# U.S. Embassy
**Kigali, Rwanda**

Please follow the steps below *before* your immigrant visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda.

## Step 1: Schedule a medical exam in Rwanda

As soon as you receive your appointment date, you must schedule a medical exam in Rwanda. Click the "Medical Exam Instructions" button below for a list of designated doctors' offices in Rwanda. Please schedule and attend a medical exam with the doctor below before your interview.

**Medical Exam Instructions**

## Step 2: Complete your pre-interview checklist

It is important that you bring all required original documents to your interview. We've created a checklist that will tell you what to bring. Please print the checklist below and bring it to your interview along with the listed documents.

**Pre-Interview Checklist**

## Step 3: Review interview guidelines

Read our interview guidelines to learn about any special actions that you need to take *before* your visa interview.

**Interview Guidelines**

## Contact information

U.S. Embassy Kigali
2657 Avenue de la Gendarmerie
(Kacyiru)
Kigali, Rwanda

Phone:
Call Center

Email:
consularkigali@state.gov

Website:
rw.usembassy.gov

Reschedule:
Customer service center

Map:

## Other links

- Diversity visa instructions
- After your interview
- Frequently asked questions
- Where to get civil documents

## Social media

## Interview Preparation Video

Updated November 12, 2020

# Medical Exam Instructions

All immigrant visa applicants, regardless of age, require a medical examination prior to the issuance of a visa. Only a physician accredited by the U.S. Embassy can perform this exam. **It is your responsibility to schedule a medical exam with the physician listed below before your visa interview appointment** at the U.S. Embassy. Medical examination results from other physicians will not be accepted.

### Approved physician

**Dr. Jean-Baptiste Gasasira**
*Deva Medical Center*
KG 9 AV 519 Street, No. 6,
Nyarutarama, Kigali, Rwanda
Telephone: 0788503434

## Items to bring to your medical examination

Please schedule your medical exam *at least* one (1) week before your visa interview to ensure the exam results are ready before your interview. Bring the following items to your medical exam:

- Your visa interview appointment letter,
- Photo identification (your passport or national ID card),
- Four (4) recently taken passport-sized color photographs, and
- A copy of your immunization records.
- DS-260 confirmation page

Any medical examination fees, including x-ray and blood test fees, must be paid directly to the examining physician. The basic exam fee is USD $60.00 for all applicants, regardless of age. Any required vaccinations or additional tests may be charged separately.

## During the medical exam

The medical examination will include a medical history review, physical examination, and chest X-ray, gonorrhea test, and blood tests (for applicants 15 years of age or older). The United States also requires tuberculosis (TB) testing for all applicants two years of age and older. Please be prepared to discuss your medical history, medications you are taking, and current treatments you are undergoing. More information on general medical requirements for U.S. immigrants is available here.

U.S. immigration law requires immigrant visa applicants to obtain certain vaccinations prior to the issuance of a visa. Current immigrant visa vaccination requirements are available here. You can also read Frequently Asked Questions about our medical examination requirements online.

## After the medical exam

When your examination is completed, the doctor will either provide you with exam results in a sealed envelope or send them directly to the U.S. Consulate. IF GIVEN AN ENVELOPE TO CARRY TO YOUR INTERVIEW, **DO NOT OPEN THIS ENVELOPE**. Instead, bring it to your visa interview. Any x-rays taken will be given to you. You **DO NOT** need to bring the x-rays to your visa interview unless you suffer from tuberculosis. However, you **must** carry the x-rays with you when you travel to the United States for the first time. The medical report must be less than six (6) months old when you enter the United States as an immigrant.

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# Pre-Interview Checklist ☑

**Please use the list below to determine the items that every applicant must bring to the immigrant visa interview. Any documents that are not in either English or French must be accompanied by a certified English translation. Rwandan civil documents that are issued in Kinyarwanda, French, and English do not need to be translated:**

- ☐ A copy of your NVC interview letter (does not apply to Diversity Visa, fiancé(e), adoptive, or asylee/refugee applicants).
- ☐ Unexpired passport valid for six (6) months beyond your intended date of entry to the United States.
- ☐ Two (2) color photographs of each person applying for a visa (5 cm x 5 cm, or 2 inch x 2 inch). Please review our online photo requirements.
- ☐ Confirmation page from the Form DS-260 Application for an Immigrant Visa you submitted online at ceac.state.gov. *Exception: K visa applicants should complete a Form DS-160 instead.*
- ☐ Your **original** birth certificate (if born in Rwanda, you must submit an *acte de naissance)* and a photocopy.
- ☐ Medical examination results in a sealed envelope (*if the physician gives you these results)*.
- ☐ Original birth certificates and photocopies for all children of the principal applicant (*if he or she is not accompanying the principal applicant, only a certified copy of the birth certificate is required*).

**Applicants who fall into any category listed in italics below should bring these additional documents:**

*For family-based visa applications (refugee and asylee follow-to-join family members are exempt from this requirement)*:

- ☐ The appropriate Form I-864 Affidavit of Support for **each** financial sponsor along with a photocopy of the sponsor's IRS transcript or most recent U.S. federal income tax return, and any relevant W-2s. (*Exception: The petitioning spouse of K visa applicants should complete a Form I-134 instead.)*
- ☐ Proof of your U.S. petitioner's status and domicile in the United States (photocopy of a U.S. passport, naturalization certificate, or lawful permanent resident card).
- ☐ Evidence of the relationship between the petitioner and visa applicant (such as photographs, letters, or emails).

*If you are 18 years of age or older*: You must document your marital status by bringing all documents that apply:

- ☐ Any **original** marriage certificates and a photocopy of all marriages you have entered into.
- ☐ Any **original** divorce or spousal death certificates, and a photocopy.
- ☐ *If you are older than 16 years of age:* The **original** police certificate from your country of current residence and countries of previous residence for 6 months or longer. If these three items are **all** true, you must bring a more recent police certificate to the interview:
  1. You are older than 16 years;
  2. You obtained a police certificate more than one year ago; and
  3. You still live in the country that issued the police certificate.
- ☐ *For employment-based visa applications:* Letter from your U.S. employer dated less than one month ago.
- ☐ *If you have ever been convicted of a crime*: Court and criminal records.

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## Pre-Interview Checklist ☑

- ☐ *If you have served in any country's military*: Military records.
- ☐ *If you are adopted:* Adoption papers or custody documents, and a photocopy.
- ☐ *If you are the petitioner's stepchild:* The **original** marriage certificate of the petitioner and your biological parent, and a photocopy along with divorce records for any previous marriages of either parent.
- ☐ *If you have children:* Birth records of any unmarried children under age 21, even if those children are not applying for a visa.

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# Interview Guidelines

## Sending documents to the U.S. Embassy Kigali

If you need to send us any documents, please DO NOT mail them to us directly. Instead, visit ais.usvisa-info.com and ask for information on courier services. Please do not send any original documents to us; only send photocopies via courier or mail. You may bring original documents (plus a photocopy for the embassy's files) to your visa interview.

## Rescheduling or cancelling your interview

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please email consularkigali@state.gov to schedule a new appointment date. **There may be a significant wait before the next available appointment,** so please attempt to attend the date already assigned. For some family-based and employment preference visa categories, a visa became available within the month you have been scheduled by NVC. DV applicants should be aware that visas are numerically limited and must be issued by September 30 of the program year. There is no guarantee that a visa will still be available on the date of your rescheduled interview. Please carefully consult the Visa Bulletin before you decide to reschedule your interview.

**Please note:** *You need to register your original NVC/KCC appointment online before you can reschedule it. Rescheduling is only possible on a date after your assigned appointment.*

## Security screening procedures

All visitors to the U.S. Embassy must follow certain security procedures. Any visitor who declines to be screened by U.S. Embassy security personnel will be unable to enter the embassy. Please leave large bags and electronics at home. You will not be permitted to bring them into the embassy. To avoid delaying your entry and that of those in line behind you, please bring only what is required for your interview. You should not arrive more than 15 minutes before your appointment as space is limited in our waiting room.

## Accompanying persons

The following persons may accompany a visa applicant to their interview:

- Interpreter: Applicants may bring ONE interpreter if they do not speak English, French, Kinyarwanda, or Swahili well enough to participate in an interview.
- Special Needs Visitors: Applicants may bring ONE person to help if they are elderly, disabled, or a minor child.

Attorneys are **not** permitted to accompany clients into the waiting room or to their interview.

## Immigrant visa fees

You must pay all required fees to either the National Visa Center or via the appointment website prior to your interview, except DVs who pay on the day of the interview. All fees may be paid in U.S. dollars or Rwandan francs. We accept cash only. *Please note that if you are found ineligible to receive a visa, the application fee cannot be refunded*. A complete list of fees can be found here.

## Do not make travel plans outside of Rwanda

If your visa is approved, we will keep your passport at the embassy while we prepare your immigration packet and print a visa for your passport. We will let you know when to return to pick up your passport. If you have to travel within Rwanda while your passport is still with us, please make sure you have a valid picture ID other than your passport.

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# After Your Visa Interview

A consular officer can make a decision on a visa application only after reviewing the formal application and interviewing the applicant. ***There is no guarantee that you will receive a visa.*** Do not sell your house, car or property, resign from your job or make non-refundable flight or other travel arrangements until you have received your immigrant visa.

## If more information is needed

Sometimes a consular officer is unable to make a decision on a visa application because he/she needs to review additional documents or the case requires further administrative processing. *When additional documents are requested,* the consular officer will give you a refusal letter that asks you to submit additional documents. The letter will include instructions on how to send those documents to the Embassy.

*Administrative processing* takes additional time after the interview. Most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days. However, the timing varies based on the circumstances of each case. Before inquiring about the status of administrative processing, please wait **at least** 60 days after your interview.

## What happens after visa approval

**Passport, Visa, and Sealed Immigrant Packet** – We will place your immigrant visa on a page in your passport. Please review your visa to make sure there are no spelling errors. We will also give you a sealed envelope containing documents that you must give to U.S. immigration authorities when you arrive in the United States for the first time. ***Do not open this envelope. You must carry it with you. Do not put it in your checked luggage.*** If you receive X-rays during your medical examination, carry those with you and give them to the U.S. immigration authorities.

**USCIS Immigrant Fee** – All individuals who are issued immigrant visas overseas must **pay an Immigrant Fee** to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) ***prior to traveling*** to the United States. This fee is for processing your residency status and printing your Permanent Resident Card. The only people exempt from paying this fee are: children entering the United States under the Hague Process, returning residents, and people traveling on a fiancé(e) (K) visa.

**When You Should Travel** – You must enter the United States *before* the expiration date on your visa, which is usually six months from the date of printing. Your visa cannot be extended and all fees are nonrefundable. The principal applicant must enter **before or at the same time** as other family members with visas. Unless they are eligible for benefits under the Child Status Protection Act, children who are issued a visa before turning 21 years of age must enter the United States ***before*** their actual 21st birthday to avoid losing their immigrant status.

**Getting a Green Card** – Your Form I-551 Permanent Resident Card, also known as a green card, will be automatically mailed to the address in the United States that you write in your visa application form. This is a very important document that proves you have permission to reside in the United States. *If you plan to travel outside the U.S.* ***before*** *your green card arrives*: Please consult USCIS's and CBP's websites for rules about what documents you need to re-enter the country. We also recommend you check with the airline to ensure you are in compliance with their rules. *Once your card is issued, you should not stay outside of the United States for more than one year. If you do, you will lose your status as a Lawful Permanent Resident.*

**Children's Issues** – In the United States, children are required to have certain vaccinations before they can enroll in school. We recommend that you bring your child's complete vaccination records with you to the United States. If your child is adopted, you have full custody as a result of a divorce, or you share custody with another parent, you should bring a copy of all applicable adoption or custody papers from the authoritative court in your home country. You will need these papers (translated into English) for issues such as school enrollment, medical care, and eventual citizenship.

**Information for New Immigrants** – Please visit the USCIS web page for helpful information on moving to the United States. You can read their publication "Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants" online

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# Diversity Visa Applicants – Additional Information

If you are interviewing for a Diversity Visa (DV), all of the above instructions apply to you. Please schedule and attend a medical examination prior to your visa interview and gather the required documents.

*Below are additional instructions that apply **only** to DV applicants.*

## Bring to your interview

In addition to the documents listed on the Pre-Interview Checklist in this package, DV applicants should also bring the following items to your visa interview:

- ☐ Appointment information printed from the "Entrant Status Check" on the E-DV website.
- ☐ Documents showing that you have either a qualifying high school education **OR** have two years of qualifying work experience in the last five years immediately prior to application (for the principal applicant only; more information is available online). For applicants who finished secondary school in Rwanda, this is normally evidenced by the Rwanda Education Board A-Level National Exam Certificate, Cambridge A-Level exam certificate, or TVET Certificate. *Please bring the original school certificates plus one photocopy.*
- ☐ Payment in cash of the $330 Diversity Visa Application Fee.

## Review your DV Lottery entry

Prior to your visa interview, we recommend that you review the data on your initial E-DV entry. On your initial E-DV application, you must have correctly entered your marital status. If you are legally married you must have listed your spouse, even if you are currently separated from him/her (unless your spouse is a U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident).

Additionally, you must have listed ALL of your living children who are unmarried and under 21 years old. This includes your natural children, your spouse's children, or children you have formally adopted in accordance with the laws of your country.

***Failure to have listed an existing spouse or children at the time of your entry in the Diversity Visa lottery will result in the denial of your visa and visas for your family.*** Any fees paid to the U.S. government in support of your visa application(s) are nonrefundable. If you failed to include a child who had already been born, or a spouse to whom you were married when you entered the lottery, you should not proceed with the visa application. You can review the eligibility requirements online.

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