Interview Preparation

* [Print](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3731.html)
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For a select number of US Embassies and Consulates, the National Visa Center (NVC) arranges for the scheduling of the applicant’s interview.

After receiving notification from the NVC that the applicant has an interview scheduled, take the following actions:

**Warning:** Do not take any action described below without authorization from the NVC. Taking action without the NVC's authorization could result in a delay in processing.

Notification from the NVC

**After receiving notification from the NVC that the applicant has been scheduled for an interview:**

1. **Review** the information sent by the NVC to determine the Date, Time, and Location of the applicant’s immigrant visa interview.
2. **Prepare** for the [Medical Examination](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3739.html). (Includes panel physician list by country)
3. **Ensure** that all necessary [original documents](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3741.html) will be available at the time of the interview.
4. **Review** the [U.S. Embassy/Consulate General-specific interview guidelines](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3742.html).
5. **Review** the [Important Visa Interview Notices](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3743.html).
6. **Questions:** Please see the [Immigrant Visa Interview Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3744.html).

NOTE: For information regarding how to obtain a social security number, please visit the [Social Security Administration’s](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnvisa/help_immigrant.htm) website.

Medical Examination

All intending immigrants, regardless of age, are required to have a medical examination before a visa can be issued. Medical examinations may only be done by a specially appointed panel physician.

The medical examination will include a medical history, physical examination, chest X-ray and blood tests for syphilis. The physical examination will include at a minimum examination of the eyes, ears, nose and throat, extremities, heart, lungs, abdomen, lymph nodes, skin and external genitalia.

* [Preparing for the medical examination](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3739.html#Preparing_for_med_exam)
* [Medical Examination Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3745.html)

 Preparing for the medical examination

**The applicant’s medical examination must be performed** by one of a panel of doctors authorized to complete the medical examination and x-ray of U.S. visa applicants. The following steps will walk an applicant through the process of preparing for the medical examination.

1. **Select** the first three letters of the applicant’s case number from the following dropdown list (the three letters is the abbreviation for the Embassy where you will be interviewed).
2. **Click** on Panel Physician List.

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( ***Note - About Adobe Reader*** : *In order to download the Panel Physician List, you will need to have a recent version of Adobe Reader installed on your computer. If you do not have Adobe Reader on your computer, please visit* [*http://www.adobe.com*](http://www.adobe.com)*. There is no charge to download Adobe Reader. Please note that you may receive a "file corrupted" error message if you are using an older version of Adobe Reader.*)

1. **Contact one of the designated physician’s offices to arrange the applicant’s medical exam.** Please give the doctor the date of the immigrant visa appointment or explain that the exam is for an immigrant visa applicant. The panel physician will advise you of the cost of the exam and tests.
2. **Obtain** the applicant’s vaccination records, immunization records, and prior chest x-rays.
3. **Bring** the following to the examination:
   * Copies of prior medical records, immunization records, and prior chest x-rays
   * The applicant’s passport, identity card, laissez-passer, or travel document
4. **Questions:** If the applicant has any special medical conditions or to answer any general questions about the medical examination, please see the [Medical Examination Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3745.html).

Interview Preparation - Required Documents

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Required Documents

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all required documents are available at the time of the interview. While the applicant may have previously submitted the majority of required documents to the National Visa Center (NVC), the applicant may not have submitted all necessary documents to the NVC. Failure to bring all required documentation to the interview may result in a delay in visa issuance or a visa refusal. The following documents must be available for the interview:

* Appointment Letter
* Passport(s) valid for six months beyond the intended date of entry into the United States
* [Police Certificate(s)](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3195.html#police)
* [Birth Certificate(s)](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3195.html#certificates)
* [Court and prison records, if applicable](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3195.html#records)
* [Military records, if applicable](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3195.html#military_records)
* [Color photographs](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3740.html)
* [Marriage Certificate, if applicable](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3195.html#marriage_certificate)
* Evidence of financial support (e.g. [Affidavit of Support](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_1335.html#affidavit_support), a notarized offer of employment, or evidence of assets)
* [Divorce decree or death certificate of spouse, if applicable](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3195.html#marriages_termination)
* Family-based cases: All original documents used to establish the relationship between the petitioner and the applicant
* Employment-based cases: A recent letter from the prospective employer confirming the essential elements of the job offer

**Note:** All documents not in English or in the official language of the country in which the interview takes place MUST be accompanied by a certified translation into English. Translations must be certified by a competent translator and sworn to before a Notary Public.

Interview Preparation - Embassy/Consulate General-specific interview guidelines

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Embassy/Consulate General-specific interview guidelines

Several US Embassies and Consulates have information that they want to ensure that applicants have before their interview. This information may vary from security considerations to directions to the interview location. To determine if the embassy/consulate where the visa interview will take place has any location-specific guidelines:

1. **Select** the first three letters of the applicant’s NVC case number from the following dropdown list.
2. **Click** on US Embassy/Consulate-specific information.

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In order to download US Embassy/Consulate General-specific information, you will need to have a recent version of Adobe Reader installed on your computer. If you do not have Adobe Reader on your computer, please visit <http://www.adobe.com>. There is no charge to download Adobe Reader.

Please note that you may receive a "file corrupted" error message if you are using an older version of Adobe Reader.

Interview Preparation - Important Visa Interview Notices

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Important Visa Interview Notices

The applicant should be aware of the following information prior to the interview:

* Failure to bring a copy of the appointment letter to the interview may delay the interview
* No assurance can be given in advance that a visa will be issued. A consular officer can make a decision only after the applicant’s formal application and documents are reviewed, and the applicant interviewed.
* The applicant is advised to NOT make any travel arrangements, dispose of any property, or give up employment until the visa has been issued.
* An immigrant visa is usually valid for a maximum of six months from the date of issuance. However, applicants should note that the validity of the visa is limited to the validity of the applicant’s medical examination.  Therefore, some visas may be valid for less than six months.  The applicant must travel and apply for admission to the United States within the validity period of the visa (meaning, before the visa expires as shown on the visa Expiration Date).
* The interviewing office will make every effort to expedite the applicant’s visa application on the day of the interview; however, it is a process that requires several hours. It is possible that the applicant will have to spend several hours in the office before final action can be taken on the application. Should complications arise, it is unlikely that the applicant will receive a visa on the day of the appointment; the applicant may have to return to the US Embassy/Consulate General another time.
* Applicants who were previously issued J1 visas and studied, worked, or lived in the United States as exchange visitors (and those who are currently in the U.S. as exchange visitors) should be aware that the two-year foreign residence requirement may apply to them. Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) provides that certain aliens admitted to the U.S. under INA 101(a)(15)(J) are subject to a two-year foreign residence and physical presence. The requirement also applies to spouses and children of the J1 visa holders if they entered the U.S. under the exchange visitor program.
* An immigrant visa may not be issued if there is a finding of ineligibility under section 212(e). The consular officer will provide those affected by this requirement with information about how this ineligibility may be overcome.
* If the applicant is 20 years old and the applicant's 21st birthday is prior to the appointment date, please immediately contact the U.S. Embassy/Consulate General where the applicant is scheduled for an interview so that they can advise you whether an earlier appointment is possible. Visa categories are based upon the age of the applicant at the time of visa issuance, rather than when the petition was filed, and failure to receive a visa prior to the applicant's 21st birthday may mean that the applicant is no longer eligible for an immigrant visa at this time.

Failure to appear

Section 203(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act requires that an intending immigrant pursue his/her visa application within one year from the date he/she is informed that it is possible to do so. Receiving notification from the NVC that a visa interview appointment has been set is notice to the applicant that it is possible to pursue an application for a visa. If the applicant fails to do so within one year from the date of the interview, the application and any visa petition approved for the applicant will be cancelled.

Immigrants Advised to Carry Immunization and Other Records to United States

Every state in the United States now requires that children have a record of complete immunization at the time of a child’s first enrollment into school. In most states, this applies to transfer students entering any grade. Therefore, the US Public Health Services (USPHS) strongly recommends that children entering the country should either have evidence of immunity consisting of physician documentation of prior disease, or a record of immunizations.

Panel physicians shall inform immigrant visa applicants at the time of examination that problems may be encountered should they enter the United States without proper health records and certifications of vaccinations, and they shall urge the applicants to obtain such documents from their private physicians, local health departments, or schools prior to departure.

Immigrant Visa Interview - Appointment Date, Time, and Location (FAQs)

* [Print](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3744.html)
* [Email](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3744.html)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

* [**Appointment Date, Time, and Location**](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3744.html)
* [**Medical Examination**](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3745.html)
* [**Photographs**](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3746.html)
* [**Original Documents**](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3747.html)
* [**Contact Information**](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_3748.html)

Appointment Date, Time, and Location

**How will I know when the applicant’s interview is scheduled?**

For most US Embassies and US Consulates, the National Visa Center, NVC, will send appointment letters to all interested parties once the case is scheduled for an interview. The principal applicant, petitioner, and attorney/agent of record (if applicable) will each receive a copy of the appointment letter. The appointment letter will provide the reader with the date, time, and location of the applicant’s visa interview. The appointment letter should be brought to the visa interview.