



## VISA INTERVIEW WEEK AND APPOINTMENTS AT U.S. EMBASSY APIA SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 1, 2010

The United States Embassy in Apia will hold its quarterly [Visa Interview Week from September 27-October 1, 2010 from 9:00am - 11:00 am](#). The online calendar for scheduling appointments will open [Wednesday, August 25, 2010 from 3:00pm Apia time](#). All applicants wishing to secure an appointment must complete their [DS-160](#) prior to securing an appointment. [Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online for an appointment Wednesday, August 25 at 3pm](#). Students wishing to apply for a student visa must make sure they contact their appropriate school to make sure they receive their I-20 form in time to have it with them for the interview. Students are strongly advised to get their paperwork in on a timely manner. The application process changed since June. It is now automated, and more complicated. With the new automated changes the process now takes longer. So, there will be fewer appointment slots during the week. We encourage all interested applicants to try to secure one of the slots.

All visas approved during visa week will be processed and printed out of the U.S. Consulate General in Auckland, New Zealand. Applicants must allow 2 – 3 weeks after their interview for visa processing. Applicants who cannot allow for the 2 – 3 weeks processing time are encouraged to make arrangements for applying for a visa in New Zealand.

### **THE NEW DS-160 ELECTRONIC NON IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION**

- **ALL** visa applicants for September visa week are required to complete the new [DS-160](#) <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>. Please follow the instructions for completing the form carefully. Before starting the application, it will ask you for the location where you will be submitting your application. **ALL** applicants should choose **AUCKLAND** as your location. This is because the processing happens in Auckland even if we do the interview in Apia, and the system files the cases by the processing site name.
- The new DS-160 Non Immigrant Visa Electronic Application is a fully integrated online application form that will be used to collect the necessary application information from persons seeking a non immigrant visa. The DS-160 will be submitted electronically. The DS-160 is a very detailed application form and must be completed with the appropriate and correct information. To complete your online visa application, you need a digital photo (from your computer, digital camera, flash drive, etc). Please read carefully the requirements for uploading your photo and the photo specifications available at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/frvi\\_3877.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/frvi_3877.html). You must upload a photo in order to submit your application. If the photo you upload is not accepted as suitable (quality of image, or likeness), you will be given the option to continue without a photo. In this instance only, where you have successfully submitted the application, you may bring a photo meeting the above requirements to the Embassy with your confirmation page on the day of your interview.

Note: If efforts to enter your photo are unsuccessful, any digital photo entered will allow you to proceed, and the correct printed photo can then be uploaded at the embassy during the interview process.

- Most fields on the DS-160 are mandatory. You may leave fields marked “Optional” blank. Some fields may also give you the option to select “Does Not Apply”. If that field does not apply to you, you may mark the box next to “Does Not Apply.” All other fields must be completed. The application **will not** allow you to submit a form with any mandatory fields left blank. In this instance, an error message will be displayed and you will be required to complete the field before continuing with the application. If you do not answer questions that apply, your form may also be rejected. An incomplete form will not be successfully entered and will not result in the applicant receiving the needed bar code to secure an appointment.
- Once you start, keep going, don’t take a break. The DS-160 will “time out” or turn itself off approximately 20 minutes after the application has been idle. The “time out” is designed to protect your privacy. If the application times out, all the data that has been entered will be lost. In order to guard against possible “time out” issues you should save the application at regular intervals while you are completing the application. To save the application, click the “Save” button at the bottom center of the application.

Clicking save will **temporarily** save your application. In order to permanently save your application, select the “Save Application to File” button. Then, click the “Save” button on the File Download window. Identify a place on your computer to save the application file, browse to that location, and click the “Save” button on the Save As window. The system will download your application to the specified location. Once the download is complete you can click “Close” to return to the application. You can then use the “Import Application Data” option on the “Getting Started” page to upload the data that you have already entered.

- Once completed, the information in the DS-160 will be electronically transmitted. The applicant must then print the confirmation page that includes some biographical information and a bar code confirmation number. You should not bring your entire application with you on the day of your interview. Your confirmation page is all that is needed to retrieve your application data in addition to other supporting documents for your visa. You must bring the confirmation page with you during all phases of the application process. Without the confirmation page, it may not be possible to access your application and process your visa case.

Consular staff will use the information entered on the DS-160 to process the visa application and, combined with a personal interview, will determine an applicant’s eligibility for a non immigrant visa. The New [DS-160](#) application replaces the [DS-156 EAVF](#) application form. It combines the DS-156, DS-157 and the DS-158 forms.

PLEASE note that if someone else helps you complete the application form, it is up to you (the applicant) to ensure that they have all the required information. It is your **responsibility** to make sure the application reflects the truth, especially regarding prior trips to the United States, any problems at the border, any legal problems, etc. Negatives in these categories will not necessarily prevent your getting a visa. However incorrect information makes it appear you have tried to lie, which may result in a visa refusal this time (no refunds) and possibly again in the future. **Do not risk any wrong information.** Too often we must turn down someone who may only have accidentally given us incomplete or wrong information. Do not let this happen to you.

- To Access the form and to book an appointment on August 25 at 3:00pm. Please visit our website <http://samoa.usembassy.gov> Click on Visas to the U.S. followed by Non Immigrant Visas followed by “How to Apply” or use [http://samoa.usembassy.gov/how\\_to\\_apply.html](http://samoa.usembassy.gov/how_to_apply.html) which will take you directly to the “How to Apply” page.

For frequently asked questions regarding the DS-160 form please click on [http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms\\_4401.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4401.html)

Thank you,  
Embassy of the United States of America, Apia.