



Transcript for the Webchat of the 29th September 2011
Immigrant Visas

Webchat commenced at 1200 BST

Barum: Hello, I have a question about time line. I live in London and my wife in the US, and we have paperwork in progress at the immigration office in the US, but they said soon they will send them over to the London Embassy to schedule and interview. Our lawyer said that the time line for when the interview will be scheduled depends on how busy is the local embassy. Therefore, my question is, how long could this take? do you have a long waiting list? many thanks!

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Once your file is received in the Embassy, you will be contacted and advised to submit the DS-230 and DS-2001 forms and attend a medical. Once you have done this, an interview will be scheduled for you. Applicants can expect to be contacted approximately 4 weeks from the date all their documents are received.

james: DEAR officer: many applications for F1 preference categories had retrogression. if the applicant had already the interview for f1 category, and he /she was asking by the consular officer to provide evidences, and after a month, his/ her priority date; is not current, because of the retrogression, does the case sent back to the national visa center ? or it will be hold at the us embassy or consulate? and does his/her passport will given back, or it will also be with the

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If your case was retrogressed after you attended an interview, your passport will be returned to you and your file held at the Embassy. If your passport has not been returned, you may contact the Embassy to request it.

james: and please, what about the medical exam report, does the applicant need to provide a new medical report, if their priority date become current again? and about the fees, does the applicant need to pay again the fees for immigrant visa if the waiting time for reaching the priority date is long?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: When your case becomes current again, you will be notified and asked to resubmit any documents which may have expired, such as police certificate or medical report. You will not be required to pay a new fee.

Philippe D'Imperio: Hello! I'm very keen on emigrating at least temporarily to the US. Is it possible to buy a VISA and then find a job in the US? Or do I need a job before getting a VISA? If that's the case, what is the cost for 2 year visa? thanks!



* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you want to reside permanently in the United States, you will need an immigrant visa. If you only wish to reside there temporarily and work, an employment based visa may be more appropriate. Information on employment based visas is on our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>.

Robert Sheffield: How do I pay for my British fiance's visa via credit card from a US phone?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Fiancée visa fees are paid in advance of their interview, via our Operator Assisted Information Line. That number is 1-866-382-3589 from the U.S. and costs \$16 for up to 7 minutes. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club, Discover or American Express.

Elle: Hi there. I am a UK citizen and just got married to my partner who is a US citizen and lives in the US. I have returned to the UK as I am not planning on moving to the states until June 2012 after I finish my work contract and we have done our religious marriage ceremony. We want to start my green card application now as we have heard it can take a while to get it approved. I have a few questions though... 1) Which forms do we have to fill out to do the visa application? 2) Can I still travel to see him in the states during the time my application is being processed as long as I show proof of returning to the UK? 3) Roughly how long will the process for approving applications take? Thank you!

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Your husband will be required to file an I-130 petition with the USCIS office having jurisdiction over his place of residence in the United States. It can take approximately 6-7 months for the petition to be approved. Once approved, the petition will be sent to the Embassy having jurisdiction over your place of residence, in this case London, and processing on the visa can begin.

Provided that you can always demonstrate that you have a residence abroad which you have no intention of abandoning, you are not prohibited from visiting the United States while a petition is pending for you. The final decision to admit or deny all applicants rests with immigration officials at the port of entry.

Robert Sheffield: I need to extend the approval notice of I-129F petition pursuant to 9FAM 41.81 N3.1 (Period of validity) and have a sample form to use but not sure if it is correct or where to send it. I dont see any information on the embassy site discussing this.

* U.S. Consular Officer: You should contact the Immigrant Visa Unit directly if you have a query about extending the validity of a petition.

Neil Grant: I have been applying for an immigration visa under IR5 (my son is a US citizen) and all paperwork has been concluded at the US end. I have an invitation to a visa interview at the US Embassy in October. I had however not planned to emigrate until the end of 2012



- should I postpone the interview (and medical) without needing any existing paperwork to be re-done?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: You should contact the Embassy to advise them of your planned travel date. Please note that an immigrant visa is valid for up to 6 months from the date it is issued and you must travel to the U.S with the valid visa within that time.

kamal: does the u.s consulate will send back my case to the national visa center or to the uscis,if my priority date is not reaching next months? the national visa center completed my case ,and forwarded it to the consulate,so, due to the retrogression, will the consulate send back the case to the nvc or uscis?(my passport is still at the consulate since the day of my interview in november 2010).

* U.S. Consular Officer: The Embassy will keep your file and once your application becomes current, you will be contacted. You will be advised at that time what new documents you need to submit. When your case becomes current, your father may submit a new I-864 which will be reviewed by a consular officer. If you still require a joint sponsor at that time, you will be advised accordingly.

zee: Hi I just want to ask you when submitting D-156-K form for K1 immigrant visa, do I need to submit the original copies of the documents listed (birth certificate, police certificates etc)? I am confused as I need to present the originals at the time my interview. Thanks

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Yes, you should submit the original forms. The forms will be sent to the Embassy where your interview will take place and will be included in your file when you arrive at the Embassy. You should take photocopies of all the documents before you submit them.

KelliB: I'm trying to fill in the i-864 and have realized that I've lost part of my 2010 tax returns - is it possible to get copies? if not, what should i do? All my income is foreign earned anyway and therefore doesn't count, will it make a difference?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you require copies of any tax documents, you should contact the IRS to request that copies be sent to you.

Tara: Good Afternoon, I submitted a question on Tuesday on this blog. I would like to confirm that it would be in your queue for today's review or do I need to resubmit? Thank you.

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: No need to repost. Here is your question from yesterday: We



became US Citizens in April and filed a petition for my married daughter in June. I understand the petition will take about five months to process and wondered if you could tell me how long the wait time is in the UK. She is an ICU nurse with a Florida license and has had several job offers, so it will be useful to tell them how long it will be.

Answer: If you have filed an F-3 petition for your married daughter, this is a numerically limited immigrant visa category. Applicants are placed on a worldwide waiting list, with their place determined by their Priority Date. The Embassy in London is currently processing F-3 visas with a priority date of 22 August 2001.

Karlene Chung: I am awaiting my appointment for my K1 visa however I would need to stay in my current job role until Feb 2012 so will it be ok to change visa appointment to January 2012? I may get a new job role with current employer which means I would travel a lot to the US for business meetings over the couple months however if this extends to a year how can I travel back and forth to UK if I enter on a K1 visa in February?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Once you enter the US on a K visa you must be willing to spend some time there in order to marry and adjust status. In addition, you must remember that your K visa, once approved and printed, is only valid for 6 months. Please keep this in mind when scheduling your interview.

HANCI: I would like to get information about K1 fiancée visa application. We applied to K1 fiancée visa in April 2011. US citizenship and immigration service sent the approval letter to my fiancée last week. I am Turkish citizen and have been living in the UK for 3 years. As you know, my fiancée has to contact with US embassy and to fax the approval letter. We have a question in this step. From which US embassy we have to apply?

* U.S. Consular Officer: Your visa application will be processed by the Embassy having jurisdiction over your current place of residence. If you are legally resident in the UK, your visa application will be processed at the Embassy in London. If you have changed your address since the petition was originally filed, you should advise the NVC of the change in your details.

Neil Grant: Hi - Once I am granted an immigration visa, can I apply to work in the USA - I would like to secure employment before emigrating so that I can start work as soon as I move to the USA

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Once an applicant enters the US, USCIS will process their case and place an admission stamp in their passport, which acts as a temporary green card. You can apply for jobs prior to traveling to the US, but cannot work until you enter the US on your immigrant visa.



KelliB: also, sorry, i live in the UK and all my income is 'foreign earned' and therefore won't count towards his sponsorship anyway - how important are the tax returns?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: In order to approve an affidavit of support, US tax returns must be provided. If you are unable to provide a US tax return, a joint affidavit of support must be submitted.

Elle: thanks - do we have to submit the g-325a forms at this stage also?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: This should be submitted with your application. If you have any questions, please contact USCIS.

Neil Grant: Hi - I have written to the Embassy with questions about travel plans etc but because they only communicate by written letter (other than this excellent webchat) I am not getting timely communication in order to cancel or rearrange visa interview dates - can I phone someone

* U.S. Consular Officer: If you have a query about travel plans or to change your interview date, you can contact our Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras)

VincentGardiner: Hi there. I've just received a letter from the Immigrant Visa Branch advising me of an interview in late October. Unfortunately, I must travel to Belgium for study reasons on that date, and for two weeks after. (1) How can I change my interview date? (2) Do you require my passport after the interview? Thanks.

* U.S. Consular Officer: You should contact the Embassy to advise the Immigrant Visa Unit that you cannot attend on that date. You should advise the date you will return to the UK and a new interview date will be offered. If your application is successful, your passport will be held in the Embassy for the visa processing. Standard visa processing time is 7-10 working days. If your application is likely to take longer, you will be advised at the time of your interview.

Callum: Is a name based police check enough from Canada for a US permanent resident visa or does it have to be a fingerprint based certified criminal record check?

* U.S. Consular Officer: You will require a fingerprint based police certificate from Canada. Information about where you can have your fingerprints taken in the UK is available from the Embassy website: http://photos.state.gov/libraries/unitedkingdom/164203/cons-visa/uk_fingerprint_services.pdf

buskwic: I see that the Varicella vaccine is not available in the UK. Would I need to acquire a



titre result proving that i've already had Chickenpox or would it be sufficient to receive the vaccine when I arrive in the US?

* U.S. Consular Officer: If a vaccine is not available in the United Kingdom, it is acceptable for you to have that vaccination once you have immigrated. You should be prepared to discuss the matter with the physician when you undertake your medical examination.

buskwic: I lived and worked in China for a period of 3 years while I taught there. I was in China on both F and L visas with the reciprocity table states that the government will not issue police records for. What should I do to obtain sufficient information that I have no criminal record in China. I also lived and taught in the USA on a J-1 visa for 2 years. I see on the documents checklist for the Immediate Relative Visa Interview that residents and former residents need not obtain police records. would this apply to me as the J-1 is a nonresident visa?

* U.S. Consular Officer: You are not required to obtain a police check for the United States. If you were in China under a visa category for which the government will not issue a police check, you should contact the Embassy for advice. We cannot address case specific issues in this webchat.

. zee: I just got a letter from london embassy on 2nd august after my 129-f petition was approved. Will they send me any application pack too as it says on website? Thanks

* U.S. Consular Officer: The letter includes a link to our website, the link provides the 'packet 3' documents. You should download the forms from our website.

Neil Grant: If I postpone my immigration visa interview for 9 months from the current date (Oct 2011) which documents will need to be re-submitted beforehand and can I guarantee an interview date at that time (I am applying under IR5 and all my paperwork has already been processed in the USA before being passed to London)

* U.S. Consular Officer: If you wish to postpone your interview, you should contact the Embassy closer to the date you plan to immigrate. You will be advised at that time of any documents you will be required to resubmit.

VincentGardiner: Thanks. Do I write to the Immigrant Visa Branch at the Embassy? Could I expect a response within a week or so? Many thanks again.

* U.S. Consular Officer: You can either write to the Immigrant Visa Unit, or call our Operator on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras) for assistance.



kamal: please, what's the validity period of the approval notice of USCIS, my case was retrogressed, so, if the retrogression will be for long, will I need a new approval for petition?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: No. The petition will remain valid as long as the petitioner is living in the U.S. or intends to travel with the beneficiary and establish residency in the US.

carl: Hello, I am, or I guess was, a permanent resident, but I have been living outside the US for more than 12 months. I am now looking to travel back to the US with my US citizen wife and 2 children for Christmas vacation. What do I have to do?

* U.S. Consular Officer: If you have been outside the United States for more than 12 months, or two years if holding a re-entry permit, you have lost your entitlement to status and will be required to apply for a new immigrant visa before you travel to the United States to reside permanently.

Baroum: Hello - Consular Officer 2, thank you for your reply. Could you please advise how long it will take after the interview took place, to receive the final approval?

* U.S. Consular Officer: Standard processing time for an immigrant visa is 7-10 working days. If your visa is likely to take longer to process, you will be advised at the time of your interview.

Callum: The Canadian Police Check is proving very difficult to get from abroad. I lived there for more than a year (24 years actually) so it is required for my interview. If I don't have it will I be denied my visa? I am trying to gauge if it's worth it to fly over to Canada and have it done (which takes 3 days).

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: In order to approve an immigrant visa petition, an applicant must submit police certificates from all countries where the applicant has lived for more than one year over the age of 16. If you are unable to present this to the consular officer at your interview, your case will be refused, pending the submission of your Canadian Police Certificate.

Baroum: Thank you. Also, when should I request a police report from the UK, since it takes about 10 days at the least to receive it? Should I do it now? I am at the stage where we are waiting for the US immigration to request any original documents they might need, and after that they said they would schedule an interview date with the London Embassy.

* U.S. Consular Officer: You may request the UK police certificate at any time. The certificate is valid for 12 months.

zee: Should I-29-F petition be valid until visa interview? or is there any future need for which petition must be valid?



* U.S. Consular Officer: The I-129F petition must be valid at the time of your application at the visa interview.

kamal: my father used a tax 's prepares, in the united states ,when paying taxex for 2010,he filled form 1040,so,he didn't signed that form,but there's just infomration and pin code of the tax 's prepares,?it will be accepted?

* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If your father filed taxes in the US, no matter if filed online or through a preparer, he must submit a printout of his return forms.

Baroum: Sorry I forgot my last question. I grew up in Switzerland and left at the age of 18, should I request a police report from there as well?

* U.S. Consular Officer: You should provide a police certificate for any country where you have resided for more than 12 months from the age of 16

zee: Many thanks for replies. Also when is the right time to do medical examination?

* U.S. Consular Officer: You must attend a medical before an interview can be scheduled for you. When completing the required forms, you should attend the medical examination at the time you send the forms in to the Immigrant Visa Unit.

Baroum: after I receive the immigration visa approved (After the interview) is there a time line for me to relocate to the US?

* U.S. Consular Officer: After the visa is approved, standard processing time is 7-10 days. We strongly recommend that applicants do not make final travel plans until their visa has been issued and they have received the visa package. Immigrant visas are valid for up to 6 months and you must use the visa within this time.

zee: After marrying to my US fiancee in USA. Can i come back to my country and apply for Green Cards or adjustment of status?

* U.S. Consular Officer: After marriage, you should be prepared to remain in the United States while adjusting your status. Be advised this process can take several months, during which you will be required to be resident in the U.S.

The Webchat ended at 1300 BST