

The background features a collage of travel-related items. At the top, the word 'PASSPORT' is printed in large, blue, textured letters. Below it, a dark blue US passport cover is visible, showing the gold seal and the text 'United States of America' and 'PASSPORT'. To the right, a green electronic visa label is partially shown, with the text 'GROUP 4' and 'ELECTRONIC' clearly visible.

Mastering the Visitor Visa

B2 – Tourist Visitor

B1 – Business Visitor



Disclaimer

- Instructor is NOT an Attorney, and cannot give legal advice.
- Nothing in the presentation is – nor should it be construed as – legal advice.
- If you or your client(s) need legal advice, you should contact a licensed attorney in the area of practice that you need legal advice in.



VISITOR'S VISA

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

What is a Visitor's Visa?

- A **B-2 visa** is a nonimmigrant visa that allows individuals to enter the United States for tourism or pleasure-related activities. This can include activities such as visiting friends or family, participating in social events, or engaging in leisure activities like sightseeing or vacationing.
- A **B-1 Visa** is a nonimmigrant visa that allows individual to enter the United States for business purposes, BUT NOT EMPLOYMENT
 - *We do not discuss B1 servants, domestic employees, etc. in this course – these visas are covered in our Employment Based Immigration Courses.*



All Visitor's Visa – Basic Requirements



- B-2 visa applicants must demonstrate that they:
- Have ties to their home country that they do not intend to abandon;
- Have enough funds to support themselves during their stay in the US; and
- They intend to leave the US at the end of their visit.



B-2 Visas

**ALWAYS APPLY FOR
B1/B2**

What Needs to Be Demonstrated to the DOS?

1. The primary purpose of their trip to the United States must be for tourism or pleasure.

- B1 – BUSINESS PURPOSES

2. They must have a residence outside the United States and other binding ties that will ensure their return home at the end of their visit.

3. They must have enough financial resources to cover the expenses of their trip and stay in the United States without working or receiving financial assistance from a U.S. source.



Things That Lead to Denial Attorney May Be Able to Help

They must not have a criminal record or pose a security threat to the United States.



They must not have previously violated the terms of a U.S. visa or immigration laws.



They must not have any communicable disease or be otherwise inadmissible to the United States

Required Documents



1. A valid passport with at least 6 months validity beyond the intended stay in the United States.
2. A completed and signed online visa application form ([DS-160](#)).
3. A 2x2 inch photograph that meets the requirements for passport photos (Not All Countries).
4. Proof of financial support, such as bank statements, paycheck stubs or a letter from an employer; or sponsor outlining the purpose of your trip and the expenses that will be covered.
5. An itinerary of your trip, including details about your accommodation and transportation arrangements. *(Not Required – but helpful)*
6. Proof of ties to your home country, such as a letter from your employer, property ownership documents, or proof of family ties.
7. Additional documents may be required depending on the purpose of your trip, such as an invitation letter from a U.S. host or proof of previous travel experience.

- *Persons with weak ties – no or low income*



Invitation Letters & Affidavits of Support

Do Invitation Letters Matter?

- Usually have little impact
- Most useful: low income, does not have property, lack of family ties, elderly AND there is a specific event they are coming to US
- Affidavit of Support
- Used under the same circumstances
- Form I-134 NOT I-864
- If using an invitation letter and affidavit of support – Travel Itinerary and Accommodations (Hotel, Airbnb – or include in letter that they are going to stay with the sponsor)

Application Process

1. Fill out the online visa application form (DS-160) and pay the visa application fee.

- Some countries – pay online
- Some countries – generate payment slip and pay at bank

2. Schedule an interview at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

- <http://ais.usvisa-info.com>
- <https://www.ustraveldocs.com>

3. Gather all required documents, including a valid passport, a photo, proof of financial support, and an itinerary of your trip.

- **YOU WILL PREPARE THE INTERVIEW PACKET**

4. Attend the interview and provide all required documents.

5. Wait for the decision on the application – usually the same day.

DS-160

Patience – CEAC freezes – Kicks You Out

May have retrieve application several times

START APPLICATION



Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160)

Apply For a Nonimmigrant Visa

FAQs

Tooltip Language: English [\[View Tool Tip Help\]](#)

Most of this application has been translated. To see the translation point your mouse over any sentence on the page.

Welcome!

The first step in applying for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa is to complete your application. It takes approximately 90 minutes to do this. After you submit your application, you can move on to the next steps such as scheduling your interview.

Important: Before You Start

1. [Learn about Types of Visas.](#)
2. **[This website is designed to be accessed using Chrome, Edge, or Firefox only.](#)**
3. [Gather your documents.](#)
4. Review the [instructions](#) and [FAQ](#).

Notes:

Other people can assist you with your visa application. Note that under U.S. law (22 C.F.R. 41.103) you must electronically sign and submit your own application unless you qualify for an exemption. Even if someone else helped you complete the application, you (the applicant) must click the "Sign Application" button, or your application may not be accepted.

Please be patient as you use this form. Download times may vary depending on your internet connection speed.

Get Started

Select a location where you will be applying for this visa

- SELECT ONE -

Enter the code as shown:



Select a location and make sure you have the documents and information you will need.

[START AN APPLICATION](#)

You will be asked for your application ID and answer a security question.

[RETRIEVE AN APPLICATION](#)

Additional Information

- » **Write down the Application ID** displayed on the top right hand corner of the page. If you close your browser window, you will need your ID to access your application again.
- » **Save your application frequently.** The system will time out after 20 minutes of inactivity, and you will lose all unsaved information.
- » Read more about U.S. visas at [travel.state.gov](#).
- » Visit the website of the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#).



Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160)

Application Information

Please record your Application ID in a safe and secure place.

If there are technical issues with the system, or you want to complete your application some other time, you can save your work and later, start where you left off. In order to access your application later, however, you will need: (1) your Application ID, and (2) the answer to the security question that you will choose on this page.

To choose a security question, pick the one you like the best from the dropdown list, type your answer to that question in the box below, and click "Continue." Remember: In order to access your application later, you will need to know the answer **exactly as you wrote it on this page.**

You can also use your Application ID and security question to retrieve your Confirmation Page after you have submitted your application, or to use your previously provided application information to complete a new application at a later date.

If you do not plan to complete your application within the next 30 days, download your application to your computer by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the last completed page. Follow the instructions. When you are ready to complete your application, select "Upload an Application". NOTE: Only download your application to a computer that cannot be accessed by anyone who does not have your permission to see or record your personal data. If you download your application a shared or public computer, such as a computer in a cyber café or library, your personal information may be able to be accessed by other users.

Note: Electronically submitting your DS-160 online application is the FIRST STEP in the visa application process. The next step is to review the internet page of the [embassy or consulate](#) where you plan to apply for your visa. Most visa applicants will need to schedule a visa interview, though some applicants may qualify for visa renewal. The [embassy or consulate](#) information may include specific local instructions about scheduling interviews, submitting your visa application, and other frequently asked questions.

Security Question

WHAT IS THE GIVEN NAME OF YOUR MOTHER'S MOTHER?

Answer

[Continue](#)

[Cancel](#)



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Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160)

Application ID **AA00AY**

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 1405-0182

FORM NUMBER: DS-160

EXPIRATION DATE: 10/31/2022

ESTIMATED BURDEN: 90 MIN

Personal Information 1

Sections

NOTE: Data on this page must match the information as it is written in your passport.

Name

Surnames

KARTHIK

(e.g., FERNANDEZ GARCIA)

Given Names

MANI

(e.g., JUAN MIGUEL)

Help: Surnames

Enter all surnames as listed in your passport. If only one name is listed in your passport, enter that Surname.

Help: Given Names

If your passport does not include a given name

Getting Started

Personal

Personal 1

Personal 2

Travel

Travel Companions

Previous U.S. Travel

Address and Phone

Passport

U.S. Contact

Family

Work / Education / Training

TIP

PRINT EACH PAGE OF THE DS-160 (PAPER/PDF)
AS YOU REVIEW – AND BEFORE YOU SUBMIT



THERE IS ONE OPPORTUNITY TO PRINT THE
ENTIRE APPLICATION AT THE END



WARNING – DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK / KICKED
OUT OF SYSTEM WHILE BEING SENT TO PRINT

CEAC Confirmation Page (Must Have For Interview)



Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160)

Confirmation



AA0046CLJM

This confirms the submission of the Nonimmigrant visa application for:

| | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|--|
| Photo will be taken at the ASC. | Name Provided: | SINGHI, KHUSHBOO | Location Selected: |
| | Date Of Birth: | 14 NOV 1992 | BMB U.S. Consulate General Mumbai |
| | Place of Birth: | LADNUN NAGOUR, INDIA | C-49, G-Block, (Near Hotel Trident - BKC) Bandra Kurla Complex, |
| | Gender: | Female | Bandra East, |
| | Country/Region of Origin (Nationality) : | INDIA | Mumbai 400051, India |
| | Passport Number: | H9754175 | |
| | Purpose of Travel: | STUDENT (F1) | |
| | Completed On: | 13 JUN 2014 | |
| | Confirmation No: | AA0046CLJM | |
| | THIS IS NOT A VISA | | |

Note: Electronically submitting your DS-160 online application is the FIRST STEP in the visa application process. The next step is to review the internet page of the [embassy or consulate](#) where you plan to apply for your visa. Most visa applicants will need to schedule a visa interview, though some applicants may qualify for visa renewal. The [embassy or consulate](#) information may include specific local instructions about scheduling interviews, submitting your visa application, and other frequently asked questions.

YOU MUST BRING the confirmation page and the following document(s) with you to the Application Service Center:

Passport; I-20A or B/or I-20MN; Proof of SEVIS registration and fee payment

You may also provide any additional documents you feel will support your case.



AA0046CLJM

Scheduling the Appointment
ais.info –
ustraveldocs.com

Grupos



Estado actual
Cita Asistir

Continuar



Cita Consular: 5 abril, 2024, 10:45 Mérida Hora Local at Merida — [Cómo llegar](#)



Cita CAS: 4 abril, 2024, 11:45 Merida Hora Local at Merida ASC — [Cómo llegar](#)



Ubicación de entrega de documentos PLAYA DEL CARMEN – Calle 12 Nte 172 0, Playa del Carmen, QUINTANA ROO Centro 77710, MX — [Ver mapa](#)

Nombre del Solicitante

Pasaporte

DS-160

Tipo de Visa

Estado



AA00BXMBFD

B1/B2 Negocios y turismo (visitante temporal)

[Verificar el estado de DS-160](#)



Número de identificación de cuenta IVR: 79550832

Wait Times for Appointments

Currently 12 – 24 Months

Can make expedited requests

Emergency travel

Make request in visa appointment scheduling system – Must make an appointment first

Health

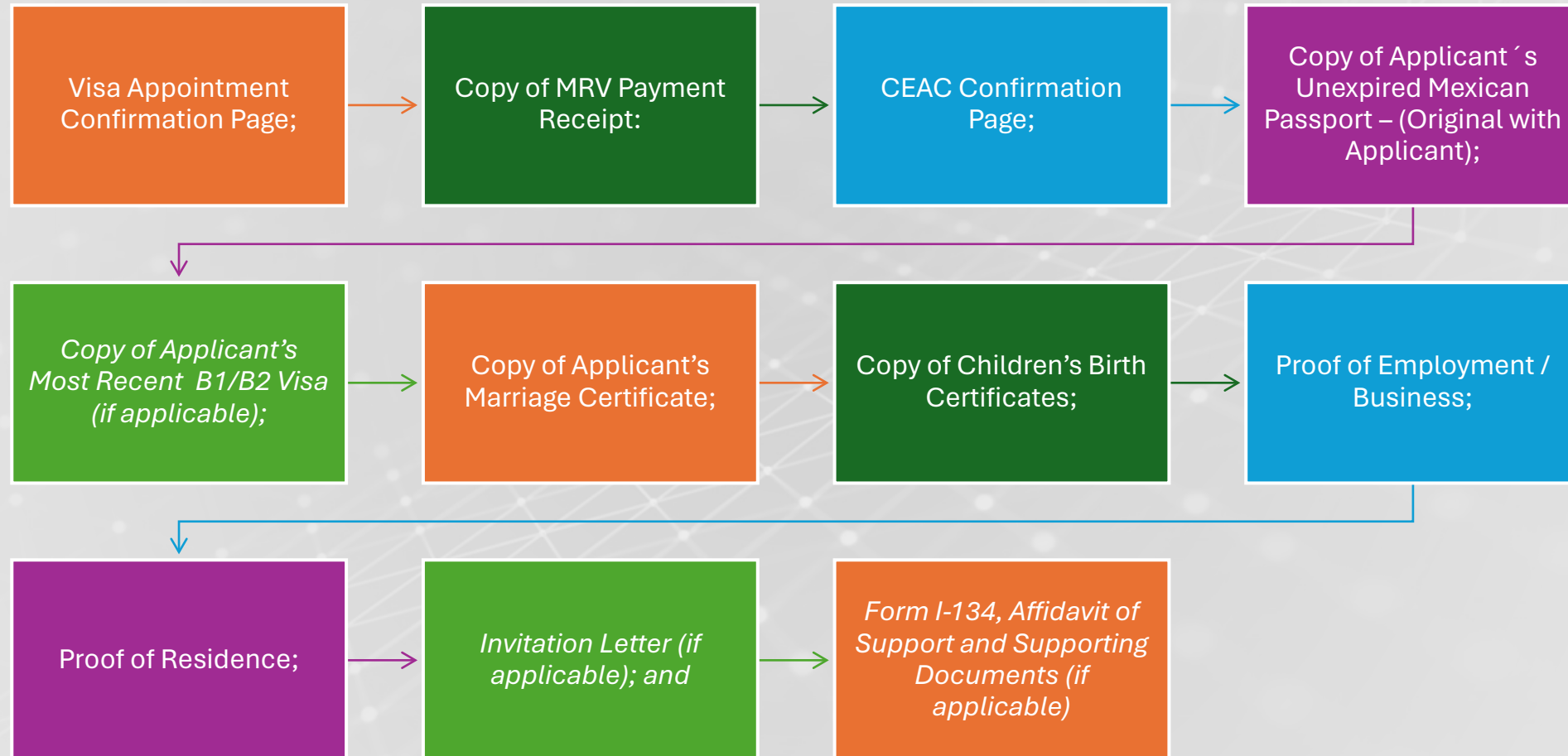
Major event

Any other compelling reason

Interview Packet



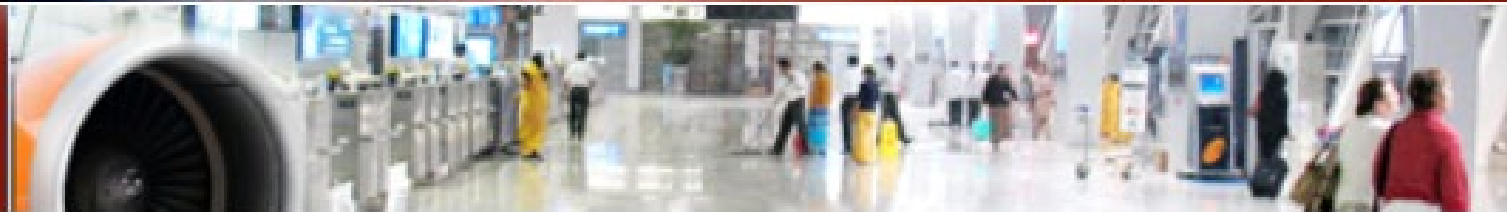
Interview Packet



Refused – Denied
Refused – Administrative
Processing
Approved
Issued



VISA



NONIMMIGRANT

- ▶ [DS-160, Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application](#)
- ▶ [DS-1648, Online A, G, or NATO Application](#)
- ▶ [Check My Visa Application Status](#)

IMMIGRANT

▶ [DS-2019, Online Student and Exchange Visitor Information System \(SEVIS\) Application](#)

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U.S. Department of State
NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION

Refused

Application ID or Case Number: AA00B3V385

Case Created: 30-Aug-2022

Case Last Updated: 14-Jun-2023

A U.S. consular officer has adjudicated and refused your visa application. Please see the letter you received at the interview.

For more information, please visit [U.S. Embassy Mexico City](#).

[Close](#)



U.S. Department of State
NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION

Refused

Application ID or Case Number: AA00BXMBFD
Case Created: 04-Apr-2024
Case Last Updated: 05-Apr-2024

A U.S. consular officer has adjudicated and refused your visa application. Please follow any instructions provided by the consular officer. If you were informed by the consular officer that your case was refused for administrative processing, your case will remain refused while undergoing such processing. You will receive another adjudication once such processing is complete. Please be advised that the processing time varies and that you will be contacted if additional information is needed. For more information, please visit TRAVEL.STATE.GOV or the website for the Embassy or Consulate at which you made your visa application. For more information, please visit [U.S. Consulate Merida.](#)

U.S. Department of State
NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION

Approved

Application ID or Case Number: AA00CF4JOD
Case Created: 26-Dec-2023
Case Last Updated: 09-Feb-2024

The consular officer has approved your application subject to final processing by the consular section that is necessary to issue your visa. When that processing is complete, the status will change to "Issued". However, a final screening step must still be completed prior to issuance that could lead a consular officer to conclude that you are not eligible for a visa. If that occurs, the consular officer will notify you that your application has been denied and your status will change to "Refused".

For more information, please visit [U.S. Embassy Mexico City](#).

[Close](#)

U.S. Department of State
NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION

Issued

Application ID or Case Number: AA00CF4JOD
Case Created: 26-Dec-2023
Case Last Updated: 16-Feb-2024

Your visa has been approved and is in final processing. Please visit [mexico.usvisa-info.com](#) to obtain your DHL tracking number. If you have not received a tracking number in more than 10 working days, please contact the embassy or consulate where you submitted your application.

Su visa ha sido aprobada y se encuentra en proceso final. Por favor visite [mexico.usvisa-info.com](#) para obtener el número de guía DHL y pueda recoger su documento. Si han pasado más de 10 días y no le han asignado un número de guía, por favor contacte a la Embajada o Consulado en donde realizó su trámite.

For more information, please visit [U.S. Embassy Mexico City](#).

[Close](#)

DENIALS INADMISSIBILITY

HOW TO PROCEED

Denial / Inadmissibility

- All denial are due to a ground of inadmissibility
- Most common: INA 214(b) – Failure to Demonstrate Nonimmigrant Intent
- Criminal grounds: INA 212 – Various Sections



Administrative
Processing –
Looks like a
denial

INA 221g

This is a ground of “temporary inadmissibility” due to administrative processing

Administrative processing is the process when there is a

DOS does not
have a
timeframe /
deadline to
make a
decision



When to Refer to an Attorney

Admin processing

- No explanation given to client
- More than 60 days in admin processing
- More than 45 days in admin processing after the submission of a request
- Multiple denials under 214b – and they appear to have ties

Denial under any other reason than 214b



When to Refer to an Attorney

Criminal Record in ANY Country

Previous Visa Cancelled

Previous Visa Denied under ANY Other Ground EXCEPT 214b

Previous Visa Revoked due to Overstay

Unlawful Presence in the US for ANY amount of time

Ever Ordered Removed from the US

Not Just Any Attorney

Dealing with the US Consulates/Embassy Abroad is niche market



Not all attorneys do



Attorneys with relationships with the US Consulates or Contacts tend to make this a bit of specialty

Final Thoughts

- Most B1/B2 Visas are simple
- DS-160s take patience
- ALL NIV are discretionary – does not take much to get denied
- Don't take chances with even borderline complicated cases
- Use your attorney network

