



**Transcript for the 30 July 2010 Webchat  
Nonimmigrant Visas**

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (7/28/2010 17:11) We will be on hand to answer your nonimmigrant visa inquiries this Friday, 30th July 2010 at 14:00 BST. This is your chance to ask a Consular office questions about the nonimmigrant visa process and related matters!

We will start today with some questions you sent in ahead of time:

**Submitted question:** (14:11) Q: Hi, I am really concerned about whether or not i am legible to obtain a B2 Visa. I have a holiday booked. I have been charged with theft. I came for an interview at the embassy last week, but because my police certificate said my sentence was postponed you couldn't process my visa. I have since been to court and received a suspended sentence. I just want to know what my chances are of getting a visa?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:11) A: You need to send in your sentence now that you have received it. Your visa application could not be completed until you were sentenced, as your sentence may have constituted a visa ineligibility. Your case will now be reviewed based upon your sentence and you will be informed if you are eligible.

**Submitted question::** (14:11) Q: Currently am in Post study work visa in London and am planning to visit Chicago next month to see my brother and parents for 2-3 weeksWhat are all the documents i require from my brother and from my side?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:12) A: You can find all information about how to apply for a visa, including what documents you need, on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, or by calling our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute). Please remember that applying for a US visa is not primarily a document-based process and instead your eligibility is determined by the strength of your ties to a foreign country.

**Submitted question:** (14:12) Q: Hi,I am a Chinese girl. Can I renew my US visa in UK? I will be living there.

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:12) A: Nationals of any country may apply for a US visa from any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide. But sometimes applicants find it easier to demonstrate the necessary strong ties to their own country if they are applying in the country where they primarily reside.



**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:12) Q: I am applying for a H2B work visa and I have a criminal record. I have my ACPO with my court dates, conviction and charges. Will I still have to furnish copies of the court record(s) covering all charges of which I was convicted ?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:13) A: You might. You should be advised further when you email your information prior to your appointment being made. If you were not given information at that time, you will be advised further by the consular officer at the time of your interview. Every application is different. If you have your court records, it is a good idea to bring them to your interview in case the interviewing officer would like to see them.

**Submitted question:** (14:13) Q: I am Lithuanian citizen living in UK but I hold old type of passport. I would like to visit New York in October 2010 but it's not enough time to apply for a new biometric passport . Lithuanian Embassy said waiting list is long and even after the appointment i need to wait at least 2 month to receive a new document. What are my options? Do I need a visa to enter USA?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:13) A: Lithuania is a participant in the Visa Waiver Program. However, nationals of VWP countries must still meet certain passport and other requirements in order to travel on the VWP. Please see [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html#countries](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html#countries) for more information regarding the program, and whether or not you qualify with your current passport.

mike8461: (14:15) what sentence constitutes a visa eligibility? what chances have i got with a theft conviction?

**Submitted question:** (14:15) If you have ever been arrested or convicted of any crime, you must apply for a visa. Only the US consular officer at the time of your interview will be able to decide if your record constitutes an ineligibility.

**Lutz:** (14:16) I'm a German citizen and already have the DS-2019 for an exchange visitor J-1 status; is it possible for me to apply for the visa/the interview in London UK, although I have a German passport (I study in the UK for my phd and that's why London is more convenient for me)?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:16) Yes. You may apply at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide.

**Submitted question:** (14:17) Q: I was refused a tourist visa because the officer did not believe that I have strong ties to the UK. What can I do?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:17) A: You may reapply if you would like. There are no appeals for this visa refusal. However, please note that unless your circumstances have changed, you are unlikely to receive a different answer on your visa application.



**Colin:** (14:19) I am hoping to travel to the US to present my work at an academic conference in the area of science and technology. I am currently a PhD student so not really an academic or professional yet! Do I need to supply a CV and list of publications since they will only contain one or two lines of information. Do I need to provide a CV detailing my career prior to becoming a student?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:19) You may be asked for this information, so if you have it it is a good idea to bring it with you.

**Submitted question:** (14:21) Q: How can I prove to the interviewing officer I will come back to the UK after my visit?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:21) A: You are welcome to bring whatever supporting documentation you would like to your visa interview. The US visa process is not primarily document-based. The interviewing officer will ask you questions during your interview, and you must demonstrate that you have strong ties to the UK (or your country of residence).

**Jonathan Norris:** (14:22) I'm a student just about to start grad studies in Florida. I already have a visa from when I applied to a different university out in USA and it's valid until 2012. Will I need a new visa? Obviously the university is different on the visa and the I-20 but the date doesn't expire until June 2012?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:22) Yes, you do. Your visa must be for the university where you plan to study. If you have changed schools, your new school must issue you a form I-20 and you must use this new form to obtain a new student visa.

**Submitted question:** (14:22) Q: Hi. About 9 years ago I was arrested for drink driving and failing to stop. I was sentenced to 28 days in jail. As these are my only crimes, and they do not come under Moral turpitude do I need to apply for a visa?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:23) A: Yes, you need to apply for a visa. Anyone who has been arrested or convicted at any time may be ineligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program and must apply for a visa so that their case can be reviewed by a US consular officer.

**Submitted question:** (14:23) Q: Hi, I need to make holiday trip for 1 month what kind visa should I apply for?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:23) A: If you are uncertain about what type of visa is necessary for your trip, please see our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html> for a description of all visa categories. Although most holiday trips can be done on a B2 tourist visa, this may not always be the case. You can also call our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100, for advice (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute).



**kazue:** (14:24) I would like to apply J1 visa. How many payment are there?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:24) You will pay your visa fee when you call the Live Operator Service to book your appointment. They will be able to advise you as to the fee at that time. They are also posted on our website.

**sallt:** (14:26) I have an F1 visa in my UK passport which is valid for another few years but my passport is expiring soon, I understand I can travel on a new passport and keep my visa in my old passport as long as it is not damaged.. how do I know if it is damaged?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:26) You should be able to determine this by looking at your passport. If you are uncertain, it is best to replace your passport.

**Submitted question:** (14:26) Q: Hello. I wish to know how I check my appointment if I didn't receive any e-mail from the embassy?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:26) A: You should have received an appointment confirmation email when you booked your appointment. If you did not receive this email, please call our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute) and ask for this email to be re-sent to you. You will need this letter at the Embassy on the day of your appointment.

**may Bakkar:** (14:27) Hi I am a student in the Manchester Uni, I have a presentation in the USA for a conference, I have a Jordanian passport. I only stay in England for study on a student's visa, I am not sure about which VISA form I need to fill to the USA embassy. is it B1

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:27) Yes. If you wish to go for a conference, the correct visa category would be B1. Please see our website for application procedures.

**Daniel 2:** (14:28) I have a visa interview 2nd of August which is Monday! I completed the DS-160 online and paid MRV fee... But now I got an e-mail from the embassy with more details about how to complete DS-160... and realised that I made a mistake... They said that I have to write every school that I attended after the age of 11.... In the DS-160 I said now, because I said in my mind elementary school is till high school.... What I have to do now? I finished high school!! How can I cancel the old DS-160 to complete a new one with more accurate info? Pls help!!  
Daniel

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:28) If you saved your DS-160 form, you may go back in, edit it and resubmit. If you did not, you must complete the form all over again.

**Submitted question:** (14:29) Q: I have USA visa, but it will expire in December, can I apply for a new visa now?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:30) A: Yes. You do not have to wait until your old visa expires in order to apply for a new one. Your old visa will be cancelled if your new visa is approved.



**Submitted question:** (14:30) Q: I AM FRENCH NATIONAL AND MY HUSBAND IS PAKITANI NATIONAL , WE WANT TO VISIT USA. DO WE BOOTH NEED A VISA?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:30) A: You might not; France is a participant in the Visa Waiver Program. However, nationals of VWP countries must still meet certain passport and other requirements in order to travel on the VWP. Please see [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html#countries](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html#countries) for more information regarding the program. As Pakistan is not a VWP country, your husband must apply for a visa. Please see <http://london.usembassy.gov/apply.html> for all information about how to apply.

**Submitted question:** (14:31) Q: Hi, I was wanting to know I cannot travel to the USA because I have a criminal record. I was wondering if this stops me from going on cruise ships in American waters?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:31) A: Yes. You may not enter the US, including its waters, without the appropriate US visa.

**Deepthi Sundaram:** (14:32) Can anybody with Tourist VISA in UK apply for US Tourist visa from London, Indian passport holders

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:32) Yes. This is a frequently asked questtion. You may apply at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide, however you must demonstrate strong ties to your home country or country of residence.

**may Bakkar:** (14:34) when calling for the interview is easy to get close date or there is a long waiting list? what is the closets available day if i call today?after the interview, how long does it take to get my passport back (given that I am from Jordan)?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:34) Call our Live Operator Service to find out the next available appointment dates and times. If your visa is approved on the day of your interview, it will be returned to you in approximately 3-5 working days via the contract courier service.

**Sally:** (14:35) I am currently awaiting a letter re my visa appt for K1, having completed USCIS and NVC processes and submitted all forms to IV in London and had my medical exam. When should i receive this appt letter and can I change the appt to a closer date if one is available?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:35) You must apply for your visa renewal at a US Embassy or Consulate overseas. You cannot do this form inside the United States.

**Submitted question:** (14:35) Q: I applied for the US visa more than a month ago, my application is pending administrative processing. My status is saying now that I have to send the Passport with the new itinerary. what do you mean by the new itinerary?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:36) A: You should send in your passport together with the itinerary you plan to use when traveling to the United States. If this information has changed (your date of travel, flight, etc), please send in the most recent information regarding your plans.



**liam rodwell:** (14:40) the company that is sponsering me has submitted there petion to the embassy in london to be accepted how long could this process take ?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:40) You should have a copy of your approved petition and use this when applying for your visa. Please call the Live Operator Service for details.

**Sally:** (14:42) Sorry, but your response to my question did not make sense. Please answer my question re earlier query:- I am currently awaiting a letter re my visa appt for K1, having completed USCIS and NVC processes and submitted all forms to IV in London and had my medical exam. When should i receive this appt letter and can I change the appt to a closer date if one is available?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:42) You will be scheduled when all your documentation is received. If you wish to try to reschedule at that time, call the Live Operator Service.

**may Bakkar:** (14:43) when calling for the interview is easy to get close date or there is a long waiting list? what is the closets available day if i call today?after the interview, how long does it take to get my passport back (given that I am from Jordan)?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:43) The Live Operator Service will be able to advise you as to the next available appointment dates when you call to book your interview.

**may Bakkar:** (14:45) if my vist is for a conference, what details shoul be included in the inviation letter?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:45) An invitation letter is not strictly necessasry. You are welcome to bring any supporting documents you would like, but in order to qualify for the visa, must prove to the interviewing officer that you have strong ties to your home country or country of residence, no matter what your purpose of travel is.

**cecilia:** (14:47) I tried to reach the live operator service at 09042450100 several times but each time I heard only a long beep and nobody answered me. I'm calling from London. Do you know why it happens?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:47) The number is occasionally busy, but usually this indicates an issue with your phone or your provider. Try from another phone or network.

**Sally:** (14:49) I submitted all requested documentation to London on 23 June but still have not received an appt letter for my fiance Visa. Can you advise how long it takes to receive the letter?

**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:49) If you have not yet been scheduled is it because you have not yet returned all the forms and docuemtns requested by the Immigrant Visa Unit in the packet of information sent to you initially.



**U.S. Consular Officer:** (14:51) Just a reminder to anyone planning to travel on the Visa Waiver Program: you must apply for your ESTA clearance prior to travel. Please see our website for details.

That appears to be all the questions that we have for today! Thank you all for joining us and keep checking our website for information regarding next month's webchat and transcripts.

The webchat ended at 15:00 BST