



VISAS 101

FOR TRAVEL TO THE UNITED
STATES

OFFICE OF VISA SERVICES
POST OPERATIONS DIVISION
BUREAU OF CONSULAR
AFFAIRS





Today's Topics

- Visa Types – Overview
- How to Apply
- Visa Issuance & Denials
- Communications





Our Mission

To protect
America's borders,
while facilitating
legitimate travel to
the United States.





Visa Types - Immigrant Visas (IVs)

- Immediate Relatives (No numerical limits - Shorter Wait)
 - Spouse, Minor Child, or Parent of a U.S. Citizen
 - Intercountry adoption
- Family Preference (Numerical Limits - Longer Wait)
 - Example - Brother of a U.S. Citizen
- Employment Based (Numerical Limits)
- Diversity Visa Lottery (Numerical Limits)

FY 2012 - More than 482,300* Immigrant Visas issued

* Preliminary FY Numbers





Immigrant Visa Processing



Pre-Processing
at NVC



Interview & Final Decision
at U.S. Embassy or
Consulate



KCC





Visitor (B) Visas

For various travel purposes, including:

- Tourism or visiting family and friends
- Consultation with business associates
- Lecture or speaking event
- Contract negotiation
- Settlement of an estate
- Trade show or exposition
- Scientific, educational, professional, or business convention/conference
- Medical treatment



(not a complete list of all allowable B visa travel purposes)





Other Common Nonimmigrant Visas (NIVs)

Petition-Based:

- Temporary worker (H)
- Fiancé(e) of a U.S. citizen (K)
- Intracompany transferee (L)
- Person with extraordinary ability (O)
- Performing athlete, artist, or entertainer (P)

Program Acceptance Required:

- Student (F)
- Vocational/nonacademic student (M)
- Exchange Visitor (J)





What is Required to Apply in All NIV Cases?

Required to Apply for NIV:

- Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160
- Recent Photograph
- Passport
- Fees
- Evidence of Intention to Return (required for certain types of nonimmigrant visas)
- Additional Documentation, as required



Apply Early!





A Consular Officer Considers...

- Qualification under the law based on the visa type
- Each case on its own merits
- Presumption of Immigrant Intent (as applicable by visa type)
 - Section 214(b) of the INA
- Fraud considerations, review, if applicable
- Ensures applicant has no ineligibilities or that they have received a DHS (Department of Homeland Security) waiver if needed





Contacting Us – U.S. Embassy or Consulate



Ambassador

DCM



Consular Section Chief

NIV Chief

IV Chief

Citizen Services

Your first point of contact - the U.S. embassy or consulate where the applicant applied

<http://travel.state.gov/congress>





Where to Find Information

Our websites - <http://travel.state.gov>

Inquiries from Congressional Staff :

- Congressional Inquiries: (202) 663-1516, visanet@state.gov
- National Visa Center: (603) 334-0828, nvccongressional@state.gov
- For complicated cases: hill-liaison@state.gov

Inquiries from the Public:

- Public Inquiries: (202) 663-1225
- National Visa Center: (603) 334-0700

Other websites: (USCIS) <http://uscis.gov>, (CBP) <http://cbp.gov>)





Additional Assistance

Expedited Interview Appointments

- Check the website for the embassy or consulate where the applicant will apply (<http://www.usembassy.gov>)

Business Travelers (applying for B Visitor Visas)

- Companies in the United States:
 - Business Visa Center - (202) 663-3198
businessvisa@state.gov
- Companies overseas:
 - U.S. Embassy/Consulate Business Facilitation Programs

Students and Exchange Visitors

- Student/Exchange Visitor Visa Center :
 - fmjvisas@state.gov





Questions?

