

# Nonimmigrant Visas

## **When is the next available interview appointment?**

Due to the large demand for nonimmigrant visa services in Cuba, appointments for B2 tourist visas are currently being programmed for 2013.

## **What if there is a medical emergency or other urgent need to travel?**

The Visa Information and Appointment Scheduling Service can schedule expedited appointments for students, exchange visitors, medical emergencies, unexpected events, or other urgent travel needs. Applicants will be required to present documentation of the urgent travel need at the time of their interview. Those found to have made an expedited appointment under false pretenses will lose their appointment and will not be interviewed.

## **I am unable to come to my appointment. Can I reschedule it?**

Please contact the Consular Information Unit at telephone number 834-4400/02, via fax 833-1084 or use our "Contact Us" link available at our website.

## **Can my relative in the United States send you the money to pay for my interview at the U.S. Interests Section?**

No. Applicants need to bring the nonimmigrant interview fee in person.

## **I sent my application for a nonimmigrant visa to the U.S. Interests Section. Why did you return it to me?**

The U.S. Interests Section does not accept applications in the mail. Applicants need to contact their family members or associates in the United States to schedule an interview appointment on their behalf by calling our Visa Information and Appointment Scheduling Service at 1-866-374-1769. Completed forms should be brought in person on the day of the interview.

## **My relative scheduled an interview appointment on my behalf today but was given a date in two years. Why do I need to wait so long to be interviewed?**

The U.S. Interests Section is limited in the number of American personnel it can have in Cuba. Due to these numerical limits, the Interests Section can only provide a limited number of appointments per day.

### **LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

- Valid passport
- Recent 5 cm x 5 cm passport style photograph
- Form DS-156
- Form DS-157
- Form DS-160
- Non-refundable fee
- Depending on individual circumstances, applicants may provide other documentation substantiating the trip's purpose and specifying the nature of binding obligations, such as family ties or employment, which would compel their return to Cuba.

## **My relative scheduled an interview appointment on my behalf but I forgot the date. Can you tell me when my interview will take place?**

Applicants should ask their relatives or contacts in the United States to contact the Visa Information and Appointment Scheduling Service at 1-866-374-1769 to verify their appointment.

**Does the Visa Service allow the family to pay the visa fee when they make the appointment?**

The Visa Information and Appointment Scheduling Service does not allow family or contacts in the U.S. to pay the nonrefundable visa application fee. This fee is collected at the time of the interview.

**I was scheduled for an interview appointment next year but I know someone who was given an appointment in eight months. Why the difference?**

If a person has traveled to the United States within the last five years, that person would qualify for a renewal appointment. Renewal appointments are scheduled at a different time interval and we are typically able to schedule them at an earlier date. Additionally, under some circumstances, callers may receive an earlier appointment for their relatives if there has been a cancellation.

**Do I need a letter of invitation to be interviewed for a nonimmigrant visa?**

Applicants are not required to present a letter of invitation from their relatives in the United States to apply for a nonimmigrant visa at the U.S.

Interests Section. The invitation letter is a document requested by the Cuban government so that an intending traveler can obtain exit permission from Cuba.

**Do I need to present an Affidavit of Support for my interview?**

No. An Affidavit of Support is not required, however, applicants must provide convincing evidence that they have sufficient financial resources to cover their expenses in the U.S. or, in the alternative, that somebody else will cover those expenses for them.

**I am an American citizen inviting my relatives to visit me in the U.S. Can I be present during my relatives' interview at the U.S. Interests Section?**

American citizens who wish to accompany their relatives during their interview will be placed in a waiting room. The interview for a nonimmigrant visa must be conducted only by the consular officer and the applicant.

**My family member was scheduled for an interview appointment today but was not permitted to approach the U.S. Interests Section. What can be done to solve this problem?**

Cuban police restrict access to the Interests Section. Cuban police allow Cuban citizens to approach the Interests Section only if their names appear on the Interests Section's daily visa appointment list or if they possess a written pass issued by the Interests Section. If your family relative had an interview appointment but was not allowed to approach our building, please contact the Consular Information Unit by phone 834-4400/02, fax 833-1084 or via e-mail by sending a message through our "Contact Us" link on our website.

**Does a Cuban national with a foreign passport follow the same procedures to apply for a nonimmigrant visa to travel directly to the United States?**

All Cuban nationals must follow the same procedures and are subject to the same processes. Having a foreign passport does not expedite the issuance of a nonimmigrant visa for a Cuban national nor does it exclude the Cuban national from regular procedures.

**What do Cubans or third-country nationals with no contacts in the U.S. do to make an appointment?**

There will be a limited amount of appointments available to those in Cuba with no contacts in the United States. Those applicants may fax the U.S. Interests Section at (53)(7) 833-1084 and include their full name, passport number, purpose of visit, and a contact number in Cuba.

**I was issued a nonimmigrant visa but I was not able to travel to the United States because I did not get my exit permit on time. Can I get an extension?**

Applicants should contact the U.S. Interests Section at telephone number 834-4400/02 or via fax 833-1084 if they were not able to travel during the validity of their visa because they did not receive their letter of invitation from the Cuban government on time.

*Cuban nationals are subject to special visa processing procedures under Section 306 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act of 2002 (EBSVRA). If on the day of the interview the applicant is found eligible for a nonimmigrant visa under the general provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the application undergoes necessary administrative processing in order to verify the applicant's qualification for the visa class requested. This process often lasts 90 days, but in some instances, it can take several six months or longer. Applicants will be notified when a final decision has been made.*