



THE STRAIGHT FACTS ON U.S. VISAS IN MEXICO

Myth: The U.S. embassy and consulates in Mexico refuse the majority of visa applications submitted by Mexican tourists and business travelers.

Fact: Our consular sections in Mexico issue visas to the vast majority of Mexican nationals who apply for visas to the United States. The U.S. embassy in Mexico City and the nine U.S. consulates (Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara, Hermosillo, Matamoros, Merida, Monterrey, Nogales, Nuevo Laredo, and Tijuana) issued almost 1.5 million nonimmigrant visas in FY 2014.

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 Mexican 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. 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 Mexico, to streamline the visa process for business travelers. The Department's Business Visa Center can explain visa application procedures to U.S. companies, 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: Understanding the visa application process is extremely difficult.

Fact: We strive to clearly explain the visa application process for visa applicants in Mexico. We created a Spanish website to better share information (<http://spanish.mexico.usembassy.gov/es/visas.html>). Applicants can also refer to the directory of all U.S. consulates

in Mexico found in <http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/edirectory.html> to contact specific posts. 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 or consulates 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. While conducting visa interviews, 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.



Myth: An invitation letter will help your chances in getting a visa.

Fact: No particular document can qualify someone for a U.S. visa. While an invitation letter is sometimes useful, consular officers focus on all the facts presented in the application and during the interview when making eligibility decisions.

Myth: The applicant was refused because the consular officer did not properly look at the applicant's documents and the interview was too short.

Fact: Document review and interview length are less important than the information shared by applicants with consular officers. Officers rely more on the application form and their interviews with applicants than on the documents. Officers aim to conduct efficient interviews, directly focusing on the pertinent issues. Generally, longer interviews are conducted only when necessary. Quicker interviews also allow consular sections to receive more interviewees in a timely manner.

