

Non-Immigrant Visa Frequently Asked Questions Podcast Transcript

Music/Standard Intro:

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Opening Narration:

We are here today talking with a Consular Officer Jerald about the Non-Immigrant Visa process, most commonly known as a tourist visa. In this interview, he will be giving answers to commonly asked questions, such as, the application fee, the visa process, in addition to just general information about the process itself.

How do I apply for a visa appointment?

There are three basic steps to apply for a visa.

- First, you have to pay your visa application fee
- You have to fill up the application itself online
- And then, you use your receipt number from the visa fee you paid, to actually register for an appointment.

And, Where do you go online?

All the information about applying for a U.S. visa can be found on our web site at <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>.

How much is the visa fee?

For the standard tourist visa, it is \$140, which at the current exchange rate (February 14, 2012) is about 22,000 Naira (Nigerian currency). Different classes of visas have different fees, but most people apply just for the standard visa.

In which bank do I pay the visa fee?

All of our visa fees are collected through Guarantee Trust Bank (GT Bank). You can go to the bank itself and pay cash, and there is also an online payment option for GT Bank customers.

And, after I pay the visa fee, are there other charges that I would have to pay, that are related to this visa application to the Embassy?

For a standard tourist or business visa, there is no additional fee. Although for some classes of visas, especially students for example, there is an additional processing fee of \$200 for students, but for most people, it is just the standard application fee.

For the interview, What documentations should I bring with me to the Embassy?

It would be difficult to say specifically what documents are required, but typically, the Officer during the interview will ask for documents to verify the information that is talked about in the interview. So, anything that you think can be relevant to your occupation, your family, your ties to Nigeria, your purpose of travel to the United States, anything that will verify what you are talking about, would be useful at the interview itself.

And, If I am denied a visa, will the Embassy refund the money that I have already paid?

Actually, they would not. The fee is not for the visa itself. The fee is for the interview, and the processing - the decision for the visa itself. And so, whether the visa is issued or not, that fee is used during the interview.

I've been told that if I pay certain amount of money to an agent, then her/she will help help secure quick appointment for me and guarantee that I get a U.S. visa. Is this true? Do you really have people working for you in this way?

This is absolutely not true. All the prices for a U.S. visa are completely transparent. All the prices are available on our web site. The only fees that are required, are the basic application fee, or perhaps in the case of a student, an additional student processing fee of \$200. These agents, who offer to provide extra services, typically do people a disservice because they don't understand exactly the process, and they give people misinformation and many times are fraudulently taking advantage of people who want a visa to the United States. We absolutely recommend that people apply for the visa on their own and go through the entire process on their own because too many people end up getting in trouble when they use these types of agents.

How long is the waiting period to get a U.S. visa, if I am granted one?

The decision is made at the interview, and if your visa is granted, it usually takes about two days for the visa to be printed and then transferred to the pass-back company that we use, where you will be able to collect your passport. In most cases, you will be able to pick up your passport within 48 hours of your interview.

Thank you very much for your time Jerald today, is there anything else you would like to say to us before we close?

I would like to say that I've heard many people think that we deny most of the visas, but that is not true. We issue a majority of the people who apply, and the United States is happy to welcome Nigerians at any time. I look forward to seeing you at the window.

Closing Narration:

As do we, thank you Jerald.

Jerald:

Thank you.

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