



Transcript of Visa Webchat on 30 September 2009

Question: (9/30/2009 14:08) Q: Could you please give me an idea of the current processing time for I-130 forms as the website hasn't been updated since the 14th and even then, they listed that forms filed on the 24th of August were being processing, the same date entered for the 2 Sept

U.S. Embassy London: (14:08) A: I-130 forms for petitioning for a relative to immigrate to the United States are processed by the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You can find more information about their processing, including approximate times, on the USCIS webpage at www.uscis.gov.

Question: (14:08) Q: When applying for Green Card Lottery do both myself and wife need to apply?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:08) A: No. If you win the Diversity Visa Lottery, you are permitted to take your dependents with you, so long as they are listed on your original application. However, you and your wife may want to both enter the DV Lottery, if you are qualified, to increase your chances of winning.

Tim: (14:09) Hi, I am a UK citizen, married with 2 young children. My Father holds a US passport, but lives in the UK. I have lots of relatives in the US. I would like to live in the US with my family, but I dont know if I qualify for Immigration. Is this possible? Should I come to the Embassy in London to talk about this? Many Thanks!!!

londonchat2: (14:09) If your father is a U.S. Citizen have you checkout your eligibility for citizenship. If you are not a U.S. citizen, your father is eligible to file a petition for you. He will also be required to file an Affidavit of Support, form I-864. A requirment for filing an I-864 is that he will abandon his residence in the U.K and take up residence in the U.S. Our website has more information - <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Question: (14:09) Q: Hi. When will visa appointments for the holiday period (i.e. leading up to Christmas) become available? I want to make travel plans, but cannot book yet because they are only available until November 6th.

U.S. Embassy London: (14:09) A: Visa appointment dates are opened on a periodic basis, as needed. If you call the Live Operator Service and the dates that you would like are not yet available, you will be advised to call back at a later date to check for the most recently opened appointment slots. We are sorry, but the Embassy is not able to say exactly when new appointment times will be opened.



Jack: (14:09) Do non-US citizens require special visas for entering the US with their pets?

londonchat2: (14:09) check out the Customs section of our website. It is at the bottom of the homepage at <http://london.usembassy.gov>

Question: (14:09) Q: can any one assist? I am looking to go to Las Vegas in 2010. I first visited Las Vegas in 2004. I have been told that you may be refused entry if you have a driving offence under new rules, even if it was before your last visit to the USA?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:10) A: You will need to apply for a visa, following the procedures outlined on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. When you call the Live Operator Service to make your visa appointment, be sure to inform them about your conviction. This will help them to ensure you are given the correct category of appointment. Your eligibility for a U.S. visa can only be determined by a consular officer during your visa interview.

U.S. Embassy London: (14:10) Q: If a person is refused entry on the Visa Waiver Program, having already been into the country twice previously that year on the VWP, would you recommend that they immediately applied for a B-2 visa upon returning home?

hi 2: (14:10) Hi, I am presenting a paper in conference at the end of October. I have my interview done 13 days ago, during the interview they requested to see my CV, so they asked me to fax it to them, till today I did not hear anything and I need an urgent help because I am a PhD student and my university this week sponsors all my conference costs (Flight, Conference fees and Hotel) all has been booked for me by the university. I am worried because I did not hear back since 13 days ago, and my passport is with me. I do not want to lose the chance of presenting my paper in the conference and lose the booking fees that my university done for me.

londonchat2: (14:10) Visa processing can take 90 days or more. We will contact you as soon as we are able to proceed.

If you are eligible to travel on the Visa Waiver Program, you still must register with the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). You can register under ESTA without any firm travel plans. If approved, your registration will be valid for travel for two years, or until the date on which your passport expires. In order to register under ESTA, a traveler must be eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program. You may register under ESTA at any time. There is only one official ESTA site, and that is <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> which is free to all users. If you both are eligible to travel on the VWP under the requirements set out on our website, and are found eligible under ESTA, then you may travel visa free to the United States. If not, you will have to apply for a visa.



Question: (14:11) Q: I have a drink drive conviction (UK) from October 2006. I applied for a visa in 2008 but was told I had to see a US Embassy approved doctor to provide evidence I don't have a serious drinking problem because my conviction was within the last 3 years. I didn't have time for this before my planned US trip and was really annoyed that this policy wasn't publicised up front - I therefore abandoned the process. Once the 3 years is up in October since my conviction, will I be asked to see the US Embassy doctor, or should I expect to get a visa?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:11) A: You will need to apply for a visa, following the procedures outlined on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. When you call the Live Operator Service to make your visa appointment, be sure to inform them about your conviction. This will help them to ensure you are given the correct category of appointment. Your eligibility for a U.S. visa can only be determined by a consular officer during your visa interview. The consular officer will inform you at that time if any additional documents or information need to be obtained before your case can be completed.

Natalie: (14:11) Hello, my interview is in two days, so I'm really excited for this WebChat. My family's visas were submitted together, accepted together, but my oldest brother's had to be handled separately because he became over 21. My mum, sister and I got our appointment last Friday for Oct 2nd, but he hasn't yet, we were wondering if it were a good idea for him to come up with us just in case, or would he just have to wait?

londonchat2: (14:11) If your brother is not eligible to apply for a visa given his age, he should not attend the interview.

Question: (14:12) Q: I am a british passport holder and i am wanting to visit my brother in the US in Dec/Jan for two weeks, I will need to take my four year old son along with me. He holds a South African Passport. Will there be any complications for a parent and child travelling on diferent nationality passports

U.S. Embassy London: (14:12) A: You may be eligible, as a UK citizen, to travel to the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program. Look at the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, to find the Visa Waiver wizard. By answering the questions, you will get a response as to whether or not you qualify for Visa Waiver travel. If your son is a South African citizen, he will require a visa to travel to the United States.



Question: (14:13) Q: i am a resident in UK but have a Filipino passport. Me, my husband and my mother in law would like to visit America and wish to spent the New Year there. But firs i must apply for a visa. Is it possible that I may be considered asone of the Visa Waiver Program?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:13) A: Look at the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, to find the Visa Waiver wizard. By answering the questions, you will get a response as to whether or not you qualify for Visa Waiver travel. If you do not qualify, you will need to apply for a U.S. visa prior to traveling to the United States.

Question: (14:14) Q: Hi, I have registered my interview this morning. Everything was fine, but until now I haven't receive any email confirmation yet. I remember the operator said that the email confirmation should be received in about an hour. Do I need to call the appointment section back or wait a little longer? Many thanks.

U.S. Embassy London: (14:14) A: If you have not yet received your email from the Live Operator Service confirming your appointment, you should check your email's "junk" folder to ensure that your spam filter has not rejected this message. If you cannot find the email anywhere in your folders, call the Live Operator Service to request a new email be sent.

Question: (14:14) Hello -- I am a 2010-DV winner. May I know which documents are acceptable as proof of assets to support my case? also for how long I should provide "Bank Statements"?

londonchat2: (14:14) Information on meeting the public charge requirement of the law is available from the Embassy website http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/iv/faffidavit.html. It is preferable that you furnsh an affidavit of support, form I-1354. Ignore the reference to Ks; the information is applicable to DV applicants also.

Bryan: (14:14) when applying for a Visa - do I have to go to London - what about those that live in other parts of teh UK miles from London?

londonchat2: (14:14) We accept visa applications at the Embassy in London or the Consulate General in Belfast.



Question: (14:14) Q: if one has a USA visa valid for 10 years in their old passport and they need to apply for a new passport in a changed name ie. married name. the visa will still be in the maiden name in the old passport. can this visa still be used even though the new valid passport is in another surname?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:15) A: We are not able to “transfer” a U.S. visa from an old to a new passport. If you have changed your name and would like a visa in your new name, you will have to apply for an entirely new U.S. visa. Alternatively, if the visa is still valid and the passport agency did not damage the visa in any when cancelling the passport, you may travel with both passports, provided they are of the same nationality and you are traveling for the same purpose for which they were issued. Your change of name does not affect the validity of the visa.

Question: (14:15) Q: when are the details of the next green card lottery being released?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:15) A: You can find all details about the Diversity Visa Lottery on this website: <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>

Bmair: (14:16) Q: Hi, I have been recently naturalized as a british citizen and a dual national now. I already hold a valid US B1/B2 visa on my first nationality's passport. Due to uk eborders I will need to use my British passport to travel in and out of the UK. What should I do about visits to the US? Should I use ESTA to apply for VWP or apply for a visa on my bristih passport

londonchat2: (14:16) If you have changed nationality you cannot use the visa in your expired passport, even if it is still valid. If you are a naturlaized British Citizen you may be eligible to travel visa free. Check out our website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/vwp2.html

jaja: (14:17) i am an amerian working in the uk and due to have a baby in few weeks. Would my baby qualify as an american citizen and what i need to do to get her passport

U.S. Embassy London: (14:17) Your baby may acquire U.S. citizenship through you. You should cehck the American Citizen Services portion of the Embassy's website for more information regarding requirements to transmit your citizenship to your child.



jaja: (14:17) i am an american citizen and i had filed k1 petition for my fiancée. i am currently working in london and my fiancée is a visitor in uk from nigeria. If the petition is approved, can the fiancée visa be granted in the uk because i had requested for the approved petition to be sent to the uk.

londonchat2: (14:17) If your fiancée has leave to remain in the UK for the time it will take to process the application (minimum of 6 months) the Immigrant Visa Unit at the Embassy may be able to accept her application for processing. She should contact 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) for further information.

Symposium: (14:18) Hello - I am a British passport holder and qualify for the Visa Waiver scheme, but I'm marrying a South African passport holder, who will obviously need a non-immigrant visa. I want to take her on honeymoon to the US (Hawaii) but don't want her to know that until our wedding day. Is there any way of applying for a visa where she doesn't know the destination, only that it's the US? i.e. does accommodation have to be confirmed on the visa application form?

londonchat2: (14:18) No. Your fiancée will be required to apply for a visa in person.

Limbrey: (14:19) Sorry, I don't think I was clear in my question. I have a contract from a UK company which entails 3 visits to a US site over the next 4 months. Can I make these visits under the Visa Waiver Program (ie are they designated as "business trips") or do I need to apply for a H1B visa?

londonchat2: (14:19) There is not enough information for us to determine your eligibility. If you are working in the U.S. you will require an H visa.

Steve N: (14:19) I am a British citizen from birth and my fiancée is American, she is currently back working in the USA, can I travel to visit her on the VWP or will I be refused entry?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:19) If you otherwise qualify for the Visa Waiver Program and ESTA (see our website), you may be able to visit your fiancée on the VWP. Please note, however, that even if you seem VWP eligible, the ultimate decision about whether or not you will be admitted to the US, and for how long, is up to the immigration officers at the U.S. port of entry.

Ruby: (14:20) When will the DV lottery for 2011 become available and once online how do we download the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form ?

londonchat2: (14:20) As soon as the DV 2001 registration period opens, you will have access to the forms. The announcement should be in the next one or so and will be posted on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov> .



Mike: (14:21) Hi have just been issued with Business Visa and going to use it next week for the first time. Do I still need to fill in an I-94 form or anything else? Thanks

londonchat2: (14:21) If you hold a valid visa you will be required to complete form I-94 (handed to you by the airlines). You will not be required to register under ESTA.

david: (14:22) i recently applied for a non immigrant visa at us embassy lodon,which was issued to me by a visa coordination officer.but no inegibility waiver was recomended, for past convictions for shoplifting theft,will this cause any problems at the port of entry,please advise.i went through the procedure of getting a acpo police certificate

U.S. Embassy London: (14:22) You can find all information about how to get a copy of your ACPO on the following website:
<http://www.acpo.police.uk/certificates.asp>

Question: (14:22) Q: I want to have an extended motorcycle touring holiday mainly in the USA(up to a year). I am a UK citizen. Will a travel visa enable multiple entry ie short trips to Canada, Mexico for example?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:23) A: If you are a UK citizen and wish to make a visit for tourism that will be longer than the 90 days permitted under the Visa Waiver Program, you may apply for a tourist visa. You can find all details about how to apply on the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. If your visa application is granted, UK citizens are normally issued a ten-year, multiple-entry visa. This will allow you make short trips to the U.S. during those ten years. How long you may stay in the U.S. during any one trip is the decision of the immigration officers at the U.S. port of entry.

ram: (14:23) 1.Hi, I'm Iranian citizen studying in UK with student visa. My fiancé is US citizen and applied for K-1 visa for me and I'll have my interview soon at your consulate. My application for tourist visa to US was denied about 6 months ago (before I started my relationship with my fiancé) at your consulate. Does it have a negative impact on our K-1 visa application? Should we be worried about it? Please advise ... Thank you.

londonchat2: (14:23) A tourist visa is a nonimmigrant visa. If your application was refused under Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act it will not have a negative impact on a fiancee visa applicatoin.



Question: (14:23) Q: I am going to Boston in November on Holiday and whilst I am there would like to see a Dr. What type of visa would I need and how do I apply?
Thanks

U.S. Embassy London: (14:23) A: There is no special visa to go to the U.S. for medical treatment; you will apply for a normal visitor's visa. You can find all information about how to do this on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. If your case is a medical emergency, please inform the Live Operator Service when you call to book an appointment, and they may be able to offer you an expedited appointment. When you come for your visa appointment, you will have to bring all proof about the medical condition, what treatment you have set up in the United States, how this treatment will be paid for, and other relevant questions. In addition to this, you must meet the normal requirements for a visitor's visa applicant.

Question: (14:23) Q: I have a drink driving conviction do I need to apply for a non immigrant visa?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:23) A: Yes. You will need to apply for a visa, following the procedures outlined on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. When you call the Live Operator Service to make your visa appointment, be sure to inform them about your conviction. This will help them to ensure you are given the correct category of appointment. Your eligibility for a U.S. visa can only be determined by a consular officer during your visa interview.

Cian: (14:24) I have been offered a 3 month internship at an advertising agency in New York and am in the process of attempting to get a j-1 visa. I have been able to access and complete the DS - 156, DS - 158, and DS - 7002 2019, but how do I get a hold of a DS - 2019 form and how long will it take?

londonchat2: (14:24) You must be participating in an approved exchange program to get a DS-2019. Our website provides further information - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/interns.html.

Andrew Henney: (14:25) When you have been refused entry to the US because of an overstay prior to this, what visa must you apply for to be eligible to return to the country and would this then jeopardise you in the future if you were looking to apply for permanent residency?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:25) If you have previously overstayed in the US, you are no longer eligible to travel on the Visa Waiver Program. You must apply for a visa prior to traveling. If you wish to remain in the US permanently, you will not be able to do so on a tourist visa. You can find more information about immigration visas, for settlement in the US, on our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov>.



Bryan: (14:26) am I correct in believing a B1/B2 visa is valid for 10 years?

londonchat2: (14:26) Not always. Visas are issued based on reciprocity and the individual's circumstances. The maximum validity of a B-1/B-2 issued to a British passport holder is 10 years.

Anna : (14:26) how long does it normally take for a work visa to be issued?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:26) Once you have had your visa interview, if your application is successful, your passport and visa will be returned to you in approximately 5 working days by the Embassy's contract courier service.

Andrew Henney: (14:27) Could you please advise me on what visa is required if you have previously overstayed on the I-94 and what is the procedure?

londonchat2: (14:27) You are required to apply for a visa. You are not longer eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. Check out our website for further information
http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/index.html

Mike: (14:28) I am a UK resident and have a B1 Visa, do I need any further documents to enter the US?

londonchat2: (14:28) If you have a valid B-1 visa and are traveling to the U.S. for the purpose for which it was issued, you will require nothing further from this office.

Bryan: (14:28) when applying for an appointment I assume - giving enough notice - that I can select a date suitable to me

londonchat2: (14:28) If you are referring to an appointment for an immigrant visa interview, it is possible to reschedule.

Don Werner: (14:29) My Wife and I would like to purchase a property in the USA and live there for 6 months of each year. I believe there is a visa which allows this within each 12 month period, but would we be able to continue applying for 6 month visas each year? If not, we would be reluctant to go ahead with any property commitment of this type. Very many thanks.

U.S. Embassy London: (14:29) If you are eligible for the Visa Waiver Program, you can remain in the US for periods of up to 90 days. If you wish to remain beyond this time, you must apply for a US visa. If your visa is issued, and you are a UK citizen, your visa will GENERALLY be valid for ten years. This will allow you to make tourist or business visits to the US during that time. How



long you may stay on any one trip is the decision of the immigration officers at the US port of entry.

Cian: (14:29) I am interning in New York for 3 months, do I need a visa?

londonchat2: (14:29) Yes. Take a look at our website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/interns.html. If the internship is with the UN, call 09042 450 100 (calls cost 1.20/min) for further information.

Dessigan: (14:30) Hi, Is DS-156 form the only form to be filled in if we are visiting the US as tourists and could you advise what supporting documents are required

londonchat2: (14:30) There may be other forms. Check out our website http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/b2.html

Graham Bridge: (14:31) I attended my interview last May. I was told "administrative processes" would take two weeks. I have still heard nothing. What can I do?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:31) Some visa cases are selected for routine administrative processing, which must be completed before the visa application can be processed. If your application is under administrative processing, you will be notified when this is complete. This process is not done in London, and the Embassy is not able to tell you how long this process may take. Administrative processing can last from six weeks to six months, or longer.

Ash: (14:31) Would two minor 20 year old offences relating to the purchase of an MOT certificate prevent a person from accepting a permanent role in the US?

londonchat2: (14:31) We do not preadjudicate visa applications, therefore, I cannot advise you of the likely outcome of your application. If you have been arrested or convicted of an offense, you are required to apply for a visa regardless of how long it may have occurred.

U.S. Embassy London: (14:32) Q: hi my friend has lost her passport with a US visa, what should she do?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:32) A: Your friend needs to report this loss to the Embassy. Please see our website at the following link for instructions: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/lost_and_stolen_passports.html Your friend will need to apply for a new U.S. visa if she wishes to travel to the United States.



Question: (14:32) Q: Good Morning, We are traveling to Florida on 31st January 2010 staying for 14 days. We filled in esta's and the green application on board our flight when we traveled to Florida in January this year 2009. It will not be quite a year since we left, so are we required to submit further ESTA'S for our pending visit, thanks

U.S. Embassy London: (14:32) A: No. Your ESTA registration is valid for two years, so long as you have not changed your name or passport details.

Question: (14:33) Q: Hi, I currently hold a visitors visa to the US which expires towards the end of February. Is it possible to apply in advance for a new US visa before the current one expires or do I have to wait until this expires. I may have to travel in March or April to the US and want to ensure I have a visa in time for the travel. Also if an application for new visa is submitted before the current expires is it possible for me to travel on the old visa until a new one is stamped? Thank you

U.S. Embassy London: (14:33) A: You may apply for a new U.S. visa before your current one expires—in fact, we encourage all visa applicants to plan ahead and apply early! You will have to leave your passport with the Embassy for approximately five days if your visa is approved, in order for your new visa to be placed into your passport. If you have an old, valid visa of the same type, it will be cancelled before your passport is returned to you.

Gareth Mitchell: (14:33) Hi, I am looking to travel to New York for a 4 day break in December. I have a criminal conviction for affray from 2002 and I was wondering if; 1: I will be able to enter the US, and 2: If I need to apply for a Visa prior to travelling?

londonchat2: (14:33) You are required to apply for a visa. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does not apply to U.S. visa law. acactrs
Acoffiat

John Denny: (14:34) I have been trying to access ESTA for several days to obtain approval for a holiday in November but every time I've tried until today I only get a blank page. The URL I am using is: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> Every other website I access is fine. Today I managed to get through to your website and entered all of my information only to receive a message that the site is undergoing routine maintenance. Does this mean I have to enter my information all over again, providing I can get access to the site of course.

londonchat2: (14:34) If your registration was approved, you will not be required to reenter the information. But if you did not receive such confirmation, we suggest that you enter the details again.



Mike: (14:35) I am just about to use my Visa for the first time and it says (Entries M) on it. Does this mean I can come back for Christmas and then return in the New Year? Thanks

U.S. Embassy London: (14:35) If your visa is multiple-entry (M), this means you may leave the US and return so long as the visa is still valid. Please note, however, that every time you enter the US, your entry decision is up to the immigration officers at the port of entry. This is true even if you have a valid visa.

Bernard Schwarz: (14:35) I am an immigration attorney in NYC, my client has an O-1 visa until 03/31/2010. she just got an extension of the O-1 petition granted by CIS until 03/31/2011. how much in advance of the present visa expiration can she apply for the new visa at the US consulate in London, 90 days? 120 days? she is planning a trip to London at the end of December.

londonchat2: (14:35) If your client is applying for an extension to the original visa, she may apply at any time.

ars: (14:36) Hi and thanks for your time. My K-1 visa petition for my fiance who lives in UK has been approved 3 days ago by USCIS. Would you please tell me approximately how long will it take for her to hear from your consulate. We have all documents for the interview ready and just need to hear from you. Thanks.

londonchat2: (14:36) If the petition has been approved, she should be hearing from the Embassy within the next 4 weeks or so.

EmmaYorkshire: (14:36) Hello, you may have answered my question but I can't see it. Can I change my visa status as a NZ/UK citizen if I travel to the US on a B2 visa but marry my partner while I'm over there?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:36) No, you cannot. If you enter the US on the Visa Waiver Program, you are NOT permitted to adjust status while you are in the US, for marriage or any other reason. You will be required to leave the US and obtain the proper visa.

Anna : (14:37) Can you clarify what is meant by 'mental illness' - does it mean having been institutionalized or is depression considered 'mental illness'?

londonchat2: (14:37) Only those who are considered a danger to themselves or those around them are not eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. Take a look at our website for further information - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/add_mental.html



Jose: (14:37) In the future I would like to visit the US as a tourist, but at present I don't have any settle plans. Still, as you encourage applying early in advance, I would like to apply for a B-2 Visa; is it possible to do this eventhough I don't have my accommodation or flight details?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:37) Absolutely. We encourage people to apply as early as possible. Although you will not need firm details about your trip, please note that you will be required to demonstrate that you have strong ties to your country of residence, and plan to return there, in order to qualify for a US visa.

zoe: (14:38) F1 (Q1) Can I apply F1 visa when my passport is going to expire in 6.5 months? Will my F1 visa still be valid after I renew my passport? thx!

U.S. Embassy London: (14:38) If you have a valid US visa, and then obtain a new passport, your US visa will continue to be valid for as long as the validity period stated on the visa. You can carry your old passport, with your valid visa, and your new passport together when you travel to the UNited States.

Ash: (14:40) If I want to travel around the US for 12 months, what kind of visa do I require?

londonchat2: (14:40) You should apply for a B-2 tourist visa. However at the time you apply, you will be required to furnsih compelling eviddence of strong social and economic ties to the United Kingdom that will require your return a the end of your stay. You will also be required to show that you have funds suffficent for your support while in the U.S. If you qualify for a visa, U.S. immigration at the Port of Entry will determine the period of time that you may remain. The maximum granted is 6 months.

Natalie: (14:41) My visa has been approved and we have our appointment, what is the chance everything will go okay knowing that I have been denied for the Visa wavier due to a short overstay in the United States?

londonchat2: (14:41) I regret that we cannot advise on the likely outcome of your application. Only the consular officer on the day of the interview can make that determination.

Steve N: (14:42) Is there a limit to the amount of times you can enter on the VWP? I have 6 entrys this year due to business meetings, and expect 2 more this year, will this be ok?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:42) Although there is technically no limit, the decision as to whether or not to admit someone traveling on the Visa Waiver Program, or with a valid US visa, is ultimately that of the immigration officer at the US port of entry. These officers have the right to return Visa Waiver



Program travelers if they feel they are not abiding by the terms of US immigration law.

Stacey: (14:42) hello, you may have answered my question but I cant find my answer anywhere on here, so sorry to ask again. On the website it says you can do volunteer work on a b1 visa, yet when you click to actually apply for one is defines buisness as 'the negotiation of contracts, consultation with business associates, litigation, and participation in scientific, educational, professional or business conventions, conferences or seminars and other legitimate activities of a commercial or professional nature' So can u do volunteer work on a b1 visa?

londonchat2: (14:42) The web link is http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/b1.html

Question: (14:42) Q: I have held a B2 visa for some years but have never been able to find out what a "year" means when calculating the six months entry allowance if the six months are taken in small amounts. Does the year mean a calender or fiscal year or some other indeterminate time?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:43) A: There is no set "entry allowance" for the United States, even for visa holders. How long someone may stay in the United States is the decision of the immigration officers at the U.S. port of entry. They will inform each traveler how long they are permitted to remain in the U.S. during that trip.

Stephen: (14:43) Hi - I work for a US company and travel frequently. I also vacation in the US. At what point / number of days perhaps spending in the US, do I need to consider other visa processes than the VWP?

londonchat2: (14:43) If you qualify for travel under the Visa Waiver Program you are not required to apply for a visa. I suggest that when you travel you carry with you evidence showing that your stay is temporary and that you have a residence abroad to which you will return.

Praful: (14:44) Hi i will be appliyin for business visist visa for USA , Please guide what all paperwork i need to submit with DS156 form for visa , I have recieved the invitation letter from our vendor in USA.Tahnks

londonchat2: (14:44) The information is on our website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/b2.html



Tunde A: (14:44) Hi. I was convicted of handling stolen goods in 1996 and recieved an 18mth custodial sentence. WE now have 2 very young children and Disneyland will be asked for in future. I have missed out on a few golfing trips and need to resolve this situation. I am a company director and have never had any contact with the law since my arrest and conviction some 14 yrs ago. What can, or do I do please. Many thanks

londonchat2: (14:44) You are required to apply for a visa. You are not eligible to travel visa free - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/b2.html

Michael H: (14:45) When applying for a visa to work in the US, what visa should you apply for if you are going to get a sponsor who will gurentee you employment once you acquire a visa?

londonchat2: (14:45) Sounds like you require an H-1 or H-2 visa. Check out our website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/work.html

Dessigan: (14:45) Hi, i currently have a valid B1/B2 visa, my wife's has expired, we have already made an appointment, just wanted confirmation that the Ds-156 is the only required application form and where we can find out what supporting documents are required

U.S. Embassy London: (14:45) When you call our Live Operator Service, 09042-450-100, to book your visa appointment, they will inform you what forms are necessary. A visa applicant is permitted to bring whatever supporting documentation they would like to their visa interview. It is incumbent upon the applicant to demonstrate to the interviewing officer that they have strong ties to their country of residence.

Elizabeth: (14:46) If my fiance is traveling with a visa waiver and he is turned away by US Immigration at the airport, can we apply for a regular visa and is there any sort of penalty for being turned away?

londonchat2: (14:46) If yoru fiancee has been denied entry into the United States he is no longer elgible to travel visa free. He will be required to apply for a visa. As we do not preadjudcate visa applications I cannot advise on the likely outcome of the application; only a consular officer reviewing his application can do that.



Stacey: (14:47) thank you for answering my question. Just another one. I'm doing religious volunteer work and automatically assumed I needed the R1 visa, so I have a petition which is waiting to be approved, however someone told me about the B1 visa so I was going to give that a try. If I am denied the B1 visa, will that affect the petition I have filed through?

londonchat2: (14:47) If an R-1 petition has been filed on your behalf you should wait until it is approved and apply for that visa.

Liz Volney: (14:49) What is the process of obtaining a waiver of inadmissibility under 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) when applying for a B1/B2 visa?

londonchat2: (14:49) The person concerned is required to apply for a visa. If found to be ineligible under the law, the consular officer will decide whether or not to recommend the person for waiver of ineligibility which is required to travel. Allow approximately 8 weeks for the application to be processed. If a waiver is required, the Embassy will process the application.

mims: (14:50) we are travelling to Orlando in May'10, our passports expire in June'10 & August'10 - do we need to renew our passports before travelling to the U.S. ?

londonchat2: (14:50) If you are British citizen passport holders you may travel as the requirement that the passport be valid for 6 months beyond your stay is waived. If traveling under the Visa Waiver Program and the passports are valid for less than 90 days you will be admitted until the date on which the passport expires.

Limbrey: (14:51) in the definition of "business activity" regarding the VWP - what is the key difference between "consulting business associates" and "performing work as a consultant"? One is permitted under VWP, the other is not...

londonchat2: (14:51) Working as a consultant is considered gainful employment for which the appropriate employment based visa is required.



Dessigan#: (14:52) The website recommends not to make travel arrangements prior to obtaining a US visa but on form DS156 it asks for addresses we will be staying at - would putting in just the city suffice

U.S. Embassy London: (14:52) We recommend that you do not make any firm plans, such as buying tickets, until your visa is approved. However, this does not prevent you from generally planning your trip to the US. You are not required to know exact details about your trip when applying for a US visa. You will, however, have to demonstrate strong ties to your country of residence in order to qualify for a US visa. This determination will be made by a consular officer at the time of your interview.

Felix: (14:52) Hi i just tried to apply online but the website seems to be down, who or where do i send my application to

londonchat2: (14:52) You may be required to apply in person and should check the regulations before submitting your application - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/b2.html

Cian: (14:53) what is the embassy's number to call for more specific information - the 09042 450 100 number doesn't work?

londonchat2: (14:53) 09042 450 100 is the number to call for information. Calls to this line are charged at £1.20/min from BT landlines; some mobile and network providers may charge more. In addition, callers from outside the U.K. and some mobile and network providers cannot access this number.

diabeticguy: (14:53) i initially applied for a visa because i had a criminal record which is now 15 years old. i was told that the record was of no real concern to the embassy but i was declined a visa because i was flight risk, because i have no parents and i was unemployed. do i need to reapply for a visa even though the only reason i would need to was because of the criminal record (which was ignored at the last application)

U.S. Embassy London: (14:53) If you have a criminal record, you will have to apply for a US visa prior to traveling to the United States. You are not eligible for the Visa Waiver Program. You can find more details about how to apply on our website.

michael Mifsud: (14:54) If my visa application as a student has been refused can i withdraw the application, if so what do I have to put in the I-94 when travelling on holiday on the visa waiver program



londonchat2: (14:54) If your application has been refused, you cannot withdraw it. You should answer YES to the question "Has your visa ever been refused" on the I-94W.

Jose: (14:54) Good afternoon. I'm a Mexican national studying a full time course in the UK. I'm planning to travel and my flight makes a stopover in the US; do I need a visa?

londonchat2: (14:54) Yes, you require a visa.

guest: (14:55) I need a B - 2 visit visa in middle of october - when do I need to apply for an interview

londonchat2: (14:55) You should apply now. Call 09042 450 100 (calls cost 1.20/min to arrange an interview.

hannah Williams: (14:55) Hi I am moving temporarily to the US on a J1 visa. I need to put an address on the DS-156 form but will not know my address until just before I leave (the university allocate accomodation at the last minute) I also can't book a hotel until I know when my visa will be granted so its a catch 22. Is it acceptable to put the departmental address where I will be working on the DS-156 form rather than a residential address?

londonchat2: (14:55) You may leave this section blank.

jaja: (14:55) i am an american citizen and working in uk and currently 8 months pregnant. My faiancée comes to visit me in uk from nigeria. Can i file for a fiancée petition for him here in uk and would he be granted the visa in the uk.

U.S. Embassy London: (14:55) If you are resident in the UK, with the appropriate visa, and spend the majority of your time in the UK, you may be eligible to file the immigrant visa petition for your fiance from the UK. Please visit the Embassy's website and look at "Immigrant Visas" for more information.

Adam: (14:56) If eligible for travel under the Visa Waiver Program, is it possible and sensible to obtain a B2 visa if travelling routinely to the US with no reason other than personal preference?

londonchat2: (14:56) If you are eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program, but wish to apply for a visa, you may do so.

karthik 3: (14:57) i'm a permanent resident of uk and have a problem in my us visa which was issued at london.can i reapply for my tourist visa if i have a specific problem?



londonchat2: (14:57) I assume that you have been refused a visa. If that is the case, you may reapply if you believe that you have new and compelling evidence of visa eligibility.

Michael Howard: (14:58) What working visa should i apply for if the company cannot sponsor you through your visa as it is not there policy to do so, even though they will guarentee you employment?

londonchat2: (14:58) Information on working in the U.S. is available from our webiste - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/index.html. In most cases you will require the sponsorship of a U.S. based employer.

donavan elliot: (14:58) looking to go to new york for a weekend in october (24-25). is it too late to apply for a visa?

U.S. Embassy London: (14:58) You can check current appointment availability by calling our Live Operator Service at 09042-450-100. If you are successful on the day of your interview, your visa and passport will be returned to you in approximately 5 working days. However: all visa cases are individual, and there is no way to know what details may arise that may require more time. These processing times are an approximate.

U.S. Embassy London: (15:00) *Thank you to everyone for participating in our webchat this month! We are sorry that due to the demand, we were unable to answer everyone's question today. Please keep checking our website and the Visa Blog for information about our next webchat. Have a great day!*

The webchat ended at 15:00 BST.