

INTERVIEW WAIVER PROGRAM

Most applicants require in-person interviews with a U.S. Consular Officer when applying for a visa. However, under the interview waiver program, certain applicants may only require biometric data collection at the Applicant Service Center and not require in-person interviews at the Consulate; other classes of applicants may not require either an in-person visit to the Applicant Service Center or the Consulate. Eligibility criteria for the interview waiver program are listed below.

Important Note: The U.S. Consulate General in Matamoros reserves the right to interview any applicant or, in the case of minor applicants, the parents of the applicant, for any reason. If your case requires an interview, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment for an in-person interview. Qualifying for the interview waiver program does not guarantee visa issuance.

Note: Applicants who do not meet the below qualifications must apply for their visas following the regular process as outlined in [Visa Application Steps](#) and schedule both enrollment and interview appointments. The following procedures apply only to Mexican citizens with a valid Mexican passport and who are normally resident in Mexico.

Make Sure you are Eligible

Applicants who meet the below requirements may apply for a visa without an in-person Consulate interview. The following applicants still need to travel to the Applicant Service Center for biometric data collection.

1. The applicant is renewing a visa
2. The applicant has Mexican citizenship and is applying with their Mexican passport.
3. The applicant is applying in the same visa category
4. The applicant is returning to the same institution or workplace as was indicated in the previous visa application (in case you are applying for a work or student visa)
5. The applicant is NOT applying for an H2, P, or L Blanket visa
6. "TN" visa applicants must include a job letter and proof of professional degree or relevant work experience
7. An applicant going to the U.S. on petition-based visa should provide a copy of the approved petition (I-797 Notice) for the principal applicant
8. The previous visa does not have "Clearance Received" written on it (if it is a stamped visa in passport).
9. The previous visa is still in the applicant's possession

10. The previous visa is still valid, or expired less than 12 months before the day of the appointment at the Applicant Service Center
11. The applicant has never been arrested or convicted of a crime, deported from the United States, denied entry to the United States, or had any other problems or difficulties with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol when attempting to enter the United States
12. All sections of the DS-160 online application have been answered completely and accurately

Certain classes of applicants may apply for visas and/or renew visas without either a trip to the Applicant Service Center for biometric data collection or to the Consulate for an in-person interview. In lieu of an applicant personally appearing at either the ASC or Consulate, a representative may deliver the required documents for visa consideration. These include the below:

Applicants under 7 years of age (who have not yet reached their 7th birthday at the time of application), where both parents are Mexicans and at least one parent holds a valid visa. Parents may apply on behalf of minor children (under age 7) by submitting the required documents/proof of application fee payment at the time of the parent's enrollment interview at the Applicant Service Center.

Applicants aged 80 years or older who are renewing their visas that are current or have expired in the last 12 months.

Applicants renewing visas classifications C1/D, F, H1B, I, J, L (Non-Blanket), M, O, Q, R, TN. Additional requirements apply as outlined below:

- o The applicant is renewing a visa that was issued on or after January 1, 2008.
- o All ten fingerprints were captured at a prior interview;
- o The applicant is NOT applying for a B, E, H2, P, or L blanket visa.
- o The previous visa was issued in the same applicant name, date of birth, place of birth, and nationality.
- o The applicant was at least 7 years of age at the time his/her last visa was issued.

Do not make final travel plans until you have received your passport and/or visa.

What Documents Are Required to Apply?

Important Note: All applicants must be present in Mexico. Applications will not be accepted if sent in by international mail.

Required documents for each applicant:

Mexican passport valid for at least the next six months, with at least one available blank page;

Confirmation page of the Application Form DS-160 which contains the barcode;

A 2x2 inch (5x5 cm) recent color photograph with a white background (see requirements below);

Photocopy of birth certificate and/or Federal Election Card (IFE);

Previous visas (if a visa renewal) ;

Additional required documents if applicant is a minor (under age 7):

Copy of at least one parents' valid B1/B2 (tourist) visa and passport.

Copy of the birth certificate of the minor applicant.

Application Fees

Petition-based visa fees: US \$150 (includes the H, L, O, and R visas).

Non-Petition visa fees: US \$140 (includes the B1/B2 tourist visa, the "I" visa and the "TN" visa).

Fees for Minors who are Mexican citizens (under age 15): \$14

How Can I Apply?

Under the interview waiver program, applicants must follow the regular process for the first three visa application steps. When scheduling their appointments, applicants should note to the live operator or via the Internet application site if they believe they qualify for the interview waiver program. Applicants will then be notified of a date and time for biometric data collection at the Applicant Service Center, and will also be asked to elect a DHL location to pick up their visas and passports.