



THE STRAIGHT FACTS ON U.S. VISAS IN BRAZIL

Myth: The U.S. embassy and consulates in Brazil refuse the majority of visa applications submitted by Brazilians.

Fact: Our consular sections in Brazil issue visas to the majority of applicants, including those applying for tourism and business visas. Brazil-wide, our three consulates (Rio de Janeiro, Recife, and Sao Paulo) and the U.S. embassy in Brasilia issued more than one million nonimmigrant visas in FY 2014. The vast majority of nonimmigrant visa applications were approved.

Myth: The U.S. government does not care about business travelers and does not understand how important these travelers are to the U.S. economy.

Fact: The U.S. government welcomes Brazilian business travelers and continues to improve the process of applying for a visa. We endeavor to protect the U.S. border while facilitating the travel of legitimate visitors, especially from major sources of visitors such as Brazil. Increased travel strengthens our people-to-people ties and enhances both our economies.

U.S. embassies and consulates have established procedures to expedite interview appointments for business travelers. U.S. officials work closely with business groups in more than 100 countries, including Brazil, to streamline the visa process for business travelers. The Department's Business Visa Center can explain visa application procedures to U.S. companies and organizations, and convention and sporting event organizers who invite employees, current and prospective business clients, partners, or athletic teams to the United States. U.S. businesses and organizations may contact businessvisa@state.gov, or call 202-485-7675 for more information.

Myth: The U.S. visa process discourages Brazilians from visiting the United States.

Fact: The number of visa applicants in Brazil has nearly doubled since 2010, and the Department of State has invested heavily in new buildings and staff to reduce the wait time for an interview. In 2014, our embassy and consulates in Brazil issued more than one million nonimmigrant visas and over 2.2 million Brazilians traveled to the United States. The

U.S. embassy and consulates in Brazil are meeting the increasing demand for visa services.

Myth: An applicant needs to know someone in the embassy or consulate to get a visa.

Fact: An applicant's qualifications – as presented in the visa application and at the visa interview – and U.S. law are the only bases on which we make visa decisions. U.S. law prohibits embassy and consulate officials from providing unofficial assistance to visa applicants. Knowing someone in the embassy or consulates will not help you get a visa.

Myth: Understanding the visa application process is extremely difficult.

Fact: We strive to clearly explain the visa application process for visa applicants in Brazil. We created a Portuguese website to better share information (<http://portuguese.brazil.usembassy.gov/pt/visas.html>). Applicants can also call (02) 976-8500 to 02 if they cannot find the information they need on our web sites. The U.S. government works



to ensure that the visa process is as open and transparent as possible. Some who claim to be “visa facilitators” profit by making the process appear more complicated than it really is.

Myth: The U.S. embassy will only give visas to rich people.

Fact: Consular officers are trained to look at all of the facts presented during a visa interview, not just an individual’s financial status, when determining eligibility. During a visa interview, consular officers look at each application individually and consider the applicant’s circumstances, travel plans, financial resources, and ties outside of the United States that will ensure the applicant’s departure after a temporary visit.

