

U.S. Consulate General Dubai Newsletter

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New Year, New Visa Services:

Easier, More Convenient Appointment System for U.S. Visas

The United States Mission to the United Arab Emirates, including the Consulate in Dubai and the Embassy in Abu Dhabi, is transitioning to a new appointment service for anyone applying for a non-immigrant visa to the United States. Starting January 6, 2013, applicants will work, online or by phone, with a service provider to schedule an interview, pay the visa application fee, and arrange for the delivery of documents and passports. This new appointment service will also allow applicants to schedule a visa interview with more flexibility and up to six months in advance of travel plans.



Please visit our website for the latest information on this new process:

http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/gss_13.html



[www.IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov) 

It's TAX time! It's never too early to start preparing.

For the most current information on Income Taxes, visit www.irs.gov. The Consulate also has information on taxes, including a short list of local companies to help you prepare at: http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/dubai_income_tax.html.

The Consulate General assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the persons or firms whose names appear on the list.



While the U.S. Consulate cannot provide tax advice for U.S. taxpayers living overseas or recommend specific filing services, various resources are available for those seeking tax assistance. The IRS provides tax forms and instruction booklets, along with additional information, on its website at www.irs.gov. In particular, IRS Publication 54: Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad and the Basic Tax Guide for Green Card Holders may be useful and relevant for those living outside of the United States. The State Department also provides information on taxes for overseas citizens and resident aliens at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html> and http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/living_1234.html#taxes. It is the choice and responsibility of taxpayers to decide how they want to file their taxes.

 **International Services** <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers>

If you are a taxpayer who lives outside the United States, the IRS has full-time permanent staff in 4 U.S. embassies and consulates to assist. These offices have tax forms and publications, can help you with account problems, and answer your questions about notices and bills. You can reach these offices at the following telephone numbers, which include country or city codes if you are outside the local dialing area. 🇺🇸

City	Address	Phone/FAX
Frankfurt	IRS U. S. Consulate Frankfurt Giessener Str. 30 60435 Frankfurt am Main Germany	Walk-in assistance by appointment Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call [49] (069) 7535-3823 or -3834 Phone Service Tel: [49] (069) 7535-3823 or -3834 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Fax: [49] (069) 7535-3803
London	Internal Revenue Service United States Embassy 24/31 Grosvenor Square London W1A 1AE United Kingdom	Walk-In assistance Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Phone Service Tel: [44] (207) 894-0476 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Monday through Friday Fax: [44] (207) 495-4224
Paris	United States Embassy/IRS 2 Avenue Gabriel 75382 Paris Cedex 08, France	Walk-In assistance 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon Phone service: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Tel. [33] (01) 4312-2555 Inside France [33] (0)1 4312-2555 Fax: [33] (01) 4312-2303 Inside France [33] (0)1 4312-2303
Beijing	Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Embassy Beijing, No. 55 Anjialou Road, Beijing 100600 Peoples Republic of China	TEL: +86-10-8531-3983, FAX +86-10-8531-4287, Taxpayer service by appointment only

Want to speak with an
IRS representative in
the U.S.?
1-800-829-1040

American Trivia



1. Which ancient civilization revered the tax professional as the most noble man in society?
2. In 2010, out of more than 141 million federal income taxes filed, how many were filed electronically?
3. What are the only two local U.S. holidays to delay the IRS tax deadline?
4. The error rate for a paper return is 21 percent; what do you think the error rate is for an e-file return?
5. In 1913, the first income tax was 1 percent on net personal incomes above \$3,000. What was the percentage on incomes over \$500,000?
6. In which year did the tax filing date changed from March 15 to April 15?

1954 • 7% • 1/2% • (and until 2011, Patriots Day) Emancipation Day • 98,740,000 • Greece

Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers

The U.S. Consulate can no longer notarize or issue certified true copies of non-U.S. passports for tax purposes.

Effective Oct. 2, 2012, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) implemented changes to its procedures for issuing Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs). Designed specifically for tax-administration purposes, ITINs are only issued to people who are not eligible to obtain a Social Security Number. ITINs assist the IRS with the collection of taxes from foreign nationals, nonresident aliens, and others who have filing or payment obligations under U.S. law. As a result of these IRS procedure changes, copies of identity documents are no longer accepted in connection with ITIN applications, including copies notarized by a U.S. Consular Officer.

For more information on these new procedures, please visit the following websites:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/living_1234.html#taxes

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Clarifies-Temporary-ITIN-Application-Requirements-for-Noncitizens-with-Tax-Extensions-and-Many-Foreign-Students>

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/2012-ITIN-Review-Frequently-Asked-Questions-1>



Worried about Identity Theft?

The Federal Trade Commission has tips to avoid identity theft as well as information on what to do if you are a victim of identity theft. Visit their website at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft2012/>

Red Flags on Identity Theft:

- mistakes on your bank, credit card, or other account statements
- mistakes on the explanation of medical benefits from your health plan
- your regular bills and account statements don't arrive on time
- bills or collection notices for products or services you never received
- calls from debt collectors about debts that don't belong to you
- a notice from the IRS that someone used your Social Security number
- mail, email, or calls about accounts or jobs in your minor child's name
- unwarranted collection notices on your credit report
- businesses turn down your checks
- you are turned down unexpectedly for a loan or job



IRS humor



This website has lots of information for children and parents.



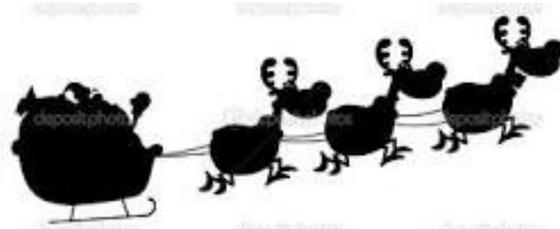
Tips on exercising and healthy eating, math and science help, information on combating bullying, and information for teens on future careers. Check it out!

There's even a game for kids to learn about being safe online. Visit: <https://sos.fbi.gov/>.

The video about the earth's climate is especially interesting: <http://climatekids.nasa.gov/>.

Want to track Santa as he travels the world delivering gifts? Visit:

<http://kids.usa.gov/watch-videos/santa-tracker/index.shtml>



Consular Officers Share Holiday Travel Tips

The Department of States' website:

www.travel.state.gov

offers useful holiday travel tips.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)



The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country.

STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency.

STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

<https://step.state.gov>



www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralDubai

To remove yourself from the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):

- If you are no longer in Dubai and do not wish to receive these messages, go to <https://step.state.gov> and update your profile with current information.
- You may leave the list at any time by sending "SIGNOFF POST_DUBAI" in the subject line to LISTSERV@CALIST.STATE.GOV.



The Smart Traveler App, available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone](#), provides easy access to your [STEP](#) account and allows you to create personal itineraries, add notes, and organize your trips. Not only that, but it provides quick access to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Frequently Asked About.....

DOCUMENT AUTHENTICATION

The UAE requires that U.S. documents used for UAE residency visas, school enrollment, job applications, etc. have a "U.S. Consulate Stamp" on them. This requires an authentication of the document.

All information on authenticating your U.S. documents is located on our website at:

http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/documentary_services.html.

Note that this is a long process and may take at least several weeks, so please plan accordingly.

Consular Corner

**American
Citizen
Services
Chief
Jolanta
Mikiewicz**



The Festive Season is in full swing!



I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe UAE National Day as our host country celebrated its 41 years of independence with activities throughout the city.

And as the holiday season continues over the next several weeks, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone who is planning to travel over the holidays to make sure that your passports are valid.

Some countries require six month validity in the passport to enter – check your expiration dates! Please make an appointment to renew your passport at least one month prior to travel, to avoid any delays. Remember that everyone must appear personally for passport renewals, including children (and their parents). Check our website for details and plan accordingly!

There are many hyperlinks in this newsletter. If a website is not specifically provided, click over the words to see if we've added a hyperlink directly to one of the websites referenced. We hope the information on taxes in this newsletter is valuable to you.

As the year comes to a close, it's time to start thinking about filing your income taxes. We hope that you will take advantage of the information we've provided to you in this newsletter, especially on recent changes, and that your filing will go smoothly.

Please be safe as you enjoy all the wonderful festivities and Happy Holidays to all of you from all of us!!

Upcoming Holidays / Consulate Closing

December 25, 2012: Christmas Day February 17, 2013: Washington's Birthday
January 1, 2013: New Year's Day May 26, 2013: Memorial Day
January 20, 2013: ML King Birthday June 4, 2013: Prophet's Ascension Day*
January 24, 2013: The Prophet's Birthday*

**Denotes UAE religious holidays which are dependent upon the sighting of the moon and are likely to vary from the above estimated dates.*

ACS Appointment System

In order to provide the most efficient service to our community, the American Citizen Section at the US Consulate General in Dubai has established an appointment system for all routine services. Please book an appointment online at dubai.usconsulate.gov under US Citizen Services. When you have made your appointment a confirmation page will appear on your screen. Please print the confirmation page and bring it with you on the day of your appointment.

Emergency Services are provided on an as-needed basis; please send an email to DubaiWarden@state.gov.

We answer our emails daily. Send us an email to DubaiWarden@state.gov with your question.

Contact Us

Telephone number: +971 4 309 4000

ACS Public Phone Hours: daily 8:00-10:00

Email: DubaiWarden@state.gov

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralDubai>

Emergency: +971-4-309 4000, ask for the Duty Officer.

Dubai Emergency Numbers

Police/Ambulance:: 999



The U.S. Consulate General in Dubai is located at the Corner of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Road and Al Seef Road, Bur Dubai, Dubai, UAE