category 6.** Alien residents of Canada or Mexico who frequently commute between that country and the United States for employment, and whose wages are subject to the withholding of U.S. tax.

**Aliens Required To Obtain Sailing or Departure Permits**

If you do not fall into one of the categories listed under Aliens Not Required To Obtain Sailing or Departure Permits, you must obtain a sailing or departure permit. To obtain a permit, file Form 1040–C or Form 2063 (whichever applies) with your local IRS office before you leave the United States. See Forms To File, later. You must also pay all the tax shown as due on Form 1040–C and any taxes due for past years. See Paying Taxes and Obtaining Refunds, later.

If you try to leave the United States without a sailing or departure permit, and cannot show that you qualify to leave without it, you may be subject to an income tax examination by an IRS employee at the point of departure. You must then complete the necessary income tax returns and statements and, ordinarily, pay any taxes due.

**Getting a Sailing or Departure Permit**

The following discussion covers when and where to get your sailing permit.

**Where to get a sailing or departure permit.** It is advisable for aliens who have been working in the United States to get the permit from an IRS office in the area of their employment, but it also can be obtained from an IRS office in the area of their departure.

**When to get a sailing or departure permit.** You should get your sailing or departure permit at least 2 weeks before you plan to leave. You cannot apply earlier than 30 days before your planned departure date. Do not wait until the last minute in case there are unexpected problems.

Papers to submit. Getting your sailing or departure permit will go faster if you bring to the IRS office papers and documents related to your income and your stay in the United States. Bring the following records with you if they apply:

1. Your passport and alien registration card or visa.
2. Copies of your U.S. income tax returns filed for the past 2 years. If you were in the United States for less than 2 years, bring the income tax returns you filed for that period.
3. Receipts for income taxes paid on these returns.
4. Receipts, bank records, canceled checks, and other documents that prove your de-
ductions, business expenses, and dependents claimed on your returns.

5) A statement from each employer showing wages paid and tax withheld from January 1 of the current year to the date of departure if you were an employee. If you were self-employed, you must bring a statement of income and expenses up to the date you plan to leave.

6) Proof of estimated tax payments for the past year and this year.

7) Documents showing any gain or loss from the sale of personal property, including capital assets and merchandise.

8) Documents relating to scholarship or fellowships and including verification of the grantor, source, and purpose of the grant.

9) Documents indicating you qualify for any special tax treaty benefits claimed.

**Forms To File**

If you must get a sailing or departure permit, you must file Form 2063 or Form 1040–C. Employees in the IRS office can assist in filing these forms. Both forms have a “certificate of compliance” section. When the certificate of compliance is signed by an agent of the Field Assistance Area Director, it certifies that your U.S. tax obligations have been satisfied according to available information. Your Form 1040–C copy of the signed certificate, or the one detached from Form 2063, is your sailing or departure permit.

**Form 2063**

This is a short form that asks for certain information but does not include a tax computation. The following departing aliens can get their sailing or departure permits by filing Form 2063.

1) Aliens, whether resident or nonresident, who have had no taxable income for the tax year up to and including the date of departure and for the preceding year, if the period for filing the income tax return for that year has not expired.

2) Resident aliens who have received taxable income during the tax year or preceding year and whose departure will not hinder the collection of any tax. However, if the IRS has information indicating that the aliens are leaving to avoid paying their income tax, they must file a Form 4010–C.

Aliens in either of these categories who have not filed an income tax return or paid income tax for any tax year must file the return and pay the income tax before they can be issued a sailing or departure permit on Form 2063.

The sailing or departure permit detached from Form 2063 can be used for all departures during the current year. However, the IRS may cancel the sailing or departure permit for any later departure if it believes the collection of income tax is jeopardized by that later departure.

**Form 1040–C**

If you must get a sailing or departure permit and you do not qualify to file Form 2063, you must file Form 1040–C. Ordinarily, all income received or reasonably expected to be received during the tax year up to and including the date of departure must be reported on Form 1040–C and the tax on it must be paid. When you pay any tax shown as due on the Form 1040–C, and you file all returns and pay all tax due for previous years, you will receive a sailing or departure permit. However, the IRS may permit you to furnish a bond or an employer letter guaranteeing payment instead of paying the taxes for certain years. See Bond or Employer Letter To Ensure Payment, discussed later. The sailing or departure permit issued under the conditions in this paragraph is only for the specific departure for which it is issued.

If you submit an employer letter guaranteeing payment of tax with your Form 1040–C, you do not need to fill out the form in detail. Just fill out the identifying information on the form, check the “Yes” box on line A, sign it, and attach the letter. The IRS office where you submit the form will then issue your sailing or departure permit.

**Returning to the United States**

If you furnish the IRS with information showing, to the satisfaction of the IRS, that you intend to return to the United States and that your departure does not jeopardize the collection of income tax, you can get a sailing or departure permit by filing Form 1040–C without having to pay the tax shown on it. You must, however, file all income tax returns that have not yet been filed as required, and pay all income tax that is due on these returns.

Your Form 1040–C must include all income received and reasonably expected to be received during the entire year of departure. The sailing or departure permit issued with this Form 1040–C can be used for all departures during the current year. However, the Service may cancel the sailing or departure permit for any later departure if the payment of income tax appears to be in jeopardy.

**Joint return on Form 1040–C**

Departing husbands and wives who are nonresident aliens cannot file joint returns. However, if both spouses are resident aliens, they can file a joint return on Form 1040–C if:

1) Both spouses can reasonably be expected to qualify to file a joint return at the normal close of their tax year, and

2) The tax years of the spouses end at the same time.

**Paying Taxes and Obtaining Refunds**

Except when a bond or an employer letter is furnished, or the IRS is satisfied that your departure does not jeopardize the collection of income tax, you must pay all tax shown as due on the Form 1040–C at the time of filing it. You must also pay any taxes due for past years. If the tax computation on Form 1040–C results in an overpayment, there is no tax to pay at the time you file that return. However, the IRS cannot provide a refund at the time of departure. If you are due a refund, you must file either Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ at the end of the tax year.

**Bond or Employer Letter To Ensure Payment**

Usually, you must pay the tax shown as due on Form 1040–C when you file it. However, if you pay all taxes due that you owe for prior years, you can furnish a bond or an employer letter guaranteeing payment instead of paying the income taxes shown as due on the Form 1040–C or the tax return for the preceding year if the period for filing that return has not expired.

The bond must equal the tax due plus interest at the time of payment as figured by the IRS. Information about the form of bond and security on it can be obtained from your IRS office.

**Filing Annual U.S. Income Tax Returns**

Form 1040–C is not an annual U.S. income tax return. If an income tax return is required by law, that return must be filed even though a Form 1040–C has already been filed. Chapters 5 and 7 discuss filing an annual U.S. income tax return. The tax paid with Form 1040–C should be taken as a credit against the tax liability for the entire tax year on your annual U.S. income tax return.

**12. How To Get Tax Help**

You can get help with unresolved tax issues, order free publications and forms, ask tax questions, and get more information from the IRS in several ways. By selecting the method that is best for you, you will have quick and easy access to tax help.

**Contacting your Taxpayer Advocate**

If you have attempted to deal with an IRS problem unsuccessfully, you should contact your Taxpayer Advocate.

The Taxpayer Advocate represents your interests and concerns within the IRS by protecting your rights and resolving problems that have not been fixed through normal channels. While Taxpayer Advocates cannot change the tax law or make a technical tax decision, they can clear up problems that resulted from previous contacts and ensure that your case is given a complete and impartial review.

To contact your Taxpayer Advocate:

- Call the Taxpayer Advocate at 1–877–777–4778.
- Call, write, or fax the Taxpayer Advocate office in your area.
Call 1–800–829–4059 if you are a TTY/TDD user.

For more information, see Publication 1546, The Taxpayer Advocate Service of the IRS.

Free tax services. To find out what services are available, get Publication 910, Guide to Free Tax Services. It contains a list of free tax publications and an index of tax topics. It also describes other free tax information services, including tax education and assistance programs and a list of TeleTax topics.

Personal computer. With your personal computer and modem, you can access the IRS on the Internet at www.irs.gov. While visiting our web site, you can:

- See answers to frequently asked tax questions or request help by e-mail.
- Download forms and publications or search for forms and publications by topic or keyword.
- Order IRS products on-line.
- View forms that may be filled in electronically, print the completed form, and then save the form for recordkeeping.
- View Internal Revenue Bulletins published in the last few years.
- Search regulations and the Internal Revenue Code.
- Receive our electronic newsletters on hot tax issues and news.
- Learn about the benefits of filing electronically (IRS e-file).
- Get information on starting and operating a small business.

You can also reach us with your computer using File Transfer Protocol at ftp.irs.gov.

TaxFax Service. Using the phone attached to your fax machine, you can receive forms and instructions by calling 703–368–9694. Follow the directions from the prompts. When you order forms, enter the catalog number for the form you need. The items you request will be faxed to you.


Phone. Many services are available by phone.

- Ordering forms, instructions, and publications. Call 1–800–829–3676 to order current and prior year forms, instructions, and publications.
- Asking tax questions: In the United States, call the IRS with your tax questions at 1-800-829-1040. If overseas, you may call 215-516-2000 (English-speaking only).

This number is not toll free. The hours of operation are from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. EST. If you wish to write instead of call, please address your letter to: Internal Revenue Service, International Section, P.O. Box 925, Bensalem, PA 19020-8518. Make sure you include your taxpayer identification number when you write.

Solving problems. Take advantage of Everyday Tax Solutions service by calling your local IRS office to set up an in-person appointment at your convenience. Check your local directory assistance or www.irs.gov for the numbers.

TTY/TDD equipment. If you have access to TTY/TDD equipment, call 1–800–829–4059 to ask tax questions or to order forms and publications.

TeleTax topics. Call 1–800–829–4477 to listen to pre-recorded messages covering various tax topics.

Evaluating the quality of our telephone services. To ensure that IRS representatives give accurate, courteous, and professional answers, we use several methods to evaluate the quality of our telephone services. One method is for a second IRS representative to sometimes listen in on or record telephone calls. Another is to ask some callers to complete a short survey at the end of the call.

Walk-in. Many products and services are available on a walk-in basis.

- Products. You can walk in to many post offices, libraries, and IRS offices to pick up certain forms, instructions, and publications. Some IRS offices, libraries, grocery stores, copy centers, city and county governments, credit unions, and office supply stores have an extensive collection of products available to print from a CD-ROM or photocopy from reproducible proofs. Also, some IRS offices and libraries have the Internal Revenue Code, regulations, Internal Revenue Bulletins, and Cumulative Bulletins available for research purposes.
- Services. You can walk in to your local IRS office to ask tax questions or get help with a tax problem. Now you can set up an appointment by calling your local IRS office number and, at the prompt, leaving a message requesting Everyday Tax Solutions help. A representative will call you back within 2 business days to schedule an in-person appointment at your convenience.
- Assistance in answering tax questions and filling out tax returns is also available in person from IRS offices in: Berlin, Germany; London, England; Mexico City, Mexico; Paris, France; Rome, Italy; Singapore; and Tokyo, Japan. The offices generally are located in the U.S. embassies or consulates.

Mail. You can send your order for forms, instructions, and publications to the Distribution Center nearest to you and receive a response within 10 workdays after your request is received. Find the address that applies to your part of the country.

- Western part of U.S.: Western Area Distribution Center Rancho Cordova, CA 95743–0001
- Central part of U.S.: Central Area Distribution Center P.O. Box 8903 Bloomington, IL 61702–8903
- Eastern part of U.S. and foreign addresses: Eastern Area Distribution Center P.O. Box 85074 Richmond, VA 23261–5074

CD-ROM for tax products. You can order IRS Publication 1796, Federal Tax Products on CD-ROM, and obtain:

- Current tax forms, instructions, and publications.
- Prior-year tax forms and instructions.
- Popular tax forms that may be filled in electronically, printed out for submission, and saved for recordkeeping.
- Internal Revenue Bulletins.

The CD-ROM can be purchased from National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling 1–877–233–6767 or on the Internet at http://www.irs.gov/cdorders. The first release is available in early January and the final release is available in late February.

CD-ROM for small businesses. IRS Publication 3207, Small Business Resource Guide, is a must for every small business owner or any taxpayer about to start a business. This handy, interactive CD contains all the business tax forms, instructions and publications needed to successfully manage a business. In addition, the CD provides an abundance of other helpful information, such as how to prepare a business plan, finding financing for your business, and much more. The design of the CD makes finding information easy and quick and incorporates file formats and browsers that can be run on virtually any desktop or laptop computer.

It is available in March. You can get a free copy by calling 1–800–829–3676 or by visiting the website at www.irs.gov/smallbiz.
Questions and Answers

This section answers tax-related questions commonly asked by aliens.

What is the difference between a resident alien and a nonresident alien for tax purposes?

For tax purposes, an alien is an individual who is not a U.S. citizen. Aliens are classified as resident aliens and nonresident aliens. Resident aliens are taxed on their worldwide income, the same as U.S. citizens. Nonresident aliens are taxed only on their U.S. source income.

What is the difference between the taxation of income that is effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States and income that is not effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States?

The difference between these two categories is that effectively connected income, after allowable deductions, is taxed at graduated rates. These are the same rates that apply to U.S. citizens and residents. Income that is not effectively connected is taxed at a flat 30% (or lower treaty) rate.

I am a student with an F-1 Visa. I was told that I was an exempt individual. Does this mean I am exempt from paying U.S. tax?

The term “exempt individual” does not refer to someone exempt from U.S. tax. You were referred to as an exempt individual because as a student temporarily in the United States on an F-Visa, you do not have to count the days you were present in the United States as a student during the first 5 years in determining if you are a resident alien under the substantial presence test. See chapter 1.

I am a resident alien. Can I claim any treaty benefits?

Generally, you cannot claim tax treaty benefits as a resident alien. However, there are exceptions. See Effect of Tax Treaties in chapter 1. See also Nonresident aliens who become resident aliens under Students, Apprentices, and Trainees and Treaty Benefits for Resident Aliens in chapter 5.

I am a nonresident alien with no dependents. I am working temporarily for a U.S. company. What return do I file?

You must file Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR–EZ if you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States, or hold any other U.S. source income on which tax was not fully paid by the amount withheld.

You can use Form 1040NR–EZ instead of Form 1040NR if you meet all nine conditions listed under Form 1040NR–EZ in chapter 7.

I came to the United States on June 30th of last year. I have an H-1B Visa. What is my tax status, resident alien or nonresident alien? What tax return do I file?

You were a dual-status alien last year. As a general rule, since you were in the United States for 183 days or more, you have met the substantial presence test and you are taxed as a resident. However, for the part of the year that you were not present in the United States you are a nonresident. File Form 1040. Print “Dual-Status Return” across the top. Attach a statement showing your U.S. source income for the part of the year you were a nonresident. You may use Form 1040NR as the statement. Print “Dual-Status Statement” across the top. See First Year of Residency in chapter 1 for rules on determining your residency starting date. An example of a dual-status resident return is in chapter 6.

When is my Form 1040NR due?

If you are an employee and you receive wages subject to U.S. income tax withholding, you must generally file the 15th day of the 4th month after your tax year ends. If you file for the 2002 calendar year, your return is due April 15, 2003.

If you are not an employee who receives wages subject to U.S. income tax withholding, you must file by the 15th day of the 6th month after your tax year ends. For the 2002 calendar year, file your return by June 16, 2003, because June 15, 2003, falls on a Sunday. For more information on when and where to file, see chapter 7.

My spouse is a nonresident alien. Does he need a social security number?

A social security number (SSN) must be furnished on returns, statements, and other tax-related documents. If your spouse does not have and is not eligible to get an SSN, the IRS will issue him or her an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN).

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident and you choose to treat your nonresident spouse as a resident and file a joint tax return, your nonresident spouse needs an SSN or an ITIN. Alien spouses who are claimed as exemptions or dependents are also required to furnish an SSN or an ITIN.

See Identification Number in chapter 5 for more information.

I am a nonresident alien. Can I file a joint return with my spouse?

Generally, you cannot file as married filing jointly if either spouse was a nonresident alien at any time during the tax year.

However, nonresident aliens married to U.S. citizens or residents can choose to be treated as U.S. residents and file joint returns. For more information on this choice, see Nonresident Spouse Treated as a Resident in chapter 1.

I have an H-1B Visa and my husband has an F-1 Visa. We both lived in the United States all last year and had income. What is the form of should we file? Do we file separate returns or a joint return?

Assuming both of you had these visas for all of last year, you are a resident alien. Your husband is a nonresident alien if he has not been in the United States as a student for more than 5 years. You and your husband can file a joint tax return on Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ if he makes the choice to be treated as a resident for the entire year. See Nonresident Spouse Treated as a Resident in chapter 1. If your husband does not make this choice, you must file a separate return on Form 1040 or Form 1040A. Your husband must file 1040NR or 1040NR–EZ.

Is a “dual-resident taxpayer” the same as a “dual-status taxpayer”?

No. A dual-resident taxpayer is one who is a resident of both the United States and another country under each country’s tax laws. See Effect of Tax Treaties in chapter 1. You are a dual-status taxpayer when you are both a resident alien and a nonresident alien in the same year. See chapter 6.

I am a nonresident alien and invested money in the U.S. stock market through a U.S. brokerage company. Are the dividends and capital gains taxable? If yes, how are they taxed?

The following rules apply if the dividends and capital gains are not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business.

- Capital gains are generally not taxable if you were on the United States for less than 183 days during the year. See Sales or Exchanges of Capital Assets in chapter 4 for more information and exceptions.

- Dividends are taxed at a 30% (or lower treaty) rate. The brokerage company or payor of the dividends should withhold tax at the correct rate. You must file Form 1040NR to receive a refund or pay any additional tax due.

If the capital gains and dividends are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, they are taxed according to the same rules and at the same rates that apply to U.S. citizens and residents.

I am a nonresident alien. I receive U.S. social security benefits. Are my benefits taxable?

If you are a nonresident alien, 85% of any U.S. social security benefits (and the equivalent portion of tier 1 railroad retirement benefits) you receive is subject to the flat 30% tax, unless exempt, or subject to a lower treaty rate. See The 30% Tax in chapter 4.

Do I have to pay taxes on my scholarship?

If you are a nonresident alien and the scholarship is not from U.S. sources, it is not subject to U.S. tax. See Scholarships, Grants, Prizes, and Awards in chapter 2 to determine whether your scholarship is from U.S. sources.

If your scholarship is from U.S. sources or you are a resident alien, your scholarship is subject to U.S. tax according to the following rules.

- If you are a candidate for a degree, you may be able to exclude from your income the part of the scholarship you use to pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required by the educational institution. However, the part of the scholarship you use to pay for other expenses is taxable.
penses, such as room and board, is taxable. See Scholarships and Fellowship Grants in chapter 3 for more information.

- If you are not a candidate for a degree, your scholarship is taxable.

I am a nonresident alien. Can I claim the standard deduction?

Nonresident aliens cannot claim the standard deduction. However, see Students and business apprentices from India, under Itemized Deductions in chapter 5 for an exception.

I am a dual-status taxpayer. Can I claim the standard deduction?

You cannot claim the standard deduction allowed on Form 1040. However, you can itemize any allowable deductions.

I am filing Form 1040NR. Can I claim itemized deductions?

Nonresident aliens can claim some of the same itemized deductions that resident aliens can claim. However, nonresident aliens can claim itemized deductions only if they have income effectively connected with their U.S. trade or business. See Itemized Deductions in chapter 5.

I am not a U.S. citizen. What exemptions can I claim?

Resident aliens can claim personal exemptions and exemptions for dependents in the same way as U.S. citizens. However, nonresident aliens generally can claim only a personal exemption for themselves on their U.S. tax return. There are special rules for residents of Mexico, Canada, Japan, and South Korea; for U.S. nationals; and for students and business apprentices from India. See Exemptions in chapter 5.

What exemptions can I claim as a dual-status taxpayer?

As a dual-status taxpayer, you usually will be able to claim your own personal exemption. Subject to the general rules for qualification, you can claim exemptions for your spouse and dependents when you figure taxable income for the part of the year you are a resident alien. The amount you can claim for these exemptions is limited to your taxable income (figured before subtracting exemptions) for the part of the year you are a resident alien. You cannot use exemptions (other than your own) to reduce taxable income to less than zero for that period.

I am single with a dependent child. I was a dual-status alien in 2002. Can I claim the earned income credit on my 2002 tax return?

If you are a nonresident alien for any part of the year, you cannot claim the earned income credit. See chapter 6 for more information on dual-status aliens.

I am a nonresident alien student. Can I claim an education credit on my Form 1040NR?

If you are a nonresident alien for any part of the year, you generally cannot claim the education credits. However, if you are married and choose to file a joint return with a U.S. citizen or resident spouse, you may be eligible for these credits. See Nonresident Spouse Treated as a Resident in chapter 1.

I am a nonresident alien, temporarily working in the U.S. under a J visa. Am I subject to social security and Medicare taxes?

Generally, services you perform as a nonresident alien temporarily in the United States are not covered by the social security program if they have income effectively connected with their U.S. trade or business. See Social Security and Medicare Taxes in chapter 5.

I am a nonresident alien student. Social security taxes were withheld from my pay in error. How do I get a refund of these taxes?

If social security or Medicare taxes were withheld in error from pay that is not subject to these taxes, contact the employer who withheld the taxes for a refund. If you are unable to get a full refund of the amount from your employer, file a claim for refund with the Internal Revenue Service on Form 843, Claim for Refund and Request for Abatement. See Refund of Taxes Withheld in Error in chapter 8.

I am an alien who will be leaving the United States. What forms do I have to file before I leave?

Before leaving the United States, aliens generally must obtain a certificate of compliance. This document, also popularly known as the sailing permit or departure permit, is part of the income tax form you must file before leaving. You will receive a sailing or departure permit after filling a Form 1040–C or Form 2063. These forms are discussed in chapter 11.

I filed a Form 1040–C when I left the United States. Do I still have to file an annual U.S. tax return?

Form 1040–C is not an annual U.S. income tax return. If an income tax return is required by law, you must file that return even though you already filed a Form 1040–C. Chapters 5 and 7 discuss filing an annual U.S. income tax return.
Appendix A

This appendix contains the statements nonresident alien students must file with Form 8233, Exemption From Withholding on Compensation for Independent (and Certain Dependent) Personal Services of a Nonresident Alien Individual, to claim a tax treaty exemption from withholding of tax on compensation for dependent personal services. For treaty countries not listed, attach a statement in a format similar to those for other treaties. See chapter 8 for more information on withholding.

Belgium, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Poland, and Romania

I was a resident of
[insert the name of the country under whose treaty you claim exemption] on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States for the primary purpose of
[insert the primary purpose of study] before beginning study at the [insert the name of the university or other recognized educational institution at which you study].

I will receive compensation for personal services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and the People’s Republic of China in an amount not in excess of $5,000 for any tax year.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study or training]. I am claiming this exemption only for such period of time as is reasonably necessary to complete the education or training.

Cyprus

I was a resident of Cyprus on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States for the primary purpose of studying at [insert the name of the university or other recognized educational institution at which you study].

I will receive compensation for personal services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Cyprus in an amount not in excess of $2,000 for any tax year. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemption under this treaty for income received as a teacher, researcher, or student before the date of my arrival in the United States.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study or training]. I am claiming this exemption only for such period of time as is necessary to complete, as a full-time student, educational requirements as a candidate for a postgraduate or professional degree from a recognized educational institution.

People’s Republic of China

I was a resident of the People’s Republic of China on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am present in the United States solely for the purpose of
[insert the name of the university or other recognized educational institution] before beginning study at the [insert the name of the university or other recognized educational institution]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of five tax years beginning with the tax year that includes my arrival date.

Egypt

I was a resident of Egypt on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States for the primary purpose of studying at [insert the name of the university or other recognized educational institution at which you study].

I will receive compensation for personal services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Egypt in an amount not in excess of $3,000 for any tax year.

I have not previously claimed an income tax exemption under this treaty for income received as a teacher, researcher, or student before the date of my arrival in the United States.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study or training]. I am claiming this exemption only for such period of time as is necessary to complete, as a full-time student, educational requirements as a candidate for a postgraduate or professional degree from a recognized educational institution.

Germany

I was a resident of the Federal Republic of Germany on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States as a student or business apprentice for the purpose of full-time study or training at [insert the name of the accredited university, college, school or other educational institution]. or, I am temporarily present in the United States as a recipient of a grant, allowance, or award from [insert the name of the nonprofit organization or government institution providing the grant, allowance, or award].

I will receive compensation for personal services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Egypt in an amount not in excess of $2,000 for any tax year, provided such services are performed for the purpose of supplementing funds otherwise available for my maintenance, education, or training.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study or training]. I am claiming this exemption only for such period of time as is necessary to complete, as a full-time student, educational requirements as a candidate for a postgraduate or professional degree from a recognized educational institution.

Indonesia

I was a resident of Indonesia on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States solely for the purpose of
[insert the name of the university or other accredited educational institution at which you study]. or, I am temporarily present in the United States as a recipient of a grant, allowance, or award from [insert the name of the nonprofit organization or government institution providing the grant, allowance, or award].

I will receive compensation for services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Indonesia in an amount not in excess of $5,000 for any tax year.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study or training]. I am claiming this exemption only for such period of time as is necessary to complete, as a full-time student, educational requirements as a candidate for a postgraduate or professional degree from a recognized educational institution.
before beginning study at the U.S. educational institution]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of five tax years beginning with the tax year that includes my arrival date.

Morocco

I was a resident of Morocco on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States for the primary purpose of studying at [insert the name of the university or other recognized educational institution at which you study]. I will receive compensation for personal services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Morocco in an amount not in excess of $2,000 for any tax year.

Philippines

I was a resident of the Philippines on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States for the primary purpose of studying at [insert the name of the university or other recognized educational institution at which you study]. I will receive compensation for personal services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Philippines in an amount not in excess of $3,000 for any tax year. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemption under that treaty for income received as a student before the date of my arrival in the United States.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study at the U.S. educational institution]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of five tax years beginning with the tax year that includes my arrival date.

Pakistan

I am a resident of Pakistan. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States solely as a student at [insert the name of the recognized university, college, or school in the United States at which you study]. I will receive compensation for personal services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Pakistan in an amount not in excess of $5,000 for any tax year.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study at the U.S. educational institution]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of five tax years beginning with the tax year that includes my arrival date.

Spain

I was a resident of Spain on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am a resident of Spain. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an alien. I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study at the U.S. educational institution]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of five tax years beginning with the tax year that includes my arrival date.

Tunisia

I was a resident of Tunisia on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am temporarily present in the United States for the purpose of full-time study, training, or research at [insert the name of the university or other accredited educational institution at which you study, train, or perform research]. I will receive compensation for services performed in the United States. This compensation qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal income tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Tunisia in an amount not in excess of $4,000 for any tax year. I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning study at the U.S. educational institution]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of five tax years beginning with the tax year that includes my arrival date.
Appendix B

This appendix contains the state-ments nonresident alien teachers and researchers must file with Form 8233. Exemption From With-holding on Compensation for Inde-pendent (and Certain Dependent) Personal Services of a Nonresident Alien Individual, to claim a tax treaty exemption from withholding of tax on compensation for depen-dent personal services. For treaty countries not listed, attach a state-ment in a format similar to those for other treaties. See chapter 8 for more information on withholding.

Belgium and Japan

I was a resident of [insert the name of the country under whose treaty you claim the exemp-tion] on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citi-zen. I have not been lawfully ac-corded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant. I have accepted an invitation by the U.S. government, or by a uni-versity or other recognized educa-tional institution in the United States, to come to the United States for the purpose of teaching or engaging in research at [insert the name of the educational institution]. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant. I have a tax treaty with the United States. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemp-tion under this treaty for the purpose of teaching or engaging in research, or participating in scien-tific, technical, or professional con-fferences at [insert the name of the educational institution].

People’s Republic of China

I was a resident of the People’s Republic of China on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been law-fully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am visiting the United States for the purpose of teaching, giving lectures, or conducting research at [insert the name of the educational institution]. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

The teaching, research, or conference compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from __________ to __________) qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and the People’s Republic of China. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemp-tion under that treaty for in-come received as a teacher, lecturer, researcher, or student before the date of my arrival in the United States.

Any research I perform will be undertaken primarily for the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or per-sons.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning the teaching, research, or conference services for which you claim exemption]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation received during a period of two years beginning on that date.

Commonwealth of Independent States (except Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine)

I am a resident of [insert name of C.I.S. member]. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemp-tion under this treaty for or in connection with teaching or research activities. I have accepted an invitation by a governmental agency or insti-tution in the United States, or by an educational or scientific research institution in the United States, to come to the United States for the purpose of teaching, engaging in research, or participating in scien-tific, technical, or professional con-fferences at [insert the name of the governmental agency or institution, educational or scien-tific institution, or organization sponsoring a professional conference], which is a govern-mental agency or institution, an edu-cational or scientific institution, or an organization sponsoring a profes-sional conference. I will receive compensation for my teaching, re-search, or conference activities.

The teaching, research, or con-fERENCE compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from __________ to __________) qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and [insert the name of the country under whose treaty you claim exemp-tion].

Any research I perform will be undertaken primarily for the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or per-sons.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning the teaching, research, or conference services for which you claim exemption]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation received during a period of two years beginning on that date.

Egypt, Hungary, Korea, Philippines, Poland, and Romania

I was a resident of [insert the name of the country under whose treaty you claim exemption] on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citi-zen. I have not been lawfully ac-corded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I have accepted an invitation by the U.S. government (or by a politi-cal subdivision or local authority thereof), or by a university or other recognized educational institution in the United States for a period not expected to exceed two years for the purpose of teaching or engag-ing in research at [insert the name of the educational institution], which is a recognized educational institution. I will receive compensation for my teaching or research activities.

The teaching or research com-pensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from __________ to __________) qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and [insert the name of the country under whose treaty you claim exemp-tion].

Any research I perform will be undertaken primarily for the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or per-sons.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning the teaching, research, or conference services for which you claim exemption]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation received during a period of two years beginning on that date.

Germany

I am a resident of the Federal Re-public of Germany. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemp-tion under this treaty for the purpose of teaching or research activities. The compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from __________ to __________) for these activities qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

I have accepted an invitation by a government agency or insti-tution in the United States, to come to the United States for the purpose of teaching, engaging in

The teaching or research com-pensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from __________ to __________) for these activities qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

I have accepted an invitation by a government agency or insti-tution in the United States, to come to the United States for the purpose of teaching, engaging in research, or participating in scien-tific, technical, or professional con-fferences at [insert the name of the educational institution]. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemp-tion under this treaty for the purpose of teaching or research activities. The teaching or research compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from __________ to __________) qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and [insert the name of the country under whose treaty you claim exemp-tion].

Any research I perform will be undertaken primarily for the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or per-sons.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning the teaching, research, or conference services for which you claim exemption]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation received during a period of two years beginning on that date.
Any research I perform will be undertaken in the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival into the United States before beginning the services for which the exemption is claimed]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of two years beginning on that date.

I have accepted an invitation by __________ to teach at _______ during the period of _______ for the purpose of teaching _______. The teaching compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from _______ to _______), qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Greece.

I was a resident of Greece on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I am a professor or teacher visiting the United States for the purpose of teaching at _______ during the period from _______ to _______, for the purpose of teaching _______. The teaching compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from _______ to _______), qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Greece.

The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of two years beginning on that date.

I was a resident of Greece on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I was a resident of Indonesia on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I have accepted an invitation by __________ to teach or conduct research during the period from _______ to _______, for the purpose of conducting research _______. The research compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from _______ to _______), qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Indonesia.

The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of two years beginning on that date.

I was a resident of Indonesia on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I was a resident of Italy on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival into the United States before beginning the services for which the exemption is claimed]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of two years beginning on that date.

I was a resident of Italy on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I was a resident of Italy on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I was a resident of Italy on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival into the United States before beginning the services for which the exemption is claimed]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of two years beginning on that date.

I was a resident of Italy on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.

I was a resident of Italy on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.
Luxembourg

I am a resident of Luxembourg. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant. I have accepted an invitation by [insert the name of the educational institution where you teach or engage in research], which is a recognized educational institution, to come to the United States for the purpose of teaching or engaging in research at that institution. I will receive compensation for my teaching or research activities.

The teaching or research compensation received during the entire tax year (or during the period from ___ to ___) qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Luxembourg. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemption under that treaty for income received as a teacher or student before the date of my arrival in the United States. Any research I perform will not be carried on for the benefit of any person using or disseminating the results for purposes of profit. I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning the teaching or research services] for which exemption is claimed. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation paid during a period of two years beginning on that date.

Pakistan

I am a resident of Pakistan. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant. I am a professor or teacher visiting the United States for the purpose of teaching at [insert the name of the educational institution at which you teach] which is a recognized educational institution. I will receive compensation for my teaching activities.

The teaching compensation received during the entire tax year (or for the period from ___ to ___) qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Pakistan. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemption under this treaty for income received as a teacher or student before the date of my arrival in the United States. Any research I perform will be undertaken in the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons. I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning the teaching or research services for which exemption is claimed]. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation received during a period of two years beginning on that date.

Trinidad and Tobago

I was a resident of Trinidad and Tobago on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant. I have accepted an invitation by the U.S. government, or by a university or other educational institution in the United States, to come to the United States for the purpose of teaching or engaging in research at [insert the name of the educational institution], which is an educational institution approved by an appropriate governmental education authority. No agreement exists between the government of the United States and the government of Trinidad and Tobago for the provision of my services. I will receive compensation for my teaching or research services.

The teaching or research compensation received during the entire tax year (or for the period from ___ to ___) qualifies for exemption from withholding of federal tax under the tax treaty between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago. I have not previously claimed an income tax exemption under that treaty for income received as a teacher, researcher, or student before the date of my arrival in the United States. Any research I perform will be undertaken in the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons. I arrived in the United States on [insert the date of your last arrival in the United States before beginning the teaching or research services] for which exemption is claimed. The treaty exemption is available only for compensation received during a period of two years beginning on that date.

United Kingdom

I was a resident of the United Kingdom on the date of my arrival in the United States. I am not a U.S. citizen. I have not been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant.
Index

To help us develop a more useful index, please let us know if you have ideas for index entries.
See “Comments and Suggestions” in the “Introduction” for the ways you can reach us.

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