



**Transcript for the April 29, 2015, Webchat  
Nonimmigrant and Immigrant Visas**

Q: I am a student in UK on Indian passport and have a valid uk tier 4 visa till 23/01/16. I had an us visa b1/b2 type which expired on 23 june 2012.i need to travel to us immediately to see my brother in law who is not well. how can i go through the processing in uk as fast as possible and what are the procedures. can you please guide me as i am in urgency of the same.

A: We're sorry to hear about your brother-in-law's illness. Visit our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> for step-by-step nonimmigrant visa application instructions. We suggest you refer in particular to our YouTube video which gives tips about how to book a visa interview, including how to request an expedite appointment if the first available interview date is not suitable. If you make a request, make sure you explain your purpose of travel and preferred travel date.

We say preferred travel date because visa processing varies in each case and we can't guarantee an outcome by any set date. That's why we do advise all applicants not to book travel tickets unless they've received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their travel.

Q: I am a US citizen and have lived in the UK for 13+ years. I am marrying my fiance in September (she is English) and I have a new job starting in January in the US. What is the likelihood that my fiance can get her visa in time to travel to the US at the beginning of December? What can be done to facilitate the process? Is there any way for her to come with me if we haven't heard back about her visa? Is there any way of starting the process before the wedding? My reading on the consular/immigration website suggests that there is nothing that can be done to facilitate things other than have everything ready to submit immediately after the wedding but I figured it was worth a try. Thanks. TMI

Based on the information furnished, if you will be marrying your partner, after which she wishes to travel to the United States with a view to residing there indefinitely or permanently, then she will require an immigrant visa in order to travel. The Visa Waiver Program or a nonimmigrant visa cannot be used in lieu of an immigrant visa.

It is not possible for you to file a petition an Immediate Relative (IR-1) visa petition until after the marriage has taken place. While processing varies in each individual case, the average timescale for a petition filed with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) field office in London, is six months from the date the petition is filed to the date on which the appointment is scheduled. Timescales are only given for guidance; there's no set period of time that an immigrant visa application may take. This is why we strongly advise applicants against booking tickets, resigning from employment or selling property unless they've received their passport containing a valid visa.

Q: hello, I came to UK from america. I am an american citizen . I have been accepted here for a course and to start a job, but I was told that I have to go back to US to apply for my visa and I can not afford to do that since I start school in June. I really need help or a phone number or something i already paid for half my school



A: The UK Home Office is your best source for information about British immigration regulations and requirements. Information and contact details can be found on their website at <https://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration>

Q: My dad pass on and was denied a visa my mother doing dilaisis 3 times a wk how can I get to see my mother before its too late .

A: You're not prohibited from reapplying for a visa at any time; information about the application process is available at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html> . Regardless of an applicant's purpose of travel, a consular officer can only approve a visa application if they are satisfied that the individual qualifies to receive a visa under U.S. law. We can't speculate on the likelihood of receiving a visa.

Q: Hi, I am out here studying in America on an F-1 Visa. My visa is due to run out the summer of this year, however I have to complete one more year of education so I am looking to gain an extra year extension so I can stay and finish up my Masters degree. I am due to be back in England this summer and am looking to gain the years extension I require. As I already obtain an F-1 visa, is there any way I can book an appointment while I'm still here in America for when I'm back to help speed up the process? Also, I would love to know the costs for a years extension to my Visa and how long it will take until I would receive my passport back with updated visa? Thank you.

A: To clarify, it's not a case of extending a visa – if you depart the United States and wish to return after your visa has expired, you will need to apply for a new visa. Information about the application process is on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html> , with particular reference to our YouTube video for tips about booking a visa interview appointment.

You can book an appointment while you are in the United States, but all visa applicants must be physically present in the United Kingdom to apply. If appointments for the month you'll be in the United Kingdom aren't released yet, you can keep checking the Visa Appointment System for updates. We also tweet about newly released appointments [@USAinUKCGCorner](#)

We can't guarantee an outcome by any set date, which is why we advise applicants against booking U.S. travel tickets unless they've received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: Hi I am an Indian national working in the US based on an approved change of status H1B petition. I changed from H4 to H1B in 2012. I am visiting my husband (Also an Indian national) in the UK for a month, will I be able to get my H1B stamping in London instead of having to travel to India for the stamping?

Hi there – we get this kind of question a lot! As explained on our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> , anyone who is physically present in the UK at the time of application – no matter their nationality or their status in the UK – can choose to apply for a visa here. We can't predict the outcome of an application or how long it might take, though – that's why we advise against booking travel tickets unless the passport has been returned containing a valid visa appropriate for the purpose of travel to the United States.



Q: I had until last year a B1/B2 VISA renewed twice (First Visa in 1989). My VISA expired less than 12 months ago. Do I need to apply for a new VISA or can I renew it as I did in the past?

A: Here's another question we get asked a lot! To clarify, the nonimmigrant visa application process is the same, no matter whether or not a visa has been issued in the past. Each applicant applies for a new visa by following the steps on our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps>

All B-1/B-2 visa applicants aged 14-79 inclusive are required to attend a visa interview in person at the U.S. Embassy in London or the U.S. Consulate General in Belfast, even if they've received a visa in the past.

Q: I am an International student who is currently studying in the UK. I wish to visit US in the summer for tourism purpose only. Is it okay to select visa type of B1/B2 for my application?

We're glad you asked this. We understand, for example, that people traveling to the U.S. for a holiday might also want to attend an educational conference or vice-versa. Therefore, anyone traveling for tourism and/or for limited business purposes such as attending a business meeting or a conference (see <http://dld.bz/nivb1> for more information) can choose to apply for a B-1/B-2 visa.

Q: Hi! Following is my query: Is it necessary to re-apply for a US tourist visa if it is stamped on my old Passport and the new passport has a name correction (first name). The new passport shows

A: Hi! It looks like your message was split in two – the rest of it read “a stamp reflecting the correction and stating that all visas are valid on my old passport.” It would be best if we had some extra information about this, specifically the name stated in your old passport, the name on your U.S. visa, the name in your new passport, the nationality of both passports, a brief outline of how the mistake occurred and the text of the amendment added by the issuing authority in your new passport. Given the personal nature of the information that will help us answer your question, please contact us directly via our contact form at <http://dld.bz/visacontact>

Q: I am a non-UK resident working in UK on deputation, I wish to apply for B-2 US visitor visa, can you please let me know what documents should I produce to show for the "Evidence of your status in the United Kingdom if not a U.K. or EU passport holder"? How much funds should I show as sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States? Residence abroad to which you intend to return at the end of the stay in the United States means can I show the bank statement as address proof here?

A: Thanks for asking this, as lots of people wonder about documents. As each person's circumstances are different, there's no set amount of funds needed and no set form any evidence must take. Applicants can bring to their visa interview any documents that they believe may help demonstrate their eligibility for a visa so that they are available in case the officer asks to see them. More information is available via Step 5 of our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps>

However, it's important to bear in mind that applying for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa is not primarily a document-based process, so you should only give to the consular officer the documents that they specifically request from you. Remember, the officer will have all the information you give via your application form and your answers during your visa interview. That information is often enough for the officer to decide if an applicant qualifies for a visa under U.S. law.



Q: hi, my name is stephen.. i am a green card holder since 12/29/2011..i was severely sick in the last 18 month so i couldn't go to US yet..my last entry to the US was on december 2012..how can i re enter to US with my green card..thanks...

A: Under U.S. law, if a Lawful Permanent Resident (an LPR, commonly known as a 'Green Card' holder) stays outside the U.S. for more than 12 months (or beyond the validity period of a Reentry Permit obtained before departing) then they lose their entitlement to LPR status.

If you've lost your LPR status and want to return to the United States to live there indefinitely or permanently, you will need to qualify for an immigrant visa again. A list of all the available immigrant visa categories is on our website at <http://dld.bz/ivcategories>

Q: I want to go to USA for 5 days, I am british citizen since 2011, I have been refused for visa in 2008 at London embassy when I have a Indian passport , when I fill up the ESTA form it says have you been refused for US visa then what answer I can give. I am eligible for free visa under VWP programme or I have to apply for B2 visa. I have a e- passport now.

A: Anyone's that's been refused a visa in the past under Section 214(b) or Section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) isn't prohibited from registering under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), if they're otherwise eligible to travel under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program.

As you have spotted when you looked at the ESTA registration form, anyone that's ever been refused a visa – no matter the eventual outcome of that application, and no matter their nationality at the time of the refusal – must declare the refusal when registering under ESTA.

We strongly suggest everyone carefully checks <http://dld.bz/visafree> and our Visa Waiver Wizard at <http://dld.bz/vwpwizard> to help decide if they may be eligible to travel under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program. Anyone that isn't eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program requires a nonimmigrant visa if they would like to travel to the United States for a visit.

Q: I am sponsoring my UK-citizen fiance for a K1 visa. Last week, he was notified that our case has been received by the London embassy and that he should start collecting the necessary documents, including the I-134 Affidavit of Support that I need to send him. I knew this would be required, so I have had these documents (certification from my bank, letter from my employer, etc.) prepared for some time. My question is, will it be ok for these documents to be dated 2-3 months before his interview date, or should I prepare a new set that are more recent?

A: It sounds like your fiancé has the list of documents he'll need to bring to his interview ([http://london.usembassy.gov/iv/application\\_documents.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/iv/application_documents.html)), and you've done the right thing sending paperwork to him rather than to us because we can't accept documents in advance! Your fiancé should bring the documents he has available to his interview and be prepared to discuss his case with the consular officer.

We're often asked about the affidavit of support for K-1 visa applicants – although Form I-134 is not a requirement, it is one efficient way to demonstrate to the consular officer that an applicant is not likely to become a public charge when in the United States.



Q: Hello, i intend to visit the US for a confrence in Newyork and also for summer holiday, what documents will i need to come along with to the embassy as i am an international student. i also what to know if i should procced with payments for the confrence i intend to attend in the U.S

A: Hi! You might have spotted some of this information earlier in the chat, but just to clarify – individuals that want to go to the United States for a conference and for a holiday may be eligible for a B-1/B-2 visa, which is an option when completing Form DS-160.

A full step-by-step outline of the visa application process is available at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> Check Step 5 for information about documents required on the day of the visa interview. The YouTube video, which can be accessed via that webpage, gives an overview of the interview booking process.

We can't guarantee an outcome on or before any set date, so we advise applicants against making final travel plans unless they've received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: My question is to do with an error I made on my DS-160 form. I mistakenly added a given name that's not in my passport on the DS-160 form. I should have entered the given name in the other name section. Do I need to fill out a new form? And if so will my appointment date still hold?

A: Lots of people wonder what to do if they realize they've made a mistake after they've submitted their nonimmigrant visa application, Form DS-160. If you can't update it via <https://ceac.state.gov/GenNIV/Default.aspx> then you should complete and electronically submit a new Form DS-160 to replace the previous form. You won't need to pay a new fee to submit a new form.

You don't need to reschedule your visa interview if you complete a new Form DS-160. Make sure you print the new DS-160 confirmation page to bring to your visa interview, and tell the consular officer in the interview that your DS-160 number changed since your appointment was scheduled.

Q: I am a UK citizen and 6 years ago I applied for a 6 month travel visa as I wanted to stay in the US longer than the permitted 90 days. My visa application was declined twice (I can't remember the code used but the reason was I didn't show sufficient evidence that I intended to return to the UK) and I was told because of this I am no longer eligible for the visa wavier programme normally granted to UK citizens, is this correct? Would I need to apply for a travel visa if I wanted to go for a 2 week holiday with my family? If so would this involve an interview? Would you advise booking the holiday before applying for my visa or not? How long would the visa cover if I was successful or could I pick a specific time period in my application

A: Earlier in the chat we discussed how people that have previously been refused a visa under Section 214(b) or Section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) are not prohibited from traveling under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program, if they're otherwise eligible. If you're not sure what section of law your applications were refused under, contact the Embassy or Consulate General at which you applied. If you applied at Embassy London, you can contact us via <http://dld.bz/nivfaq> with your full name in the format SURNAME, Given Name(s), and the dates of your visa interviews.

To answer your other question, visa applicants can note their preferred travel dates when they complete Form DS-160 but we advise all applicants against actually booking travel tickets unless they have received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.



Q: I am writing to ask about whether a B1 business visa (and therefore ESTA) is sufficient to run a UK based, US tour operation, sending UK customers to the US for hiking trips for 2 weeks at a time in summer. I would like to know whether we could use only local guides, or whether we could assist. In this regard, I came across the following question asked in your blog in 2010 which relates very closely to my own question:

[http://photos.state.gov/libraries/unitedkingdom/164203/pdf/AmEmbassy\\_London\\_visa\\_webchat5.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/unitedkingdom/164203/pdf/AmEmbassy_London_visa_webchat5.pdf) (the 2nd question on p1 of this document). This is very similar question to my own and the answer seemed to be yes, a B1 visa would be sufficient. But I am confused by the reference to the difference between managing the tour in terms of day to day operation and limits to discussing tour sites. Are you able to clarify? Thank you in advance.

A: It's great to hear you've been checking our previous webchat transcripts! As always, the appropriate visa classification is dependent on the individual's purpose of travel, i.e. their planned activities in the United States. If traveling to oversee the day-to-day operations of a tour that was booked and organized outside the United States, then a B-1 visa may be appropriate. If, however, the individual wishes to work as a tour guide, for instance giving information about tourist sights, then an employment-based H-2B visa would appear to be appropriate. The decision on each individual's eligibility for a visa is a matter for the adjudicating consular officer and no assurances can be given in advance.

Q: Hi I have a had conviction for drink-driving in 2008 since then I have travelled to the US on several occasions by getting a Visa. Do I still need to get a Visa. As I do not have no other convictions and this is just to one offence I have read on several forums that I am not required to get a Visa any more.

A: Hi! We do recommend that anyone that's ever been arrested, convicted or cautioned – no matter when, where or why, and no matter what the outcome of the case – applies for a visa if they wish to travel to the United States. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does not apply to U.S. visa law. Step-by-step information about how to apply for a visa in the UK is available via our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> Check Step 2 in particular, as well as our YouTube video for tips about the visa application process, including how to book a visa interview.

Q: It is mentioned on your website that attending technical conference on B-1 visa will be subjected to administrative review which take longer time. I would like to know I will be attending just lectures and talks based conference with poster presentation so does it means it will be subjected to additional administrative review? or if successful it will be processed 3-5 days timescale. Thanks

A: Hello! To clarify, our website says additional administrative processing may be needed, but the decision on an individual's eligibility for a visa and whether additional administrative processing is required can only be made by the consular officer following the visa interview.

We do advise all applicants, regardless of the reason for their trip to the United States, to apply well in advance of their preferred travel date and not to book tickets or make final plans unless they have received their passport containing a valid visa appropriate for their travel.

A: Hi. I have been selected to speak a Conference at Harvard at the beginning of June. However, the earliest visa appointment that I have secured is only 5 working days before the start of the conference. While your website states that the appointment wait is currently 14 calendar days, in fact it is turning



out to be almost a month. Do you release any earlier dates for appointments if people cancel? Also, is there any other way to go about applying for visa? (I would not qualify for visa waiver) Thank you for your time.

Q: Hi there! It sounds like you've gone the right way about booking a nonimmigrant visa interview appointment, via the Visa Appointment Service. At the time of booking, all applicants are offered the earliest available visa interview date for the type of visa they're applying for and their personal circumstances. After that, any newly released appointments or dates made available by a cancellation will show via the Visa Appointment Service account at <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-gb/niv> Although we can't guarantee finding an earlier appointment, new appointments were released recently so you might want to check now!

Q: Hi, I'm a dual US/UK citizen planning to relocate to the US later this year and sponsoring my UK citizen husband to come with me. I've submitted the I-130 and I'm preparing the I-864 and have questions. Since I am currently resident in the UK, should I give my UK mailing address - but state US domicile? Or should I give a US mailing address of a family member (my brother) even if we do not plan to live there when we relocate? And should my place of residence address be my current UK address? Secondly, will it help me to show my intent to relocate (supporting my US domicile) if my US resident brother co-sponsors my husband? Or will that not make any difference vs me sponsoring alone (using assets to sponsor)?

A: You should complete Form I-864 truthfully and to the best of your ability. We recommend you read through our Frequently Asked Questions at <http://dld.bz/ivi864faqs> for detailed information about domicile and sponsorship. If you can demonstrate sufficient income and/or assets to sponsor your husband, he will not require a joint sponsor.

Q: Dear Sir, I am British citizen also holding OCI (Overseas Citizens Of India) card, under F4 category my immigration file submitted in year 2005 when I was in India. Do I need to transfer my case where currently I live or with holding OCI my file can still be processed in India? Thank you.

A: All immigrant visa applications should be processed by the U.S. Embassy or Consulate General with jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence. If your case is with the National Visa Centre (NVC), you should contact them to advise them of your new address. If your case file is at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate General in India but you now live in the UK, please contact us about this.

Q: On the DS-156E and DS-160 for someone renewing an E-2 Registration, how do you calculate total cumulative investment? For instance, if this is the E-2 company's third renewal, and the company has done so well that no additional investments have been made apart from the original investment, do we only put in the original investment amount?

A: If you have questions about applying for an E-2 visa after reviewing the detailed information on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/e.html>, we recommend you contact us directly for clarification via <http://dld.bz/nivfaq>

Q: Hi, I am an Austrian citizen and my wife and son are both US citizens. We are currently residents in the UK and are applying for an immigrant visa via the London US embassy. We will immigrate together to the US this year and I would have a few questions about the form I-864. We both have jobs and earn money here in the UK and my wife already has an offer (with contract) for a job in the US. Our jobs in



the UK will end once we move and the job of my wife in the US has not started yet (as we have not moved yet). Which of these 3 incomes can we use to support my immigrant visa application, ie use for form i-864. In case we need them, can we use our bank statements from UK and Austrian banks to additionally support our application? Thanks a lot.

A: We've discussed Form I-864 earlier in the webchat and we'd suggest you also carefully review the detailed information on our site at <http://dld.bz/ivi864faqs> but, in brief, it's important to note that your petitioner is required to complete Form I-864 even she knows her income earned from a U.S. source will not meet the poverty level guidelines for the household size. If a petitioner is unable to meet the income requirements, they may take in to account assets (such as savings, bonds or property), including those held jointly with, or solely by, the sponsored immigrant.

Q: Hello, I'm an Italian citizen and UK resident. I hold a valid Italian machine-readable passport. I'm planning a 15-days trip to the US. As part of my trip, I'd like to go from the US to the Bahamas by cruise; then back to the US and from there to Nicaragua by plane. Finally back again to the US by plane and return to the UK. My trips to the Bahamas and Nicaragua will last a few days each as I'll spend most of my time in the US. I'd like to know 1) if it is sufficient I apply for one ESTA. 2) If ESTA is sufficient, do I need to answer "yes" to the following question on the ESTA form or mention anywhere that I'll be exiting the US a couple of times? "Is your travel to the US occurring in transit to another country?"

A: Hi. The Visa Waiver Program and the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) are administered by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, not the Department of State. If you still have questions after reviewing our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/vwp.html>, including the FAQs on the right-hand side of the page, then we suggest that you review the Help files on the official ESTA website at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/> and the CBP website at <https://help.cbp.gov> for information and contact details.

Q: Could you please talk us through the next steps and the approximate timescales for each step after the I-130 has been processed and passed to the NVC in the Embassy? (Also, how will be notified when our I-130 has been processed, email or letter?)

A: Hi! We suggest that you review our website at <http://dld.bz/ivoverview> where we have information about what to expect at each stage of the immigrant visa application process.

If a visa petition in your name is approved by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the United States and passed to the National Visa Center (NVC), you can expect all processing up to and including the scheduling of your visa interview to be undertaken by NVC in the United States. Please contact them directly if you have any inquiries in that regard.

Q: I am applying for a CR1 marriage visa and after 15 months have finally recieved an interview date for the 23rd June which is in 7 weeks time. I have booked my medical for this coming tuesday. My wife is struggling financially as it is and we are stunned that this process has taken this long and now after waiting a month for an interview date we get givenm a date in more than 7 weeks time. What are the my options for and chances of getting an interview date earlier than the one I have been assigned ?

A: All immigrant visa applicants are offered the earliest available interview date at the time their appointment is scheduled and we are unable to offer an earlier date than that assigned. We do advise



all applicants against making final travel plans, resigning from employment or selling property unless they have received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: Hi there I have applied for a B1/B2 tourist visa and have an interview on 18th May. I have stated on the form that I will support myself and have saved money to be away for 6 months, although my fiancée will also be helping me ie paying rent etc. I am hoping to go away this July and be back at Christmas. I am not sure what evidence I will need to provide at the interview I have some savings, I have property in London which I rent and my fiancée will be supporting me will I just need to prove this at the interview?

A: Hi - you might have missed it, but we discussed documents and finances earlier in the webchat - please scroll back or check the transcript, which will be published shortly.

Q: Hi, I am applying the B1 Visa for attending a conference which held in 7-9th May. However, since I finished the visa interview at 21 April and my application went to the Administrative Process (AP), my visa application status still is "pending". So I have some general questions need your help.1. How often does the Visa Unit update the AP PDF form? 2.I chose to collect the passport in person when I did the visa appointment online. So is that means I also can collect the passport after you finish the AP and issue my visa?3.If the AP time goes beyond my conference date, can I use the B1 visa go to US for tourist travel? Or I have to apply a new B2 travel visa for that purpose?4. After the No.3 question, if I cannot use the B1 visa for tourism purpose, how can I cancel the current visa application? If I cancel it this time, will it affect my next time US visa application? Because I am planning to go to US this summer to enjoy some beautiful views. 5. And if I cancel this application, how about my visa fee? Can

A: We tweet via [@USAinUKCGCorner](#) every time the additional administrative processing online case status report is updated; typically it is on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening, but you need not be concerned if this occasionally differs slightly for operational reasons. Any updates will show on the report; we cannot guarantee an outcome on or before any set date.

If your visa application is approved, you can check if you are issued with a B-1/B-2 visa. Holders of a valid B-1/B-2 visa can travel to a United States Port of Entry to apply for admission for tourism and/or limited business activities.

Q: I am a UK citizen currently going through the immigrant visa petition so that I can join my husband of 13 years in the USA. He is a US Citizen as are our 3 children (who are still in the UK now). It has now been 8 weeks since he received the letter that our petition had been approved but I have not yet received the letter with my case file number so that I can book my medical. Who should I contact if it doesn't arrive soon?

A: It typically takes up to eight weeks for a case file to be passed to the Immigrant Visa Unit at the Embassy; as this timescale has passed, the best thing for you to do is contact us via our contact form at <http://dld.bz/visacontact> with your full name, your petitioner's full name and the date you received the petition approval notice.

Q: Hi my name is Nilesh and I am currently in the US on a B1/B2 Visa. I have reviewed several business concepts which I would like to implement. Hotel Management or Purchase is the desired path, however, to turn this into an operational business whilst mindful of the E2 criteria is proving to be challenging. I have read most of the information on the Treaty Trader and Investors pages



(<http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/e.html>) but still have queries. I really want to sound my ideas and work in progress with someone who can help (without paying any more the high attorney prices). Where can I seek more advice? How do I confirm my business concept into an operational business is valid for the E2 application? How real does it need to be before applying?

Q: If you are in the United States and have any questions about your status or activities in the United States, you should contact the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for clarification. Information and contact details can be found via their website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

A: Good afternoon! I would like to apply for a J1 Exchange Visa as a Trainee. I have been trying to find a sponsor in Media and Communications since November which has been difficult and currently still no joy. As a last resort I was thinking of travelling to the US in order to potentially meet with people face to face in regards to the J1 Visa. If it gets to this point, is this something I would be allowed to do? Also can you offer any advice to get help as I would love to organize something from here in rather than have to go to be honest, and the department of state website doesn't offer much job roles in relation to what I would like to do. Thank you very much in advance.

Q: Have you checked the Department of State's website at <http://j1visa.state.gov/> which has lots of information for potential J-1 participants, including a program sponsor search function with contact details. Also, as outlined on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/interns.html> , another avenue that you may wish to explore is a work exchange programs based in the UK that operate exchanges in the United States and can arrange the necessary Form DS-2019. We cannot recommend any particular sponsor or program.

Q: My journey start date and port of entry have changed. can I change it without losing my existing appointment at the embassy?

A: Hello. We've covered making changes to Form DS-160 earlier in the webchat - suggest you check back for the information you need.

Q: Hi, I am a British Citizen and my wife who has a Sri Lankan passport lives in the UK (her visa type says "sponsored"). My question is do we need visas to travel to US, for a week holiday? If so, could you let me know the procedure, please.

A: Sri Lanka is not a country that participates in the Visa Waiver Program so, based on the information furnished, your wife will required a B-2 (tourist) visa if she wishes to travel to the United States for a holiday. Step-by-step information about the visa application process is available via our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps>

We recommend that you visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/vwp.html> to help you determine if you may be eligible to travel under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program. If not, you will require a visa if you wish to visit the United States.

Q: hi I got this week the i864 already filled and signed with the current tax Information from my sponsor and joint sponsor but the form is out of date expired form March 31st will be okay for my immigrant visa interview in a couple months?

A: Hi. Provided that you obtained Form I-864 from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website, you need not be concerned about the date printed on the form.



Q: Hello, please i am an international student in the u.k and i will like to attend a confrence in newyork and also for summer holiday, i would like to know if i need to make final arangement like paying for the confrence before i come to the embassy as i have an appointment next month

A: Hi - we have answered your questions! If you missed it, please scroll back in the chat, or check the transcript which will be published at [http://london.usembassy.gov/visa\\_webchats.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_webchats.html) shortly.

Q: Thank you. Our application will be processed in the UK. I have studied the information on your website , but it doesn't state how long it takes to get an interview in London after the I-130 has been approved. My sister had triplets. We want to be able to help her when they come home from hospital, so timescales are important to our decision making. I may go home for a bit on my own.

A: It varies in each case so we can't guarantee an outcome on before any set date, and any timescales can only be provided for guidance. However, the average timescale for an immediate relative immigrant visa application for the spouse of a U.S. citizen is six months from the date the petition is filed to the date of the visa interview but a lot depends on how quickly the visa applicant completes the forms and gathers the documents.

Q: Thank you for response. I have been to my local office in Kentucky and was given information on the EB5 programmme. I have also called the 1800 USCIS number but they were not able to provide further guidance. Still not sure which party is able to help? Should I be applying via the USCIS or the UK Embassy?

A: Hi. To clarify, the Immigrant Visa Unit at the Embassy is not involved until such time as an approved petition is received from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); any questions about the petition process are a matter for the USCIS office with which the petition is filed.