

# Nonimmigrant Visa Frequently Asked Questions

## Before the Interview

### 1. How do I apply for a nonimmigrant visa to the United States?

Complete procedures for applying for a nonimmigrant visa are outlined on our website:

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk>.

1. Complete your DS-160 Online Visa Application at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
2. Visit <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk> and create an account ID.
3. Pay the application fee using the instructions on the website.
4. Schedule an appointment for your visa interview online at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk> or by phone through the Call Center. This service will be free of charge.
5. Appear at your selected location and time for your interview.
6. If the visa is approved, applicants will receive their passports with finished visas through the courier service.
7. If the visa application requires further administrative processing or more documentation, applicants will be informed of next steps at the interview.
8. If the visa application cannot be approved, documents and passports will be returned to the applicant immediately after the interview.

## Nonimmigrant Visa Categories

Nonimmigrant Visa Categories	Fees
Tourist (B-1/B-2), Student (F and M), Exchange Program (J), Crew Member (C1/D), Journalist (I)	\$160
Petition-based visa categories: H, L, O, P, Q, R	\$190
E -Treaty Trader/Investor	\$205
Fiancé Visa (K)	\$265

Fees will be charged in Pakistani Rupees equivalent to the U.S. Dollar.

Student (F-1) and exchange visitor (J-1) visa applications may require additional documents. Information regarding student documentation can be found [here](#). Information regarding exchange visitor documentation can be found [here](#).

All visa interview appointments are scheduled through <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk>

All visa applicants must appear in person for an interview (applicants applying for A or G diplomatic/international organization-type visas are exempted from this requirement).

### 2. Arriving for Your Interview

All applicants should use Diplomatic Shuttle Service from 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Quaid-E-Azam University Road, G-5 Islamabad for their interviews. For complete instructions, please see our website (<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk>) or contact your local [Call Center](#).

### **3. Visa Wait Times**

The average wait time for an interview is three to ten days from the date of application submission. In addition, administrative processing requirements following the interview may increase the amount of time a successful applicant will wait before receiving a visa. We recommend that applicants submit visa applications at least three months before they intend to travel to the United States and do not finalize travel plans until actually receiving the visa.

### **4. What documents do I need to bring to the interview?**

The most important part of the interview is the conversation between the applicant and the consular officer. In many cases, the consular officer will determine an applicant's qualification for a visa without extensive document review. However, this does not mean that applicants should not bring any documentation. Applicants are encouraged to bring documents they believe will demonstrate compelling reasons to depart the United States and an intention to abide by the terms of the visa.

### **5. I would like to provide information in support of the nonimmigrant visa application of my relative, friend, or colleague. What should I do?**

You are welcome to provide the applicant with information or documents that may support his or her application. Please note that consular officers do not review most visa applications prior to the applicant's interview. Therefore, we are unable to accept letters of invitation or other supporting documentation prior to the interview. This regulation ensures that all applicants receive fair, unprejudiced consideration in accordance with U.S. law. During the interview, applicants may present documentation or other information upon the consular officer's request.

### **6. Medical Treatment or Illness/Death of a Family Member**

Applicants who need to travel to the United States urgently for emergency medical treatment or the sudden illness or death of a family member may be eligible for an expedited interview appointment. In such cases, applicants should submit their request for an expedited appointment via the online appointment system at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk>. After you have submitted your request for an emergency appointment, the Embassy will review the request and you will be notified whether the appointment is approved or denied. We will make every effort to accommodate approved requests for the nearest business day, however we cannot guarantee appointment availability. The Embassy reserves the right to determine what constitutes an emergency. Any case that is determined not to be an emergency will need to schedule for a later date according to the online nonimmigrant visa appointment schedule at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk>.

There is no specific set of documentation required for a non-immigrant visa. However, an applicant may prefer to bring the following documents that may establish his/her eligibility for urgent consideration:

- Medical reports from the Pakistani Hospital
- A letter from the U.S. hospital regarding the estimated cost required for the treatment
- A letter from the U.S. hospital regarding the length of treatment
- An appointment letter from the U.S. hospital

- Financial statements that you can pay the medical expenses
- Medical diagnosis from a local physician, explaining the nature of the ailment and the reason you need treatment in the U.S.

## **After the Interview**

### **1. The officer said administrative processing was required for my case. What does this mean? When will my visa be ready? Can you expedite this processing?"**

After the interview, many visa applications necessitate further routine but required administrative processing, an integral part of the visa adjudication process that can be neither waived nor expedited. Individuals whose applications require this processing will be informed of that fact at the conclusion of their interview. Most administrative processing is completed within 30 to 90 days of the visa interview, but some cases do take longer. We cannot predict how long this processing will take for any particular case. Please remember to apply for your visa at least 3 months in advance of any travel plans in order to allow time for administrative processing, and do not finalize your travel plans until actually receiving the visa.

### **2. What is the status of my application?**

You can use our online visa status check tool to find out the status of any non-immigrant visa application filed within the last year. Click [here](#) - then select your application location and type in your application ID (listed as your "confirmation no." on your bar-coded DS-160 confirmation page) to retrieve your application status.

### **3. I have to travel soon and my passport is at the Embassy. Can I have my passport returned?**

Yes. Please submit your passport return request [here](#) and your passport will be returned via courier service. Please allow a minimum of one week to receive your passport. When your visa processing is complete you will need to re-submit your passport to your nearest Collection Center and pay a courier fee to later have your passport returned from the Embassy. Instructions on how to submit your passport through the Collection Center are available here: <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/pk/pk-niv-documentsubmissioninfo.asp>.

### **4. The consular officer or Embassy staff member asked me to submit documents in order to continue administrative processing. How do I submit the documents?**

Please send additional documents electronically by clicking [here](#). You may also submit your documents by dropping them off at your nearest Collection Center. For instructions on how to arrange to drop off items and for the locations of Collection Centers, please see click [here](#). If the consular officer asked you to reappear at the Embassy with new documents, you may come to the Embassy on any working day from 08:30 - 11:00. You do not need to pay an additional fee or request an appointment, but you will need to bring the letter from the consular officer requesting the documents.

### **5. How can I update my contact information?**

After you have submitted your online application you cannot make changes. Please contact your local [Call Center](#) for assistance.

## **6. The consular officer refused my visa application. Why? Can I appeal the decision?**

U.S. immigration law requires consular officers to view every visa applicant as an intending immigrant until the applicant proves otherwise.

Section 214(b) is part of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). It states:

Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to a nonimmigrant status...

The most frequent basis for a refusal concerns the requirement that the prospective visitor possess a residence abroad he or she has no intention of abandoning. Applicants prove the existence of such residence by demonstrating that they have ties abroad that would compel them to leave the United States at the end of the temporary stay. The law places this burden of proof on the applicant.

Strong ties differ from country to country, city to city, individual to individual. Some examples of ties can be a job, a house, a family, a bank account. "Ties" are the various aspects of your life that bind you to your country of residence: your possessions, employment, social and family relationships.

You cannot appeal the decision. However, you may reapply for a visa. The decision as to whether or not you qualified for a visa was primarily based on an assessment of your personal situation. If your situation has not changed, the decision is unlikely to change. We recommend that you reapply only if your situation has changed significantly, and:

- You can provide new evidence demonstrating your ties to Pakistan.
- You have new, convincing reasons to depart the United States after your temporary stay.
- You are able to explain the significant change in your circumstances with information not presented during previous interview(s).

Applicants wishing to reapply must submit a new application, pay the application fee, and schedule a new appointment. Another officer not previously associated with your case will conduct an unprejudiced interview and make an independent decision after considering your case.