

General NIV Webchat Q and As
December 18, 2009

Q: I already have a US visa but I only have one empty page in my passport all others are used. Will one empty page be enough.

A: This will depend upon your travel plans. If you have an empty page in your passport for visa and entry/exit stamps, and a valid U.S. visa, you should be able to enter the United States. If you plan to do any further traveling, however, you may run out of space. Your U.S. visa will continue to be valid, even if you must obtain a new passport. You can carry your old passport with your valid U.S. visa together with your new, valid passport, and use both items when entering and exiting the United States.

Q: Can I still apply for a visa appointment if I want to travel to the US by December 24?

A: In order to book a visa appointment, please call our Live Operator Service at 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute). The Operator Service will be able to tell you the next available appointment date. On the day of your appointment, you usually receive a decision from the interviewing consular officer as to whether or not your visa is approved. However, some cases, depending on circumstances, can take longer, or require the submission of additional documentation. Once your case is approved, it takes approximately 5-7 working days for your visa to be printed, and then the additional time for the Embassy's contract courier service to return your passport to you. Please keep these times in mind when figuring out how early you need to apply for your visa.

Q: I was arrested and not charged nor found guilty of the offence of 'Breach of Peace.' Why do I need to get a Visa when US citizens only have to get one if they are convicted of any crimes when they want to enter the UK?

A: Travelers to the United States must establish their eligibility for admission under U.S. visa law. Those with arrests or convictions may be ineligible on criminal grounds. As U.S. visa law does not recognize the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, a spent conviction, regardless of when it may have occurred, must be declared. Under certain circumstances those found ineligible to enter the United States may apply for a temporary waiver of their ineligibility so that they can travel. We suggest that you visit our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/add_crime.html for further information. We are not able to comment upon UK immigration laws.

Q: I am a fourth-year medical student at a UK University. I am planning to visit the US for a seven-week elective in a clinic in Palo Alto, CA. I am not sure whether I can enter the US under the Visa Waiver Program (I am a UK national with a passport issued after April 2007) or whether I need to apply for another type of visa.

A: A medical student studying at a foreign medical school and who seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to take an "elective clerkship" at a U.S. medical school's hospital without remuneration from the hospital may be eligible for a B-1 visa, or visa free travel under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Note: The medical clerkship is only for medical students pursuing their normal third or fourth year internship in a U.S. medical school as part of a foreign medical school degree. (An "elective clerkship" affords practical experience and instructions in the various disciplines of medicine under the supervision and direction of faculty physicians at a U.S. medical school's hospital as an approved part of the alien's foreign medical school education. It does not apply to graduate medical training,

which normally requires a J-visa).

If applying for a visa, a letter from the U.S. medical school outlining the nature and duration of the elective clerkship should accompany the application. If traveling under the VWP, the letter from the school should be presented to the U.S. immigration official at the port of entry.

Q: Please tell me if a multiple entry visa B1/B2 allows one to enter USA as many times as one needs to even in a short period of time for example 3 times in 2 months.

A: A multiple entry B1/B2 visa allows the bearer to present him or herself at the U.S. port of entry. The decision as to who may enter the United States, for how long, and how many times, is at the discretion of the officers from the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) who staff U. S. ports of entry. These officers are checking to ensure that travelers are using their visas appropriately. If the officer believes that your intent is not to visit the United States for short stays for business or tourism, or that you do not maintain a residence abroad to which you intend to return, then you may not be admitted to the United States, despite possessing a valid B1/B2 visa.

Q: I am an Indian national currently in UK. Prior to coming to the UK I was in USA with my spouse who is on a H1 visa, while I was on a H4 visa; our visa got extended whilst we were there, however I moved to UK for work purpose and now I want to go back to USA to accompany my spouse. I have the document stating that I have an extension until 2012. I just need a visa. What is the procedure, and can I apply while I am here in the UK?

A: You are correct in that in order to re-enter the United States, you must get an H4 visa. You should call our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute) to book an appointment. They will be able to advise you on the exact procedure at that time. Inform them that you have your approved extension paperwork. You are welcome to apply for a visa from any U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide, but will be required to qualify for the visa in order for it to be approved.

Q: I have been offered a graduate assistant position where I will study for my masters degree and receive a stipend to coach football. However the place where I will coach does not have a grad school so I am doing the masters at another university. I know that a F1 visa allows you to work on campus. But could I do my masters at one school and coach at another?

A: Regulations state that the holder of an F-1 visa cannot work off-campus. If this is an arrangement that the graduate school has for their graduate assistant position, I would recommend that they contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for further clarification.

Q: I'm a UK Citizen and my husband is a US citizen. If my nonimmigrant visa is refused can my husband petition for my marriage visa?

A: Yes, if your husband is a US citizen, he has the right to file an immigrant visa petition for you as his spouse. Depending upon your intent in traveling to the United States, this may be the most appropriate visa. Although you may apply for a nonimmigrant visa to travel to the United States if you are married to a US citizen, you will be required to prove to the interviewing officer at the time of your interview that you do not plan to remain in the United States during your trip, and that you have strong ties to a foreign residence. Often this can be more difficult if your spouse is a US citizen. If your intent is to

settle in the United States, then you need to pursue an immigrant visa. You can find more information about both types of visa on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I am thinking of visiting New York in April and would like to know how much will be the visa fee? I live in the UK but I have an Indian passport.

A: For all information about how to apply for a visa, including visa fees, please visit our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, or call our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute).

Q: Hi, I would like to know if you are a UK citizen and wish to join your boyfriend in America who is an American citizen, what would you need to do?

A: This will depend upon what your plans are. If you are a UK citizen, you may be eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). To see if you are eligible, please visit our website for VWP details at http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/vwp2.html. If you are eligible for VWP travel, you must also register online with the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). This can also be found on our website. If you are denied ESTA, plan to stay in the US for longer than 90 days, or your trip will not be for a business or tourist nature, you will have to apply for a visa prior to traveling to the United States. Information about how to do this is also available on the website. Please note that settlement visas are not available for partners of US citizens; only for spouses.

Q: I would be grateful if you let me know which methods of payments are acceptable for (Immigrant & Nonimmigrant) visa fees. Many thanks!

A: Nonimmigrant visa fees can be paid to the Live Operator Service using major credit or debit cards. Please note that the card holder must speak to the operator in person to authorize the charge. Fees paid at the Embassy can be taken by credit card, US dollars, or British Pounds. Immigrant visa fees are either paid to the National Visa Center in New Hampshire if the application is processed through their office, or at the Embassy on the day of the visa interview, if the application is processed by the Immigrant Visa Unit at the Embassy. The Embassy accepts major credit or debit cards.

Q: Why have I been charged for ESTA. It states that it is free??

A: We are aware that there are companies offering their services for a fee to those seeking to register under ESTA and we have been involved in an aggressive publicity campaign in the United Kingdom to highlight this issue and of the existence of only one official U.S. government website for ESTA registration. There is only ONE official ESTA website: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>, which is currently free of charge. A link to this site is available from the Embassy's webpage, <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I have an admission offer in PhD in epidemiology at University of South Carolina for fall 2010. At the moment I am on student visa here in the UK. I am not a UK citizen; can I apply for my US visa here, or do I have to apply from my home country?

A: No—citizens of countries who require a visa to visit the United States may apply for a U.S. visa at any U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide, not just the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country where they are from. The same rules under U.S. immigration law will apply as to whether or not you qualify for the visa, however. Please look at our website for details about your particular visa category.

Q: I'm volunteering in Hawaii for three months at a YWAM base for 91 days, what do I do?

A: Individuals participating in a voluntary service program which benefits a U.S. local community, who establish that they are a member of, and have a commitment to, a particular recognized religious or nonprofit charitable organization, may be eligible for a B-1 visa or visa free travel under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) if the work to be formed is traditionally done by volunteer charity workers; they will receive no salary or remuneration from a U.S. source, other than an allowance or other reimbursement for expenses incidental to their stay in the United State; and they will not engage in the selling of articles and/or the solicitation and acceptance of donations.

A voluntary service program is an organized project conducted by a recognized religious or nonprofit charitable organization to provide assistance to the poor or the needy, or to further a religious or charitable cause.

If your proposed activities as a voluntary worker are not exactly as described, you will require either an exchange visitor (J-1) or temporary worker (H-2B) visa. You will find further information concerning this on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I want go and study in the USA; what do I need to do?

A: You will require a student visa in order to study in the United States. First, you must be accepted by a U.S. school or university. You can find more information about student visas on the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I have been invited to perform as an entertainer in Las Vegas for one night by a US agent. Payment will be sent from the USA to my UK company. The event is 6 weeks after your webchat, does that leave enough time? Do I need a visa, if so which one?

A: If you plan to work in the United States, you will require the appropriate working visa – either an O-1 or P-1. . Please visit our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, for more information about all categories of visa available. You can also call our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute).

Q: Can I get H1b stamped from London, UK, when I am not a British citizen?

A: You may apply at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide. However, wherever you apply, you must meet the requirements for your visa category. For all information about how to apply for a US visa from London, please visit our website: <http://london.usembasy.gov>.

Q: We represent a family of British nationals, the principal of which is applying for an E-2 Visa. His stay under the Visa Waiver Program expires at the end of December and we need to schedule an appointment for them on an urgent basis. I can send the application and supporting documents to your office by express delivery and they will be delivered by this Friday. Can we schedule an emergency E-2 appointment with your office prior to December 31, 2009? Please advise at your earliest possible convenience.

A: It is not possible to apply for an E visa unless the company is registered with the Treaty Visa Unit and it is not possible to register a company in a matter of days. The usual timeframe is 90 days from the date of receipt.

Q: I have applied for a visit visa over 2 years ago, I was told on my interview date that all my paperwork is complete, my visa just required further processing and I should hear from the embassy in 7-10 days. I have never heard anything since. My mailing address has now changed so I will not even know if the embassy writes to me. What should I do?

A: If you would like to inquire about the status of your visa application, please call our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute).

Q: I have a previous caution, for possession of cannabis, a) will I have to state this on my application and b) how will this affect my application?

A: Yes, you must state this on your application. Under US law, all prior arrests and convictions must be reported; and this includes police cautions. You will be advised by the Live Operator Service (tel 09042-450-100; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute) when you call to book your appointment as to what necessary steps must be taken regarding your application.

Q: I have been offered an au pair job in Washington DC. I'm wondering what visa I would need to get?

A: If you plan to work in the United States, you will require a particular category of visa. Most applicants going to work as au pairs obtain J visas. To see if this is the appropriate visa category for you, please visit our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, and look under Nonimmigrant Visas. You may also call our Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute) for additional information.

Q: How soon can I apply for my visa before my travel date?

A: Please apply as early as possible! Most UK citizens are eligible for visas valid 10 years; other nationalities vary. But by applying for your visa well in advance, you ensure that you are prepared for your trip, and allow for unexpected delays that you may not have thought of (such as your application needing additional processing time due to a prior arrest or conviction). We encourage all applicants to make no firm travel plans or bookings until their visa is completed. For all information about how to apply, please visit our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: Hi, I am a UK undergraduate student. My question is: What is the most suitable type of visas for me if I apply privately and directly to an U.S. hospital to do hospital volunteering in summer? What does the hospital need to do in order to help me the paper work?

A. If you will be working, even if you will receive no payment from a U.S. source, you will require the appropriate employment based visa. If you are a student you may be eligible for an exchange visitor (J-1) visa. If the hospital cannot issue you with the form DS-2019 required to apply for the visa, I suggest that you review the information on the Department of State's website concerning approved exchange visitor programs. It may be possible to obtain the requisite sponsorship for the J-1 visa through one of these organizations - http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html#1.

Q: I am currently reading towards my DPhil at the University of Oxford. As part of my research I will be required to work on an antenna in California, run by Caltech. What visa will I require for this?

A: If the “work” is considered collaborative research you will require an exchange visitor (J-1) visa and should contact Cal Tech for them to issue you with the form DS-2019 required to apply for the J-1 visa.

Q: I want to travel to the USA for 6 months for research purposes so that I am able to travel to various states to meet with various public relations and travel industry representatives. I am self-funding my trip, do I need a B1 visa or B2 visa? And what documentation is expected in support of my application?

A: If you would like to stay in the US for longer than 90 days, you will not be able to travel under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program. You can find all information about how to apply for a visa on the Embassy’s website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. Please note that you may present whatever supporting documentation that you would like at the time of your interview; in order for your visa to be approved, you must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the consular officer that you plan to abide by the terms of the visa for which you have applied, and have a residence abroad to which you plan to return.

Q: I am here in the UK on post study work visa. The visa will be expired on May 2011 and my nationality is Vietnam. Can I apply for tourist visa from UK? or I have to go back to VN?

A: You may apply at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide. However, wherever you apply, you must meet the requirements for your visa category. For all information about how to apply for a US visa from London, please visit our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I am concerned my husband is marrying an American citizen when he is still married to me, although we are separated he is due to fly out next week, he is now engaged to her yet he is not divorced from me? He is trying to get a green card through marriage. He was supposed to start divorce proceedings but hasn’t.

A: Although someone can get married in the US while there on the Visa Waiver Program, they will not be permitted to remain there afterwards, even if they are married to a US citizen. In America, marriage is handled by legislation in each individual state. Generally, states do ask for proof of termination of any prior marriages. Bigamy, or being married to more than one individual at a time, is a crime in America. In order to apply for a US immigrant visa on the basis of your marriage to an American citizen, you must also present proof of the termination of any prior marriages. However, if you are concerned, you may write to the Embassy (address your letter to the Consular Section) and include all the relevant details. This will allow us to look into this matter more fully.

Q: I have a valid F1 visa. I will come back to UK during the Christmas for two weeks. I have transferred to a new school and got a new I20. Can I still use the current valid F1 visa to reenter the US even if the school name and SEVIS number on the I20 is different from the ones on the visa.

A: Provided your SEVIS registration is valid, you may continue to travel on the F-1 visa in your possession provided you carry with you a valid form I-20 from the new school.

Q: I am on a US military base in Iraq, can I renew my visa here, or do I need to go to the US Embassy in London? I am only home for 16 days every 4 months.

A: You can apply for a US visa at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide, so long as that Embassy or Consulate is processing visa applications. Currently the US Embassy in Baghdad is only processing visa applications for four categories of visa applicants: diplomatic and government officials; representatives to international organizations; US Government-funded exchange visitors; and students. If none of these categories are applicable to you, you must apply at another US Embassy or Consulate. See that Embassy or Consulate's webpage for details on how to apply, as procedures vary.

Q: We will be running a UK outbound tour operation sending UK customers on tours in the US. As tour leaders we will need to be in the US for up to six months for the summer season. I know that we need a B1 if we are tour leaders but not if we are tour guides. I would like to know more as to the differences between tour leader and tour guides. Our customers will be given information packs in the UK about the areas visited and so we will not be giving information only advice on the information they already have and we will be leading hikes to oversee safety. We are a very small family business (just two of us on the USA side and one other running tours in other countries) giving a personal service to our customers so they only have to deal with two people all the way through the experience.

A: Based on the information you have furnished, it appears that you are setting up a business enterprise in the United States for which the appropriate employment based visas will be required. I suggest that you review the information on our website concerning L-1 and E-1/E-2 visas - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/index.html.

Q: What is the application procedure if a family went to the US on E visas, left one child behind, and now wants that child to join them. The family still has two years nine months left on their E2 visa.

A: If you would like an eligible dependent to join you, they will have to book an appointment for a visa interview. They should let the Live Operator Service know what category of visa they are applying for, and have any relevant paperwork (such as your approval notice). They will have to qualify as a dependent in order to obtain a derivative category visa.

Q: My administration process Batch Number is wrong as it given me on the day of interview. What shall I do?

A: If you have any problems with finding your administrative processing online, please telephone our Live Operator Service at 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute). The operators will be able to assist you with finding your case.

Q: I made an application for appearing for 'Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Entrance Examination' (FPGEE) conducted by NABP (North America Board of Pharmacy) for 19th April 2010 and I got the admission card to seat for the examination. I am very new bee and don't know much about making visa application for USA to seat for the above mentioned examination.

A: You require a B-2 visa. You may arrange an appointment for an interview through the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min). You will also find further information on the Embassy website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I am travelling to the US in June and will need to apply for a visa. I also wish to travel again in 2011 to a friend's wedding. Will my visa be valid for both trips or will I be required to obtain a visa for both visits.

A: As we do not pre-adjudicate visa applications I am unable to advise you on the validity period of the visa. What I can tell you, however, is that validity is based on reciprocity and the individual circumstances of the applicant. The maximum validity of a tourist visa issued to a British Citizen is 10 years.

Q: The process for obtaining a visa on employment grounds seems SO daunting! I can't see that my qualifications or field of employ is any better than someone already living in the States. You advise that the employer will have to prove that the position cannot be filled by an already US resident. I currently work in financial/customer service administration and am preparing to obtain a teaching degree ... surely you already have these, so how do I look as a potential visa winner?

A: There are two types of nonimmigrant visas – H-1B visa (specialty occupation) for those who are to perform services in a prearranged professional job for which a bachelor's or higher degree is required in the specific specialty for which employment authorization is being sought, or the H-2B visa (skilled and unskilled worker) for which labor certification is required. You will find detailed information concerning these visas on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>. If you are a qualified teacher you will most likely qualify under the H-1 visa category.

Q: My B1/B2 visa was approved on December 2 by the visa officer without request for further administrative processing; I still haven't heard any news from the embassy or the courier company. I called the visa operation line, and was told to wait. However, 12 days already passed. I need to travel very soon with my supervisor at London School of Economics to a very important economics conference in US. Would you please kindly help me on what happened to my application?

A: If your application was not subject to additional administrative processing and you have still not received your passport, please call 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) for assistance.

Q: My wife and I are retired British citizens. We have recently purchased a condo in Florida in which to spend the winter. I know we can take advantage of the 90 day visa waiver program, but if we wish to stay for 4 months each year I gather we will need a B2 visa. Should this be the case how much would this visa cost, and how long would it be valid for.

A: The visa application fee is \$131.00. You will find detailed information about applying for the visa on the Embassy website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>. At the time you apply for the visa you will be required to show that your visit is temporary and that you have a residence abroad to which you will return at the end of your visit. The validity period of the visa will be determined by the consular officer based on reciprocity and your individual circumstances.

Q: I am currently working in the US under H1B visa. I am attending a business meeting in London on Feb 2-3. I am planning to apply for H1B visa stamp on Feb 1st. Is it possible to arrange with the Embassy or SMS to pick up my passport in person, instead of SMS delivering it to me? How likely is it for me to get my passport back on Feb 4th or 5th?

A: It is not possible to collect passports in person; they are returned by the courier company. In petition based cases visa processing can take between 5 – 10 workdays. I regret that until you apply for the visa, we are unable to offer you any further guidance.

Q: I want to visit USA in this holiday season with my husband, for that what should I do and how can I apply and can I get visa for USA as I am Nepali and I have come here as a student visa?

A: Information on applying for a visa is available from our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>. Although we accept applications from anyone physically present in the United Kingdom, it is often difficult for applicants who are not permanent residents in the United Kingdom to demonstrate that they have sufficiently strong ties to a third country, as consular officers in London or Belfast have no way of verifying or evaluating information from other countries. If you are a temporary resident of the United Kingdom, or are planning on traveling to the United Kingdom specifically to apply for a visa, you may wish to consider applying for a visa in your country of permanent residence where you will be best able to establish your qualifications for a visa.

Q: My friend and I are going to vegas 21/1/10 and we have just been told she may have to apply for a visa as she was banned from driving for a year over 2 years ago. We are in a bit of a panic and unsure what or how to do anything; can you advise us.

A: Your friend is required to apply for a visa and should call 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20min) to arrange an appointment to apply for a visa. Further information can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: If a non-immigrant person as part of a couple married in the US within the allocated time under the restrictions of the K1 visa, but who has since returned to the UK due to unavoidable circumstance can enter the United States on a tourist or other visa without having filed for readjustment?

A: If you entered the United States on a K-1 visa, married, but did not adjust status, you will either require an immigrant visa, if you wish to take up permanent residence or, if your intended visit is temporary, a tourist visa if you are not eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. At the time you apply for the tourist visa or travel under the Visa waiver Program you will be required to show that your visit is temporary and that you will return to your place of permanent residence in the United Kingdom at the end of your visit.

Q: My age is 38 and my wife is UK national. I am a Pakistani national but I have a permanent UK visa , I mean indefinite leave to remain and I want to visit my sister in u s can I apply visit visa by post London.

A: No. Applicants aged 14 – 79 are required to apply for a visa in person. Please call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) for further information.

Q: My husband and I have an appointment at the consulate in February to renew our visas. We live in the US and are travelling to London just to do this. We have 2 children and have nobody to leave them with. They are American citizens. Can they come inside the consulate with us? I read on the site that only applicants may enter, but was told on the phone that it wouldn't be a problem for me to come in. Please clarify this?

A: Your children may accompany you even if they are not applying for a visa. However, those aged 12 or over must be included on the security access list and present photo-id such as a passport or student photo-id card. A child may be added to that list by calling the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min). If you are bringing young children with you, you may wish to consider bringing books or toys to entertain them as you may be at the Embassy 2 – 3 hours. Please note that electronic items of any kind are not allowed within Embassy grounds.

Q: I would like to apply for a US visa, as I have training workshops scheduled in March 2010(7 days) May 2010 (5 days)and November 2010(7 days). I would like to know which visa I need to apply B1 or B2. And also my husband and daughter (5 yrs) would like to accompany me for a tourist visit and visit his family as well. Pls let me know the type of visa they need to apply for.

A: If you are attending a workshop you will most likely require a B-1 visa. For visits for tourism, a B-2 visa is required if the individuals concerned are not eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. I suggest that you visit the Embassy website for further information – <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I like to know whether a person on student visa in UK can apply for tourist visa of United States or for research work short term only if yes what he/she has to do and required documents.

A: Anyone physically present in the United Kingdom may apply for a visa at the Embassy in London or the Consulate in Belfast, regardless of the type of visa. Information on applying for a visa is available from our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>. Although we accept applications from anyone physically present in the United Kingdom, it is often difficult for applicants who are not permanent residents in the United Kingdom to demonstrate that they have sufficiently strong ties to a third country, as consular officers in London or Belfast have no way of verifying or evaluating information from other countries. If you are a temporary resident of the United Kingdom, or are planning on traveling to the United Kingdom specifically to apply for a visa, you may wish to consider applying for a visa in your country of permanent residence where you will be best able to establish your qualifications for a visa.

Q: Please can you tell me all the restrictions that apply when traveling to Florida?

A: If your question concerns visa requirements for traveling to Florida as a tourist, you will either require a tourist (B-2) visa, or if qualified, may travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. You may wish to visit our website for further information – <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I am planning a trip to central/south america next year but want to start in the US for 3/4 weeks to see some friends first. I am planning on flying in to San Francisco, going to Salt Lake City, then the Grand Canyon, LA and on to Mexico. I have sufficient funds (£10k+) and am just wondering if I will need any onward/return tickets to be eligible for the visa waiver program? If I get a return ticket for a year, will I be able to come to the states, leave for Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Brazil, and come back to use the return part of the ticket?

A: In order to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program (WVP) you require a return or roundtrip ticket that takes you out of the United States and Mexico. If your ticket takes you to Central and S. America and you will make your return journey back through the U.S. you will be required to qualify once again under the VWP on the return leg of the journey.

Q: My brother-in-law is waiting to hear about his B2 visa, he had his interview in London on 26th August 2009 and we are due to go on a family holiday 18th January 2010. How long does the process take? We have spoken to the Operator Assisted Information Service and they are unable to tell us the status or timescale. As you can appreciate time is running out.

A: Visa processing varies. However, given that the application has been pending more than the recommended 90 days, the Operated Assisted Information Service should be able to provide you with

guidance on obtaining the status of the application. I suggest that you call 09042 450 100 (calls cost 1.20min).

Q: I have been asked to go to Florida and Bahamas for 2 weeks in and will need to fly in and out between both on multiple occasions undergoing training with Glasslam inc of fort Lauderdale, I believe that a B1 and B2 visa will be needed I live in Spain but have a British Passport and have to make an appointment however the telephone system is uk or us only is it possible to make this appointment in any other way i will be in the UK 12th to the 16th Jan.

A: If you reside in Spain you may wish to consider applying for the visa at the Embassy in Madrid and should contact them for further information. If you wish to apply for a visa at the Embassy in London, a friend or relative may schedule the appointment on your behalf by calling the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min).

Q: I submitted the relevant binder to the embassy approx 6 weeks ago , it was a application for a e2 visa. Could you advise a time scale for interviews, this would be a great help to me if you can , having young children and Christmas upon us soon.

A: Applicants are advised to allow 90 days for their application to be reviewed.

Q: Do you have any facilities to collect mobile phones or we should not bring them at all at the interview?

A: Mobile phones are not allowed within Embassy grounds. You may wish to consider leaving the phone at home or checking it in at a Left Language facility before coming to the Embassy - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/forms/Left_Luggage-Excess_Baggage.pdf.

Q: Can you inform us about the procedure of transferees on approved blanket petition?
In which order of forms does the Consular Officer prefer the nonimmigrant visa application?

A: Information on the list of documents you are required to present in support of your application is available from our website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/happ.html

Q: I had a H1B Visa interview at the london consulate on the 15th of September 2009 but i was informed by the visa officer that my application has been placed on administrative processing after which he handed me a white piece of paper with a ref number. It's about 3 months now since my interview and i have not received any further information.

A: Processing does vary and the times quoted should only be used as a guide. If more than 90 days has passed since you applied for the visa, you should call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) for further information.

Q: I am a British citizen and was denied entry into the USA over 10 years ago. I have since revisited on a non immigrant visa. I was issued one for a 10 year period. This has now expired do I apply for a new one or can I request for my waiver to be re-instated.

A: As you have been denied entry into the United States you are no longer eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program; you are required to apply for a visa.

Q: Would love to know how to quickly process a fiancée visa for my fiancée there in the UK on the Isle of Mann. We have been collecting information and both of us are over 40 and want to get married

ASAP. We have been Facebook friends for over a year and visited just this last week on the Isle of Mann.

A: You should allow approximately 10 months from the date on which the petition is filed to the date on which your fiancée is scheduled for an interview. Processing times do vary and will often depend on the individual circumstances of the applicant.

Q: My uncle is inviting me to the states, what are the requirements for this kind of visa.

A: You will require a tourist (B-2) visa. Further information is available from the Embassy website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: 5 months after my 1st visit and having been employed for 3 months I returned, again under the VWP only this time I was denied entry in accordance with INA 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(II). I applied for a visa shortly thereafter to try and vindicate myself but was told I could not demonstrate sufficient ties to the UK. I am looking to return to the States, hopefully in 2010. I feel if I applied for another visa it will be denied again. Other than the re-attempting of a visa application, is there anything else I can do to assist me in securing the necessary visa for any future visits to the States.

A: As you have been denied entry into the United States you are required to apply for a visa; you are not eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. As we do not pre-adjudicate visas, I cannot advise you on the likely outcome of your application. However, at the time you do apply for the visa you will be required to show that your visit to the United States is temporary and that you have strong social and economic ties to the United Kingdom.

Q: My wife and I are planning a trip to the U.S for 12+ months. Which visa(s) would we require and how and where would we apply? Is it possible to apply for the 90 day visa waiver programme and extend it for another 90 days while I am there, or is there another visa to cover us for 12+ months?

A: If you will be traveling to the United States for a period of time in excess of 90 days you will require a tourist (B-2) visa. A B-2 visa, however, cannot be used to reside in the United States for an indefinite period of time. At the time you apply for the visa you will be required to show that your visit is temporary and that you have a residence outside the United States to which you will return at the end of your stay.

Q: I had a non immigrant visa interview on 5th Nov and on 4th December I got the status of send passport for visa issuance. My problem is that I am going on holidays back home and I will return to UK on 3rd Jan. I can send passport only after 3rd Jan now.

A: It is to the applicant's advantage to send in the passport as soon as notification is received that the Embassy is ready to issue the visa. However, the applicant does have three months from the date on which s/he is advised to send in his or her passport. Therefore, you may send in your passport on January 3 on your return to the United Kingdom.

Q: Will the Embassy accept a NON BIOMETRIC passport from a citizen of the Czech Republic?

A: If you are applying for a visa, yes, we will accept a non-biometric passport. Biometric passport requirements apply only to those traveling under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). If you are planning on traveling under the VWP, please ensure that you check the requirements. The type of passport requires depends on nationality and date on which the passport was issued. You will find further information on our website – <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q. I am a researcher and I want to travel to the USA to collaborate with colleagues. I plan to go for two or three short visits totalling less than 6 months (but possibly spread out over more than a year). I am a non-EU national living in the UK. I presume I would need a J1 visa for this. My questions are: Would one J1 visa cover all visits or will I need a new one each time? and if the research is partially funded by the European Commission, would I be subject to the 2 year residency requirement?

A: If you are being sponsored by one organization they can probably issue you with the form DS-2019 to cover all three visits. If not, you will require a DS-2019 from each organization. If the programs run concurrently or consecutively, we will be able to issue on J-1 visa annotated with all three program numbers. If not, you will be required to apply for the visas each time before you travel. Information on the two year residence requirement can be found on the Department of State website - http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html.

Q. I will be going to this US in summer 2010 to work at a summer camp under the J-1 Visa from June to August, after this I have been accepted as a teaching intern in California for a year. My questions are, what visa(s) will I need for the intern year?

A: A J-1 visa is the most appropriate visa classification for the internship. If your sponsor cannot issue you with the form DS-2019, you may be able to obtain the requisite sponsorship through an approved exchange visitor program, a list of which is on the Department of State website - http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html#1. If the programs run concurrently or consequently, we will be able to issue one J-1 visa.

Q. I have a B1 and B2 visa. I left the USA in March 2009. I was taken sick so I could not travel on the specified date on my I-94 so I was two weeks late leaving. I have been a regular visitor to the USA and have never overstayed my visa before. I wish to travel back and stay for a few months again (I have been back in the UK for 9 months so far) Will I be allowed to enter?

A: If you were in the United States on a visitor visa (B-2) and overstayed by just two weeks, this will not prevent you from traveling to the United States again on the visa in your possession. You may well be questioned by U.S. immigration concerning this incident and should be prepared to discuss it with them. If you have any papers or documents relating to this overstay, I suggest that you carry them with you. Traveler who enter the United States visa free under the Visa Waiver Program and overstay the period of time granted, even if only by one day, are no longer eligible to travel under the VWP; they are required to apply for visas.

Q. I need to apply for my H4 visa , stamping. (I was in USA 3 months back and I already have the H4 visa extension certificate granted to me ,all I need now is the visa stamping to take place) I am in the UK for work purpose and now I want to return back to the States to accompany my Husband who is currently there on a work permit .

A: Please call the Operator Assisted Information Service – 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) to arrange an appointment for a visa interview.

Q: I have been many time to the site of us embassy today I got a golden opportunity to ask some question to you. hope you will give me the right information regarding my question. I want to enjoy my holiday in USA in this December. I have a sponsor in USA so what process I can do to go there for my holiday

A. You will require a B-2 tourist visa. Please call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) to arrange an appointment for an interview.

Q: My wife has spent almost five years with a R1 Visa while I was studying, when we got married I had an a F1 visa while she had a R1, now that she is pregnant and will not be able to continue her work for much longer, I have been offered a job that qualifies me to apply for a religious worker visa (R1), my question is: can she apply with me to for a R2? or does she have to of been outside of the USA for a year before she qualifies to apply for the R2?

A: If your wife has spent 5 years in the United States in R-1 visa status, she is not eligible to apply for an R-2 visa unless she has resided and been physically present outside the United States for the immediate prior year, except for brief visits for business or pleasure.

Q. I am a bit surprised as to why my inquiry regarding my non-immigrant US visa hasn't been addressed yet despite putting it up twice before. Well...here is my third attempt. I applied for my US B2 Visa on August 10, 2009 and unfortunately my application was refused under section 214(b). I was holding an Indian passport then, although I was a permanent resident of UK. I re-applied for my visa and this time I was fortunate enough to get it and I was issued a 10 year, multiple entry US Visa. Since then I have become a british citizen and now holding a British passport. My question is firstly whether I am entitled to apply under ESTA on my next visit to US or do I have to apply for a new US visa..

A: If you hold a British citizen passport and you are otherwise qualified to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program, you are not required to apply for a visa. The requirements for traveling visa free under the Visa Waiver Program are available from the Embassy website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/visawizard/index.html.

Q. I am a British passport holder and going to Los Angeles in Dec 2009, just wanted to know if we require tourist visa?

A: You should check out the requirements for traveling visa free under the Visa Waiver Program - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/visawizard/index.html. If qualified, you will not require a visa. If you do not meet the criteria for travel visa free, you will require a visa and should call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) to arrange an appointment for an interview.

Q. Thanks for this opportunity, and my question is, "we are a group of International studies on an MBA programme at the university of Leicester, and we want to have about ten days holidays in the USA. Traveling as a group of about 30 – 40 students, what are the requirements we need to secure visas for this planned short vacation.

A: The Visa Waiver Program is open to nationals of 35 countries. Check our website to see if you qualify -.http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/visawizard/index.html. If not, you will require a tourist visa and call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) to arrange an appointment for an interview.

Q: Hello, My appointment is 2 days from now firstly I haven't filled my online form until now I want to know what I need when coming to the embassy and also I live in Cambridge. Pls send me the easiest way I could get to the embassy.(B2 VISA).

A: At the time you scheduled the appointment you will have been sent an appointment letter. That letter contains a link to our website which provides detailed information on the documents you are required to furnish at the time of the interview, security procedures at the Embassy and the location of the Embassy. If you did not receive the email, please call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) and they will retransmit the email.

Q. Hello – can you help me? I cannot access the link which lists the documents needed for visa interview – can you please email me or list the documents i will need to present?

A: If you cannot open the link try cutting and pasting it into the internet. If that does not work, you should visit the Embassy website for the information – <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: My visa type B1/B2 is in my old passport which expired April 2006. I took this with my new passport when I visited the USA, and the immigration officer was not happy, saying it should be in my new passport. Same thing when I was leaving. Please could you tell me what I should do?

A: Provided you were traveling to the United State for the same reason for which the visa was issued and you were in possession of a valid passport of the same nationality, you may travel on the visa provided that it was not damaged in anyway.

Q: I'm an international student in UK and I plan to visit some friends in the US during the vocation on December and January. I'm just not sure if it's a little late to apply the US visa now, I worry that maybe after I received my visa, the vocation is over. Will that happen? How long will it take to get the visa from the interview day?

A: It may not be too late to apply for a visa. I suggest that you call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min) for further information. Routine visa processing takes approximately 5 workdays before the passport is released to the courier company for delivery.

Q. On the ESTA visa from to travel to America for a two week holiday. On my driving license I have an offence code SP30, I believe the fine was £60. This was for exceeding 30mph in a 30mph zone. Do I have to declare this on the form?

A: No. Minor traffic offenses such as speeding do not need to be declared.

Q. Hi! Me and my daughter will travel to Canada for 2 weeks holiday. We are Belgian citizens and holder of European Passport. We also plan to travel 4 days to New York by bus from Canada to New York and New York to Canada back. I'm only wondering are we allow entering USA under Visa Waiver? I'm wondering since we are not arriving by air or by sea in USA.

A: You may be eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waive Program. Please check out the criteria for traveling visa free on our website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/visawizard/index.html. If you are entering the United States from Canada by land you will not be required to be in possession of a roundtrip or onward ticket and will not be required to register under ESTA as it applies only to those entering the United States by

air or sea carrier. You will, however, be required to pay a fee of \$6:00 U.S. dollars to U.S. immigration. Please note that they will accept U.S. dollars only.