

# FAQ: Consular Processing

## “I’ve Scheduled My Interview, What Now?”

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\*This material is not intended to substitute as legal advice.  
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You've scheduled your consular interview appointment. Now you're wondering: what happens next?

Non-immigrant visa consular processing can be a stressful process. This FAQ can prepare you and facilitate the process.

## 1. What should I do to prepare for the interview?

- Review the appointment notice to ensure that you have all the required documents.
- Do not staple documents. Use binder clips if necessary.
- Bring clear and legible photocopies of all required documents as well as originals, if required.
- Do not submit oversized documents. All documents must be 8.5 x 11 inches.

## 2. What documents do I need?

For an employment-based visa appointment (such as H-1B, O-1 and others), we generally recommend the following:

- DS-160 Confirmation page
- Appointment Confirmation or Interview Waiver Confirmation page
- MRV Fee Payment Receipt
- Original current passport with most recently issued visa and a copy of each
- One recent photo, as per specification requirements
- The most recent Approval Notice also known as I-797 copy (this is what they mean by evidence of approved I-129)
- Employment verification letter (a simple 1-page letter with your employer's signature, on company letterhead)
- Recent pay stubs (not required, but it's a common supplement that people decide to use to strengthen the application)

Note: We *don't* recommend including the *original* approval notice with your consulate application because it's usually not a requirement on the list, and furthermore, they might keep the original and not return it to you. A copy should suffice.

## 3. What items can I bring?

Bring only the required documents in an unsealed transparent plastic bag or folder. Mobile phones, electronics of any kind, food and beverages, and most purses and bags are not permitted inside the consulate.

For more information, please check the applicable post's website. Most consulates or posts do not have storage capabilities.

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#### 4. What should I wear for the interview?

Dress neatly and professionally. Consider business attire.

#### 5. Who can attend the visa interview appointment?

Only visa applicants can attend the appointment. The exception is applicants under eighteen who may be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Children under fourteen do not need to appear in person. If you are also applying for a visa, you may carry your child's application documents with you, along with one photograph of the child on a white background (2 x 2 inches or 51 x 51 mm in size).

#### 6. When should I arrive?

Arrive about twenty minutes prior to your appointment time. Be prepared to stand outside in line with other interviewees.

#### 7. What is the interview like?

The interview with the consular officer typically lasts five to ten minutes and is conducted through a window. The officer will ask you five to ten questions to verify the information on your application.

Provide short and concise answers. Do not engage in unnecessary conversation with the officer. A successful interview should result in the approval of your visa.

#### 8. What kinds of questions will the officer ask me?

- For an employment-based interview, typical questions include (as applicable to your visa type):
- What do you currently do?
- What will be your job title and role in the U.S.?
- Where will you be working?
- What team do you play for?
- Who is sponsoring or petitioning for you?
- Do they pay you? / What would be your salary?
- How do you intend to support yourself?
- Where will you live?
- How long do you intend to stay in the U.S.?

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- Do you have an immigrant intent?
- Do you have any relatives or relationships in the U.S.?
- What qualifies you for the visa?
- What happened at previous visa denial or refused entry?

## 9. What is a visa?

If you are a citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the United States, generally you must first obtain a US visa, which is placed in the traveler's passport.

It is an endorsement within the passport indicating that the holder is allowed to apply for admission into the United States in the stated visa category.

## 10. Is there a guarantee that my visa will be approved?

No guarantees can be given in advance that a visa will be approved. A consular officer makes a decision after reviewing all documents and your interview.

If there are problems, kindly ask the officer to put any requests for more documents or information in writing, stating exactly what you need to provide. The consular officer should give you a paper listing the documents required.

## 11. What should I look for when I receive my visa stamp?

Your visa will have several notations. Below is an outline of them. Please review your visa and ensure there are no mistakes. If you see a mistake, please contact the post as soon as possible.

Check that your **passport number** is correct.

Check that your **name** is spelled correctly.

Where is your visa issued.

Check that your **date of birth** is correct.

"R" means "regular" passport. "Class" is the type of visa.

"M" means that you can seek entry in the US. multiple times. If there is a number here, you may apply for entry that many times.

"Annotation" may include additional information about your visa. For example, on a student visa, it will show your SEVIS number and name of your school.

"Expiration Date" is the last day you can use your visa to seek entry into the US It has nothing to do with how long you may stay in the US.

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