



Supplemental Form W-4 Instructions for Nonresident Aliens

Nonresident aliens must follow special instructions when completing Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Certificate, for compensation paid to such individuals as employees performing dependent personal services in the United States. Compensation for dependent personal services includes amounts paid as wages, salaries, fees, bonuses, commissions, compensatory scholarships, fellowship income, and similar designations for amounts paid to an employee.

Getting tax forms and publications. Go to [If you are an alien individual](#) (that is, an individual who is not a U.S. citizen), specific rules apply to determine if you are a resident alien or a nonresident alien for federal income tax purposes. Generally, you are a resident alien if you meet either the "green card test," or the "substantial presence test," for the calendar year. Any alien individual not meeting either test is generally a nonresident alien. Additionally, a dual-resident alien who applies the so-called "tie-breaker" rules contained within the Resident (or Residence or Fiscal Residence) article of an applicable U.S. income tax treaty in favor of the other Contracting State is treated as a nonresident alien. See Pub. 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens, for more information on the green card test, the substantial presence test, and the first-year choice.

What compensation is subject to withholding and requires a Form W-4?

Compensation paid to a nonresident alien for performing personal services as an employee in the United States is subject to graduated withholding. Compensation for personal services also includes amounts paid as a scholarship or fellowship grant to the extent it represents personal services as an employee.

