

US Visas Information

The purpose of your intended travel and other facts will determine what type of visa is required under U.S. immigration law. As a visa applicant, you will need to establish that you meet all requirements to receive the category of visa for which you are applying.

See our Directory of [Visa Categories](#) on usvisas.state.gov to determine which visa category might be appropriate for your purpose of travel to the United States.

Nonimmigrant Visas

Immigrant Visas

What is a Visa?

A citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the United States generally must first obtain a U.S. visa, which is placed in the traveler's passport, a travel document issued by the traveler's country of citizenship.

Certain international travelers may be eligible to travel to the United States without a visa if they meet the requirements for visa-free travel. The Visa section of this website is all about U.S. visas for foreign citizens to travel to the United States.

For all immigrant visa-related inquiries, please start with our [Islamabad Immigrant Visa Navigator](#).

For all non-immigrant visa-related inquiries, please start with our [Nonimmigrant Visa Navigator](#).

Also, you may email us at:

support-pakistan@ustraveldocs.com

Or call us at:

Pakistan: 021-111-234111

United States: (703) 988-3426

Consulate General of the United States of America
3,4,5 New TPX Area, Mai Kolachi Road
Karachi

Customer Service Statement

The Department of State manages the visa process strictly but fairly in order to best protect the United States. We are committed to the essential openness for which the United States has always been known. Travel to the United States is welcomed and encouraged.

We promise to you, the visa applicant, that:

- We will treat you with dignity and respect, even if we are unable to grant you a visa.
- We will treat you as an individual and your case as unique.
- We will remember that, to you, a visa interview may be a new or intimidating experience and that you may be nervous.
- We will use the limited time available for the interview to get as full a picture as possible of your travel plans and intentions.
- We will use our available resources to fairly assist all applicants to get appointments to allow travel in time for business, study, and other important obligations.
- We will post detailed and accurate information on visa requirements and application procedures on every Embassy and Consulate website.
- We will provide information on non-immigrant appointment waiting times at every Embassy and Consulate posted on <http://travel.state.gov>.
- We will explain the reason for any visa denial to you.

Furthermore, if you are a:

- Student, we will make every effort to ensure that you get an appointment and, if qualified, a visa in time to start classes.
- Medical and humanitarian emergency traveler, we will expedite processing for those dealing with life threatening emergencies.
- Business traveler, we will establish appropriate mechanisms to facilitate business travel and expedite cases of particular concern to American business.

At the same time, we expect you, the visa applicant, to:

- Plan your travel and visa application as far in advance as possible.
- Complete your application fully and accurately.
- Be forthcoming about your purpose and plans.
- Prepare for your interview by being able to clearly and concisely describe your intentions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Anyone wishing to permanently live or work in the United States requires an immigrant visa to travel to the United States. See our [Immigrant Visa page](#) for more information on who may qualify for immigration and application procedures.

All immigrant visa inquiries must be directed to the Immigrant Visa Unit. Because of U.S. privacy laws, only the petitioner or the applicant may be given information regarding their case. The Immigrant Visa Unit may be reached through our [web-based e-mail submission system](#).

Who requires an Immigrant Visa?

Anyone wishing to permanently live or work in the United States requires an immigrant visa to travel to the United States. See our [Immigrant Visa page](#) for more information on who may qualify for immigration and application procedures.

All immigrant visa inquiries must be directed to the Immigrant Visa Unit. Because of U.S. privacy laws, only the petitioner or the applicant may be given information regarding their case. The Immigrant Visa Unit may be reached through our [web-based e-mail submission system](#).

Immigrant Visas

U.S. Embassy Islamabad is processing immigrant visas across all categories. However, with significant backlogs in most categories and continuing staffing shortages, wait times for interviews are lengthy. It is not possible to provide precise wait times as staffing and local conditions affect capacity and scheduling.

Looking for assistance from the Immigrant Visa Unit, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad? Our Islamabad IV Navigator will help you find resources and information about immigrant visa services offered by U.S. Embassy, Islamabad. You can click on [Islamabad Immigrant Visa Navigator](#) or [scan the QR code](#) to access it from your phone.

Immigrant visas to the United States are processed for citizens and residents of Pakistan at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

To apply for an immigrant visa, a foreign citizen seeking to immigrate generally must be sponsored by a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident immediate relative(s), or prospective U.S. employer, and have an approved petition before applying for an immigrant visa. The sponsor begins the process by filing a petition on the foreign citizen's behalf with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You may wish to review our [Directory of Visa Categories](#) on usvisas.state.gov to learn about the different types of immigrant visas to the United States, including our Diversity Visa Program. Then, follow the steps on the [Immigrant Visa Process](#), or on the [Diversity Visa Process](#), on usvisas.state.gov to begin the process for an immigrant visa petition. Once USCIS has approved your petition and you have completed pre-processing with the National Visa Center (NVC), or if you have been selected in the Diversity Visa Lottery and completed processing with the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC), review the instructions given to you by the NVC or the KCC, along with the information presented on this website, for further guidance and instructions.

How do I find my case number?

You or the petitioner may contact the National Visa Center in order to obtain your case number. It should generally begin with "ISL" and then be followed by 10-digits. We may be able to assist as well if you or your petitioner sends us an email.

[I want to file an I-130 \(Petition for Alien Relative\) for my immediate family in Pakistan.](#)

You must file your petition with your local U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) office or, if you are currently abroad in Pakistan, please send it to the appropriate lockbox address in the United States. For more information, please visit this [website](#).

[My petitioner was a Green Card holder but is now a U.S. Citizen. How do I change my visa category?](#)

You must send a clear copy of the petitioner's Naturalization Certificate or U.S. passport to the office where your petition is located. Your petition may be with USCIS, at the National Visa Center, or at the Embassy. See our Contact us page for the proper contact information.

[My K1/K3 case has been approved and is transferred from National Visa Center to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. What do I do next?](#)

Please wait patiently. The applicant or petitioner should receive an instruction packet 3.5 after the Embassy has reviewed the file. This process may take 2-3 weeks. The instruction packet 3.5 will be sent to the applicant at his/her mailing address. If you do not receive your packet 3.5 after one month, please write to us by using our [web-based e-mail submission form](#) stating your ISL case number.

At the time of your interview, you received a temporary refusal sheet(221g) with instructions telling you what to do. In most cases, applicants should obtain the requested documents or photographs and send them to the U.S. Embassy through our approved [courier service](#).

[My petitioner was a Green Card holder but is now a U.S. Citizen. How do I change my visa category?](#)

You must send a clear copy of the petitioner's Naturalization Certificate or U.S. passport to the office where your petition is located. Your petition may be with USCIS, at the National Visa Center, or at the Embassy. See our Contact us page for the proper contact information.

[After my interview I was told that my case requires more administrative processing. What does this mean?](#)

Some visa applications require further administrative processing, which takes additional time after the visa applicant's interview by a consular officer. Applicants are advised of

this requirement when they apply. Most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days of the visa interview. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary based on individual circumstances of each case. Once the administrative processing has been completed, we will contact you immediately to let you know and will ask you to return your passport if we have not retained it. Once we have printed your visa, we will return your passport along with the visa packet via our approved courier service (American Express). If it has been more than 6 months since your interview, please e-mail us through our [web-based e-mail submission form](#) with your interview date and case number.

about the relationship that was the basis for the petition. A final determination on your case will be made by the USCIS office in the United States.

Questions about a case that has been returned with a request for revocation should be referred to the USCIS office where the petition was originally filed. No appeal or reinstatement request will be processed at the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad.

[After the interview, I was found ineligible for a visa. If I am permitted to file a waiver application for my ineligibility, what should I do?](#)

If you have been found ineligible, the consular section cannot issue you a visa. Please click on the following link for more information on what the new waiver procedure is as of June 4, 2012: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-601>. Please note that after June 4, 2012, applicants will no longer be able to submit their waivers to the U.S. Embassy / Consulates.

[What if there's a mistake on my visa?](#)

If there is a mistake on your visa, please contact the Immigrant Visa Section by submitting a web based [inquiry](#) and describe the problem. Once our office informs you that there is something that needs to be corrected, please return your passport and visa packet to our office by sending it to us through the courier service. Once we have your corrected visa, we will send your passport and visa packet back to you through the courier service with a new visa.

[What about my pet?](#)

A health certificate is required to bring a dog or cat into the United States. Such a certificate is usually required by the airlines and the airlines should be contacted concerning any time limitations or other details. Pets may need to be quarantined and have a rabies vaccination. Please see [Customs and Border Protection website](#) and a [document](#) for more information.

How much money can I bring?

There is no limit on the amount of money which may be taken in or out of the United States. However, any amount in excess of \$10,000 in currency, travelers checks or negotiable instruments, must be declared to the United States Customs at the time of arrival in or departure from the United States. Please see [Customs and Border Protection website](#) for more information.

Can I work?

Upon entering the United States on an immigrant visa you will require no further authorization from the Department of Homeland Security to take up employment. If you are seeking to immigrate on the basis of an offer of employment, you will require a U.S. based employer to file an immigrant visa petition on your behalf with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

How do I get a Social Security number?

By law, each immigrant or refugee admitted to the United States must obtain a Social Security number. Social Security numbers are required to work in the United States, to open a bank account, to pay taxes, and for many other purposes. An application for a Social Security number should be made to the local Social Security Office in the area where the immigrant will reside after their arrival in the United States. See the [website](#) of the Social Security Administration for further information.

How do I become an American citizen?

An immigrant can become an American citizen through naturalization by living in the United States for a specified period, usually five years (three years if married to a U.S. citizen) and passing a naturalization examination. However, there is no requirement that immigrants become citizens as they are free to live in the United States as long as they wish and abide by the laws of the United States, which apply to citizens and aliens alike.

[How do I become an American citizen?](#)

An immigrant can become an American citizen through naturalization by living in the United States for a specified period, usually five years (three years if married to a U.S. citizen) and passing a naturalization examination. However, there is no requirement that immigrants become citizens as they are free to live in the United States as long as

they wish and abide by the laws of the United States, which apply to citizens and aliens alike.

Family-Based Immigration

1. [The Interview](#)
2. [Case Status](#)
3. [After the Interview](#)

Two groups of family-based immigrant visa categories, immediate relatives and family preference, are provided under the provisions of United States immigration law, specifically the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). You can learn more about these two categories of immigrant visas on usvisas.state.gov.

To apply for an immediate relative or family preference immigrant visas, follow the [Immigrant Visa Process](#) steps on usvisas.state.gov. Once you have completed those steps, review the instructions given to you by the National Visa Center (NVC), along with the information presented on this website, for further guidance.

Fiancé(e) Visa

1. [How to Apply](#)
2. [Case Status](#)
3. [After the Interview](#)

The fiancé(e) K-1 nonimmigrant visa is for the foreign-citizen fiancé(e) of a U.S. citizen. The K-1 visa permits the foreign-citizen fiancé(e) to travel to the United States and marry his or her U.S. citizen sponsor within 90 days of arrival. You can learn more about [fiancé\(e\) visas](#) on usvisas.state.gov.

Employment-Based Immigration

1. [The Interview](#)
2. [Case Status](#)
3. [After the Interview](#)

Every fiscal year (October 1st – September 30th), approximately 140,000 employment-based immigrant visas are made available to qualified applicants under the provisions of U.S. immigration law. Employment based immigrant visas are divided into five preference categories. Certain spouses and children may accompany or follow-to-join employment-based immigrants. You can learn more about these five categories of employment-based immigrant visas on usvisas.state.gov.

To apply for an employment-based immigrant visa, follow the steps on the [Immigrant Visa Process](#) on [usvisas.state.gov](#). Once you have completed those steps, review the instructions given to you by the National Visa Center (NVC), along with the information presented on this website, for further guidance and instructions.

Diversity Visa

1. [The Interview](#)
2. [Case Status](#)
3. [After the Interview](#)

The Immigration Act of 1990 established the Diversity Visa (DV) program, where 55,000 immigrant visas would be available in an annual lottery, starting in fiscal year 1995. The lottery aims to diversify the immigrant population in the United States, by selecting applicants mostly from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States in the previous five years.

To apply for a diversity visa, follow the steps on the [Diversity Visa Process](#) on [usvisas.state.gov](#). Once you have completed those steps, review the instructions given to you by the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC), along with the information presented on this website, for further guidance and instructions.

