

Thank you for contacting the Nonimmigrant Visa (NIV) Unit of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. We appreciate your interest in traveling to the United States.

Please read all of the information below for answers to our most frequently asked questions (FAQs) from the public. If you send a question to <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/askniv.html> addressed by the information below, you will **not** receive a reply. If your questions are not answered after reading these FAQs and your e-mail pertains to nonimmigrant visa issues, we will respond to your inquiry shortly. Please do not send duplicate inquiries.

Please include your passport number, date of birth, and your name as it is written in your passport in all e-mail to this address.

In addition, we would like to remind all applicants that you should never confirm your travel plans until you have received your visa. Administrative processing requirements following the interview may increase the amount of time a successful applicant will wait before receiving his or her visa. Applicants should submit nonimmigrant visa applications at least three months before they intend to travel to the United States.

General information about U.S. visas can be found [here](#).

Specific information about applying for visas at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad can be found [here](#).

Please note that under U.S. law, we are unable to provide information regarding the status of a case to anyone other than the applicant.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **BEFORE THE INTERVIEW**

#### **1. How do I apply for a nonimmigrant visa to the United States?**

Complete procedures for applying for a nonimmigrant visa are outlined on our [website](#). You must submit the following required application documents and pay the associated fee through American Express, where you will receive a token with a time and date for your interview:

- the one-page confirmation form (with legible barcode) from the DS-160;
- a recent photo measuring 2" x 2" with white background (click for [complete photo requirements](#));
- a photocopy of the applicant's passport, which must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the planned date of entry into the United States;
- photocopies of the bio-pages of all previous passports for the last 15 years; and
- a complete travel history for the past 10 years (a list of countries visited in the last 10 years with the year of travel).

<b>Nonimmigrant Visa Services</b>	<b>Fee US\$</b>	<b>MRV Fee Rupees</b>
Tourist (B-1/B-2), Student (F and M), Exchange Program (J), Crew Member (C1/D), Journalist (I) Visas	\$160	Rs. 15,680
Petition-Based Employment Visas (H, L, O, P, Q and R)	\$190	Rs. 18,620
Treaty Trader and Investor Visas (E)	\$270	Rs. 26,460

Student (F-1) and exchange visitor (J-1) visa applications may require additional documents. Information regarding student documentation can be found [here](#). Information regarding exchange visitor documentation can be found [here](#).

All visa interview appointments are scheduled through American Express or one of its SpeedEx office partners (click [here](#) to find the location nearest you).

All visa applicants must appear in person for an interview (applicants applying for A or G diplomatic/international organization-type visas are exempted from this requirement).

If you require an attendant for your interview, you must inform American Express at the time of scheduling.

## **2. Arriving for Your Interview**

All applicants should use the Diplomatic Shuttle Service from the G-5 Convention Center Parking Area to come for their interviews. For complete instructions, please contact your nearest American Express or SpeedEx office.

## **3. Visa Wait Times**

Applicants should submit visa applications at least three months before they intend to travel to the United States. The average wait time for an interview is three to ten days from the date of application submission. In addition, administrative processing requirements following the interview may increase the amount of time a successful applicant will wait before receiving a visa.

## **4. What documents do I need to bring to the interview?**

The most important part of the interview is the conversation between the applicant and the consular officer. In many cases, the consular officer will determine an applicant's qualification for a visa without extensive document review. However, this does not mean that applicants should not bring any documentation. Applicants are encouraged to bring documents they believe will demonstrate compelling reasons to depart the United States and an intention to abide by the terms of the visa.

**5. I would like to provide information in support of the nonimmigrant visa application of my relative, friend, or colleague. What should I do?**

You are welcome to provide the applicant with information or documents that may support his or her application. Please note that consular officers do not review most visa applications prior to the applicant's interview. Therefore, we are unable to accept letters of invitation or other supporting documentation prior to the interview. This regulation ensures that all applicants receive fair, unprejudiced consideration in accordance with U.S. law. During the interview, applicants may present documentation or other information upon the consular officer's request.

**6. Medical Treatment or Illness/Death of a Family Member**

Applicants who need to travel to the United States urgently for emergency medical treatment or the sudden illness or death of a family member are not required to schedule an appointment through American Express.

However, applicants must pay the \$ 160 application fee at American Express prior to their interview. These applicants may bring their application and fee receipt to the Embassy prior to 11:00 AM on any working day. The Embassy reserves the right to determine what constitutes an emergency. Any case that is determined not to be an emergency will be rescheduled for a later date according to the Embassy's nonimmigrant visa appointment schedule.

**AFTER THE INTERVIEW**

**1. The officer said administrative processing of my case was required. I have been waiting but have not received my passport with the visa. Why is it taking so long, and when will it be ready?**

After the interview, many visa applications necessitate further routine but required administrative processing, an integral part of the visa adjudication process that can be neither waived nor expedited. Applicants are advised of this requirement at the time of their interview. Most administrative processing is resolved within 60 to 90 days of the visa interview; however, it is difficult to predict the amount of time it will take. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary based on the individual circumstances of each case. It is recommended that visa applicants apply at least 90 days before their date of travel. Once the administrative processing is complete, the Visa Unit will contact you.

If it has been over six months since you applied and you have not received a response, please send an e-mail [here](#). If you do not receive a response, your case is still being processed. We are unable to expedite administrative processing. While your visa is being processed, the Visa Unit will not contact you.

*To check the status of your case, please visit <https://ceac.state.gov/CEAC/> and enter your Application Number (the number printed under the bar code on your confirmation sheet) as shown below. Case status is automatically updated daily; additional emails to inquire about the status of a case will not be answered.*



Application Number from confirmation sheet (example)

**2. I have to travel soon, and my passport is at the Embassy. Can I have my passport returned?**

Yes. Please e-mail your name and passport number [here](#) and your passport will be returned via courier service. The subject line should read, "Return Passport" followed by your passport number. Please allow a minimum of one week to receive your passport.

**3. The consular officer or Embassy staff member asked me to submit documents in order to continue administrative processing. How do I submit the documents?**

Send the documents by e-mail to [here](#). You will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the documents. If you do not have access to e-mail, you may submit your documents through the American Express or SpeedEx office where you initially applied. If the consular officer asked you to reappear at the Embassy with new documents, you may come to the Embassy on any working day from 08:30 – 14:00. You do not need to pay an additional fee or request an appointment, but you will need to bring the letter from the consular officer requesting the documents.

**4. How can I update my contact information?**

Please send us an e-mail [here](#). We will automatically update your information.

**5. The consular officer refused my visa application. Why? Can I appeal the decision?**

The United States is an open society. Unlike many other countries, the United States does not impose internal controls on most visitors, such as registration with local authorities. In order to enjoy the privilege of unencumbered travel in the United States, aliens have a responsibility to prove they are going to return abroad before a visitor or student visa is issued. U.S. immigration law requires consular officers to view every visa applicant as an intending immigrant until the applicant proves otherwise.

Section 214(b) is part of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). It states:

Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to a nonimmigrant status...

The most frequent basis for a refusal concerns the requirement that the prospective visitor possess a residence abroad he or she has no intention of abandoning. Applicants prove the existence of such residence by demonstrating that they have ties abroad that would compel them to leave the United States at the end of the temporary stay. The law places this burden of proof on the applicant.

Strong ties differ from country to country, city to city, individual to individual. Some examples of ties can be a job, a house, a family, a bank account. "Ties" are the various aspects of your life that bind you to your country of residence: your possessions, employment, social and family relationships.

You cannot appeal the decision. However, you may reapply for a visa. The decision as to whether or not you qualified for a visa was primarily based on an assessment of your personal situation. If your situation has not changed, the decision is unlikely to change. We recommend that you reapply only if your situation has changed significantly, and:

- you can provide new evidence demonstrating your ties to Pakistan;
- you have new, convincing reasons to depart the United States after your temporary stay; or
- you are able to explain the significant change in your circumstances with information not presented during previous interview(s).

Applicants wishing to reapply must submit a new application form and photo and pay the application fee. Another officer not previously associated with your case will conduct an unprejudiced interview and make an independent decision after considering your case.