# CONSULAR PROCESS

How to Apply for an Employment-based U.S. Visa?



Before a foreign worker can apply for a work visa stamp (such as H-1B, L-1, O-1), USCIS must first have approved the work visa petition on behalf of the employee.



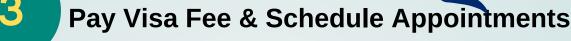
USCIS sends the petition approval to the U.S. consular post abroad.

### **Complete DS-160 (Online Visa Application)**

- Log into the DS-160 at <u>CEAC.state.gov/genniv/</u>
- Complete all sections accurately & consistently with the petition.
- Save frequently as the system times out.
- Sign & submit the application.
  - \*\*\*Receive & save DS-160 Confirmation!







- Check the estimated wait times for a visa appt by location. **See here.** (Biometric appt might also be required).
- Login to the scheduling system to pay the fee & make an appt.
- Depending on country use: **ustraveldocs.com** or <u>ais.usvisa-info.com</u>
- Save appt confirmation and fee receipt!



#### **Gather Documents**

- DS-160 Confirmation
- Appointment Confirmation or Interview Waiver Confirmation
- MRV Fee Receipt

\*Documents for the appointment will vary depending on visa type

- Original current Passport
- One recent photo (see guidelines)
- Copy of I-797 Approval Notice
- Employment verification letter
- Recent pay stubs
- Dependents' info, if applicable

## **Go to Consulate Appointment**

Depending on the consulate and your case, you will need to:

- attend in-person consulate interview appt, or
- if eligible, mail in your application



### **Receive Visa Decision**

### Check your visa status **HERE**

- Approved
- Refusal\* / Administrative processing
- Denied

If approved - receive your passport with the new visa stamp generally within 1-2 weeks, either pick up or by mail



This does not mean that the application has a final refusal. Monitor the page for updates.

\*Disclaimer: This material is not intended to substitute as legal advice.