



**Transcript for the April 25, 2013, Webchat
Nonimmigrant & Immigrant Visas**

Q: Excuse me, I am a Chinese student studying in UK. I got a B1/B2 (multiple entry) visa for an academic conference in the US last year, which will expire on 26th Sep,2013, Could I go to the US again only for a tourism using this B1/B2 visa before the date of expiration? Thanks

A: Yes, the B1/B2 visa covers travel for both business and tourism. You may travel as a tourist on that visa until the date it expires.

Q: I'd let to know how to apply for a nonimmigrant visa renewal form. Thank you

A: Information about applying for a nonimmigrant visa is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html> Simply select the type of visa which covers your intended activities.

Q: Hi I am a student currently studying in UK, basically I am from India, is it possible to apply visiting visa to US from UK?

A: Anyone physically present in the United Kingdom at the time of application can apply for a nonimmigrant visa here. You may wish to review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> for more information.

Q: Hi, I am travelling to the USA to work at a holiday resort starting on June 10th 2013 until August 26th 2013. I have also booked a holiday for 2 weeks prior to commencing my work from May 23rd 2013 until just before I start working. The company that have sponsored me have told me that the J1 visa can only run for 5 days prior to my work placement. They have told me to apply for an ESTA to cover the holiday period prior to commencing work. Is that ok? If that is not ok, then could you tell me what to do so that I have the correct documentation to cover both my holiday and work placement? Thanks

A: As we are unable to answer case-specific questions in this forum, we recommend that you contact the Operator Service to discuss your dates and purposes of travel in further detail. Contact details are available on our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_contact_information.html

Q: Hi, I have a Type R B1/B2 Visa issued from Dhaka (I have a Bangladesh passport). The application for the visa was made together as a family. However, because I am a student in the UK, I wish to travel to the US during the holidays by myself. I would like to know whether there are any restrictions preventing me from travelling to the US on my own, or any restriction on travelling from the UK.

A: No, visas are issued to individuals, not families. If you have been issued a visa, in your own passport, and are travelling to the U.S. for the same purpose as that for which the visa was issued, you may travel using that visa. The final decision to admit or deny all travelers rests with immigration officials at the port of entry.

Q: Hi, I am currently awaiting the finalization of my US green card. I want to move to America from London with my boyfriend of two years, however am not sure of how to go about this. We plan to marry, so if this is the only way he can get there with me then that is fine, as it is our plan anyway. How long will the process take and is there any way that we can wait for approval while in the US, I have read



about an 'adjustment of status' process but am unsure of this would actually work. Also, my step-mum sponsored my application and is a Major in the US Air Force, would she be of any help in sponsoring and helping me get my boyfriend over to the US. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

A: Unfortunately, a boyfriend cannot be sponsored to immigrate with you. If you have an application pending for a Green Card, you should contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to confirm that, if you marry, your Green Card application would not be invalidated.

Q: Hi, I am from the UK - I got married in Florida in September 2012 to my British Husband - We are wanting to relocate to America, Please can you advise what options we have?

A: Please review our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/immigrant-visas/immediate-relatives.html> for information about applying for an immigrant visa as a spouse of a U.S. citizen.

Q: Hi I am married and I recently got my spouse visa. My wife health has not been good lately and she can't travel due to her bad health. My question is can I apply for visit visa for USA since my sister is getting married and I love to attend her wedding? Does my wife need to travel with me?

A: You should expect to travel on your spouse visa the next time you enter the United States. Please note that you can't travel ahead of your wife as the petitioner, she must travel ahead of you or with you.

Q: Hi, what are the requirements for applying to visit the United States as an International student (Nigerian) in the United Kingdom?

A: Information about applying for a visa at the Embassy in London, as a foreign citizen in the UK, is available from our blog: <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772>. If you believe that you can demonstrate your eligibility for the visa, information about tourist visas can be found here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Q: Hi there, I got the question about waiting time for Nonimmigrant visa. I am Polish citizens but we've been living in UK for 7 years. We are going on holiday to Canada on 6 of June and we would like to also visit USA, but we are not sure about the waiting time, because if it will take more than one month it will be not point for us to apply for visas. I will appreciate any information. Thank you

A: The average processing time for a nonimmigrant visa application is approximately 5 working days, but there is no set period of time that it may take as processing varies in each case. We recommend that applicants apply as early as possible and do not make final U.S. travel plans unless they have received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa.

Q: Hello. I am a journalist who needs to travel to the US in May. I have one old passport with an I Visa that has not yet expired, along with a new passport. Can you please advise if I can travel with both passports (including the expired one, with the unexpired I Visa) and therefore not have to worry about applying for a new I Visa? Many thanks.

A: Provided that the I visa in your old passport was not clipped or damaged when your old passport was cancelled, that you have not changed your nationality and that you will be travelling to the United States for the same purpose as that for which the visa was originally issued, you may travel with your current



valid passport and the old passport containing your valid visa. The final decision to admit or deny all travelers rests with immigration officials at the port of entry.

Q: I am a UK resident with a BA Hons degree in Media Production, with two years of subsequent degree-related job experience. Do I qualify for the H-1B visa? If not, are there any other avenues to explore that would allow me to apply for employment within the US? Thank you.

A: We can't adjudicate your eligibility for a visa, only a consular officer can do that at the time you apply. In general, applicants require a bona fide job offer before applying for an employment based visa. Once you have found a U.S. employer, they would be required to file a petition for you with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which must be approved before you can apply for the visa.

Q: Hi, my US fiancé and I are currently applying for a K1 fiancé visa. If my Fiancé does not meet the minimum income requirements, is it possible to have another US citizen i.e. his father to sponsor me? Would my fiancé also need to complete an I-134 or just the person sponsoring me? Also when I attend the interview in London would I be required to provide ongoing evidence of our relationship and another letter of intent to marry like we did when filing the I-129F?

A: If your fiancé cannot meet the minimum income requirements, you can present an I-134 form from a joint sponsor. The joint sponsor must be a U.S. citizen or LPR and must be resident in the United States. At the time you attend the interview, you should be prepared to submit a letter of intent from your fiancé, confirming that you are both free to marry and that you intend to do so within 90 days of your initial entry to the U.S.

Q: Hi, I work as an agency/locum doctor and require a visiting visa to celebrate with my sister on her graduation from med school. I have my companies one year account statement to show my income, and a letter from her school authorities inviting me over for the graduation as well as a letter from my present hospital that I am contracted, showing the contract dates and giving my leave for the visit. Is there any other document that would be required, as I have being denied a visa twice and felt my application on both occasions was not properly assessed?

A: Please note that applying for a U.S. visa is not primarily a document based process. Applicants may bring documents to the interview if they believe they help demonstrate their eligibility for a visa. However, a consular officer can often obtain sufficient information to make decision during the visa interview and from the information provided via the application Form DS-160.

Q: I have been offered an internship that will last just over 3 months in the US. I graduated from University 2 years ago (I am not a student). I will receive a small living stipend from the company offering me the internship but not a salary. Which visa would I have to apply for given these circumstances?

A: We recommend that you contact the Operator Service to provide further information about your purpose of travel. Contact details can be found on our website at



http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_contact_information.html

Q: Can I get a holiday visiting visa for 12 months or more to stay in the US, I don't want to work just travel?

A: You can apply for a visa to visit the United States for 12 months. When you enter the United States, Immigration officials will admit you for up to 6 months. If you wish to remain in the U.S. for longer, you can request an extension. When you apply, you will be required to demonstrate to the consular officer that you have sufficient funds to support yourself for the trip and that you have a residence abroad which you have no intention of abandoning.

Q: Hello, I am a Vietnamese student coming to the U.K this summer for a summer program from June to August. I am currently holding F-1 visa, which will expire in July. I will need to renew my visa to come back to the U.S after the summer program ends. My question is can I be able to renew my visa while I am in the UK; given my home country is Vietnam? There will be little time for me between the end of the summer program and the start of the school year, so I would like to ask for your recommendation about what I should do.

A: If you are present in the UK, you can apply for a visa at the Embassy in London. We recommend that you review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> for additional information for international applicants.

Q: Hi, I am currently going through the K1 visa application process and I am currently serving with the British Army, your website says I will need to bring my discharge papers or evidence of terminal leave to the embassy when I have my K1 interview. If my discharge is not complete will I need to have begun my terminal leave at the time of the interview? I can't seem to find anything that clarifies the rules on this aspect of US immigration policy/law, please help!

A: You will need to bring evidence of your terminal leave, whether you are already on terminal leave at the time of your application, or whether you expect to start it soon after.

Q: My son had a 12 month suspended sentence 5 years ago for actual bodily harm. Although he never went to prison he does not know if this falls under the moral turpitude on his ESTA application, should be tick yes or no the criminal conviction question? He plans to take the family to Florida next year?

A: Individuals that have ever been arrested, convicted or cautioned, regardless of when or why, should apply for a visa if they wish to visit the United States. If your son wishes to travel to Florida for tourism, he should apply for a B-2 visa: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Q: My passport runs out in September next year and I plan to visit Florida in the June before my passport runs out, I have heard that your passport has to be valid 6 months after your intended return date. Is that correct as I will be back before it expires?

A: The requirement that a passport be valid for six months beyond the holder's stay in the United States is waived in the case of a British passport holder.



Q: I am a British student and I have recently been offered an internship to work in the USA for a year and would like to apply for a J1 visa. However, I committed a minor offence when I was 14 years old, 5 years ago and I was given a caution. I understand this could affect my eligibility to receive a visa. I have ordered a police certificate and I am aware that I may have to go through additional processing. I am meant to start my placement on the 10th June. Do I have enough time and is it worth applying?

A: Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa can only be made by the adjudicating consular officer following a visa interview. We recommend that all applicants apply as soon as possible as there is no set period of time that processing may take.

Q: I was wondering how long does it take for administrative processing to be completed after submitting all the required document to the Embassy? What I mean is the maximum time to it will take in general even if the individual cases are different. Thanks so much and I am eager for the answers.

A: Standard processing time for a visa is approximately 5 working days. We recommend that applicants do not make final travel plans until their application has been fully processed and their visa issued.

Q: where can we see the answers and can we see each other's questions this may help other enquiries

A: The questions will appear as soon as they are answered, and a transcript of the web chat will be posted in the coming days on http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_webchats.html You may also wish to review that webpage for transcripts of previous web chats.

Q: Hi, Me and my wife (as dependant) applied for H1B visa on 12th March 2013 I have received visa but for my wife I have been told to check status of case on website with a batch number but since 12 March 2013 that batch number is not appeared on US embassy website. Please can you help me in this regard?

A: Unfortunately, we can't answer case specific questions during this web chat. If you have an enquiry about your wife's case, we recommend that you contact the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min) for assistance.

Q: Hello, I am an Indian citizen currently residing and working in the UK since Sept 2010. I am under PSW visa and work for an American company in UK. I have got an admit to pursue my masters in the U.S.(1) Should I apply for a F-1 visa from london or India?(2) My father will be sponsoring my masters. He lives in India so the financial documents he provides will be in Indian Rupees and the Dollar equivalent. Will this be a problem if I apply from the US Embassy in London?

A: If you are currently resident in the UK, you can apply for the visa at the Embassy in London. You will be required to demonstrate your eligibility for the visa, including the ability to support yourself in the United States. Consular officers may be unable to adjudicate ties to a third country at the time of your application, so you should be prepared to show very strong ties outside the United States when applying.

Q: My British passport is due for renewal and I have a C1/D visa in it which still has 8 years to run, do I need to have this visa transferred to my new passport or can I use my old passport to show the visa when required. Thank you



A: It's not possible to 'transfer' a visa between passports. You can apply for a new visa in your new passport or, provided that the valid visa was not damaged when your old passport was cancelled and that you will continue to travel for the same purpose as that for which the email was originally issued, you may use that visa to travel to the U.S. You should carry your new passport and your old document, containing the valid visa. The final decision to admit or deny all travelers rests with immigration officials at the port of entry.

Q: Hi, we are going to Canada on 6 of June for Holidays and we would like to visit also our friend in USA I understand we have to apply for visa online and wait for interview. My question is how long we will have to wait for interview in London and after that how long does it take to get visa because we are not sure if is enough time? Thank you

A: You may wish to review our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html> for information about the Visa Waiver Program. If you are not eligible to travel visa free, or if you do not receive Travel Authorization when you register under ESTA at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>, then you will need a visa in order to visit the United States. Please call the Operator Service on 09042-450-100 (£1.23/min plus network extras) to schedule a visa interview. We advise applicants to apply as early as possible.

Q: Hi I have a visa application booked for 10 May to apply for a visiting visa and due to travel on the 15th of May, I would have made the appointment earlier but could not due to circumstances beyond my control. Is the time frame too short and would like to know what supporting documents for my application besides the invitation letter from my sibling I am planning to visit and letters from my current employer as proof of employment and my bank statements are these documents sufficient?

A: The average processing time is five working days, not including return delivery times. However, timescales vary in each individual case. You may wish to periodically recall the Operator Service (09042 450 100, £1.23/min plus network extras) to try to obtain an earlier appointment through a cancellation. We are unable to advise on the likelihood of obtaining an appointment in this way.

Q: Dear Sir/ Madam I was asked by the embassy to update my medical, police certificate and to send my passport via courier for my immigrant visa after waiver approval. It has been 15 working days and I was just wondering how long will it take to receive my passport back? Could you please kindly advise as I need to make outgoing arrangements? Thank you so much in advance

A: We advise all applicants not to make final travel plans unless they have received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel. The tracking system provided by DX will be updated once delivery arrangements have been made.

Q: I am a British citizen and am engaged to a American citizen, if we were to get married outside of the US how soon before I can move to the US and become a permanent resident and work with in the US? What would I have to apply for and how long would it take?

A: If you marry a U.S. citizen and wish to immigrate to the U.S. as a spouse, he would be required to file a petition for you with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Once approved, you would be required to apply for the visa at the Embassy having jurisdiction over your place of residence (if you



live in the UK, you would apply in London). Applicants can expect the process to take approximately 12 months. Times quoted should be used only as a guide.

Q: How long does it usually take to get a F-1 visa appointment after booking and what documents do I need to have before making the appointment?

A: The Operator Service operates a real-time appointment booking system; therefore you will be advised about appointment availability at the time you call. Further information about applying for an F-1 visa, including documents required, can be found at <http://london.usembassy.gov/students.html>

Q: I asked about my son with his suspect need sentence and you mentioned a b2 does he still need the ESTA.

A: Registration under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is only for individuals that are eligible to travel visa free.

Q: Many thanks for answering my question, could you just confirm if both my fiancé and the joint sponsor need to complete I-134's or just the person that is actually going to sponsor me. Also my question regarding the household size?

A: Both your fiancé and joint sponsor would be required to complete the form. Information about household size is available from the USCIS website, www.uscis.gov

Q: Hi, my husband is working in the US on a L1 visa and my children are going to be applying for a L2 to join him once the school year is finished. I've been looking on the embassy website to try to find out the documents I need to gather together for the interview but can't find a list of what I will need.

A: Information about the documents you need to submit for your children is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/work2.html> Make sure you check step 4, additional documents, for all the items your children will need.

Q: Thank you so much for your advice. Is there any timeframe for passport returns?

A: If you are applying for a nonimmigrant visa, processing time is approximately 5 days

Q: I am looking to emigrate to the US - I am 19 years old from England and I have A levels (high school equivalent), but no degree. However I want to work on the Bakken Oil fields but I'm unsure whether that would get me a visa through job offer? Due to the fact there is a worker shortage in the Bakken region in ND and no American jobs would be lost or competed for. Would I be able to get a nonimmigrant visa and eventually a green card?

A: In general, work visas are based on a specific offer of employment. If you obtain a job offer, please contact the Operator Service on 09042-450-100 (£1.23/min plus network extras) to provide further details about your proposed employment.



Q: My current passport will expire on 30th July,2013. Renewed passport will be issued on 14 June,2013. My intended visit to U.S in last week of July this year. Could I book the visitor visa appointment now to save time?

A: You can apply with your current passport and allow the consular officer to adjudicate your application. If a new passport is required to issue the visa, you will be advised on the date of your application

Thanks everyone for participating! Check our website for the transcript in the next few days. If your question wasn't answered here, we'll be hosting a Twitter chat on May 15th, come and join us!