



**Transcript for the October 27, 2011, Webchat
Nonimmigrant Visas**

Q: Is a business visa (B1) continue to be valid if I switch company? I have a B1 visa issued in 2005 and valid till 2015. I recently switched to a different company and need to go on business to US . Do i need to apply for a new visa or my current visa still valid? What additional documents do i need to carry when i travel?

A: Please review our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b1apply.html> to help you determine if B-1 is the appropriate visa classification for your proposed business travel. If you are unsure, please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service to discuss your proposed travel further. If you determine that B-1 is the appropriate visa classification for your purpose of travel and your B-1 visa remains valid, then you may travel to a United States port of entry to apply for admission. As with all visitors, final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission to the United States is entirely a matter for U.S. immigration officials.

Q: I am from Philippines, at this moment holding student visa. Working, living and studing in the UK. What kind of visa i would need to go to USA. And if i am married on EU citizen, he is from Latvia, does it change something. Thank you very much.

A: The appropriate visa classification will depend on your purpose of travel to the United States. See our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html> for a full list of nonimmigrant visa classifications

Q. I am a Sri Lankan currently in UK on a 2 year visa. My youngest son, 2 months old, born in UK and has got a non-machine readable passport (all country valid) issued from Sri Lanka High Commision In London. Can he apply for a tourist visa with this passport to visit USA for a one week holiday?

A: Please visit our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/applying_by_courier.html for information about applying for a visa for your son, as visas for children under the age of 14 can be applied for through the Courier Service. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa is entirely a matter for the adjudicating consular officer.

Q: I am reffered for a medical for a B2, how long do I have to wait for your decision once Ive had the medical?

A: Following a medical exam, the amount of time it takes for an applicant to know whether they will be issued a visa varies in each individual case. If a waiver of eligibility is required and recommended by the consular officer, it can take approximately 14-16 weeks to process the application; some may take longer. For this reason, we recommend that applicants apply for visas well in advance of their travel, and do not make non-refundable travel plans until they have been issued a visa and received their passport with visa from the courier.

Q: I am 16 years of age and have family friends in the US that are willign to let me stay with them for a month or so in the US, what must I do to visit the US, I do not intend to immigrate or anything like that I just wish to visit some old family friends that are willign to let me stay with them.



A: If you are a British citizen intending to travel to the United States for tourism on a visit of less than 90 days, you may be eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. For more information on whether you qualify to travel visa free, please see our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>

Q: hello quick question, i was cautioned in 2007 for a domestic with my husband does this make me ineligible for travelling under the waiver program? i am british by the way?

A: We advise individuals that have ever been arrested, cautioned or convicted – regardless of when or why – to apply for a visa if they wish to visit the United States. See http://london.usembassy.gov/add_req.html for more information.

Q: I'm an Indian. I'm currently studying in London. How do i apply for a tourism visa ?

A: Comprehensive information about nonimmigrant visa classifications and the visa application process can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html> As with all nonimmigrant visa applicants, you will be required to complete Form DS-160 online and attend an interview with a consular officer. Nonimmigrant visas interviews can only be scheduled by calling the Operator Assisted Information Service. As you are not a British citizen, you may wish to read our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> before scheduling an interview appointment.

Q: I am required to visit the states on business next month and I am concerned that I have a "Drunk in Charge" offence, will this affect my Visa Waiver application, what should I do because applying for a visa will take too long

A: We advise individuals that have ever been arrested, cautioned or convicted – regardless of when or why – to apply for a visa if they wish to visit the United States. See http://london.usembassy.gov/add_req.html for more information.

Q: where i can call and get the date for h1 b visa in london . and do i have to fill the d -160 before getting the date.

A: Nonimmigrant visa interview appointments can only be scheduled by contacting the Operator Assisted Information Service. See our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_contact_information.html for details. You may complete and submit form DS-160 either before or after booking your interview appointment, but we recommend that you do so well in advance of your appointment date.

Q: Volunteering at a Non-Profit Organisation as Part of University Course. I am from the UK, and am studying an Equine Course at University. My course requires that I gain experience, which I would like to do at a Non-Profit Organisation, by volunteering. As I am a UK Citizen, and would classed under the 'Visa Waiver Program', do I still need a Visa to volunteer? Also, is the ESTA the same as Visa Waiver Program?

A: A number of factors affect whether someone is eligible to volunteer in the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, including the length of stay, duties to be performed and whether the volunteer work will be part of an academic program. We are unable to answer



case-specific inquiries in this format, so please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service for further assistance. Contact information is available at http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_contact_information.html

Q: I am British National Overseas and had Multiple Tourist Entry from US which valid until 2016. Do I still need to apply anything before I come to US?

A: If you have a valid visa appropriate for your purpose of travel, you are not required to submit an additional application before traveling. Note that registration under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is only for individuals that will be traveling visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. A valid visa permits the holder to travel to a United States port of entry to apply for admission. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission can only be made by U.S. immigration officials at the port of entry.

Q: I have visited the USA in 2009 and was given an ESTA, I also held a permanent visa due to my siblings and family reside in the USA, further I have a Security stamp in my passport. My question is that when I was 21 I was arrested and convicted (not a serious charge) I am now 68, will this conviction stop me visiting the USA to see my family on a non-immigration visa? Also how much will it cost me for this visa? Thank you.

A: We advise individuals that have ever been arrested, cautioned or convicted – regardless of when or why – to apply for a visa if they wish to visit the United States. See http://london.usembassy.gov/add_req.html for more information.

Q: I have applied for US visitor visa on D160 form for myself, my wife and child, do I need to fill new forms for wife and child in D160?

A: A separate Form DS-160 is required for each visa applicant.

Q: I live in UK on tier 1 and visa finishes in Feb 2012, but planning to go to USA in Feb 2012 as well, my PR will be done in Jan 2012. If I apply for a US visa for tourist, will they issue me a visa from now on or from Feb 2012 when I intend to travel?

A: Whether or not you will be issued a visa, and the terms of any visa, can only be determined by the interviewing consular officer at the time of your non-immigrant visa interview.

Q: What sort of time scale does it take in a visa interview day in consulate if I book the appointment?

A: The time spent at the Embassy on the day of the interview varies with each case, but on average an applicant can expect to spend 2-3 hours in the Embassy on the day of the interview.

Q: I am a Thai student in UK. I plan to visit US in Christmas time. How should I do for a visitor visa?

A: To schedule an appointment for a non-immigrant visa interview, please call the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042-450-100. Calls to this line are charged at £1.23/min plus network extras. Callers from outside the U.K. and some mobile and network providers cannot access this number. As you are not a British citizen, you may wish to read our blog post at



<http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> before scheduling an interview appointment.

Q: Hi, i have an ESTA and i'm going to las vegas for new year. If i get married out there, can i file to stay in the states?

A: Registration under ESTA is for eligible individuals that wish to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program for 90 days or less, after which they will return to their place of permanent residence abroad. If you intend to travel to the United States to marry a U.S. citizen and take up indefinite residence, you will require a fiancée visa.

Q: I have a visa B1/B2 that expires in 2019. I am travelling again to the states next week. Do i need to do anything else? Fill in any forms? Visa was issued 2 years ago.

A: If you have a valid visa appropriate for your purpose of travel, you are not required to submit an additional application before traveling. Note that registration under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is only for individuals that will be traveling visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. A valid visa permits the holder to travel to a United States port of entry to apply for admission. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission can only be made by U.S. immigration officials at the port of entry.

Q: Should I buy air ticket or reserve hotel ? or I have to get visa first before do that.

A: As no assurances regarding visa issuance can be given in advance, and we cannot guarantee processing by any set date, we strongly advise applicants not to purchase tickets or make irrevocable travel plans unless they are in possession of their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: I am from EU country, planing to go to USA with my girlfriend. We are not married yet. She is from Philippines. But both of us are working and living at this moment in UK. She hold student visa (In UK) For myself, i will need wave visa, but for her? Or its just better to marrie her first :D Thank you.

A: Please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html> to help you determine if you are eligible to travel visa free under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program.

As a citizen of the Philippines, your fiancée will be required to apply for a nonimmigrant visa if she wishes to visit the United States. She may wish to read our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> before scheduling an interview appointment.

Q: Hello I Hold and Indian passport and i Live in the United Kingdom, Recently I applied for a tourist Visa filling in the online form 160, I answered all the questions but did have a photo that was in the new size requirements. I submitted the form but I did not get a request for payment how do I make a payment for the visa? I understand I will have to have an interview how will this be arranged do I arrange this or does the embassy do this? Forgot to mention i have receipt for form with reference number and it was also emailed to me, i am at a loss as this the first time i applied for a visa to the US.



A: To apply for a nonimmigrant visa, you are required to complete Form DS-160 online and attend a visa interview appointment. An interview appointment can only be scheduled by contacting the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042-450-100. Calls to this line are charged at £1.23/min plus network extras. Callers from outside the U.K. and some mobile and network providers cannot access this number.

Q: What 's id family situation document? Can I show student status in UK, home address, my statement in UK? and If my parents are sponsorship, I need to use birth certificate and bank document of my parents,right?

A: It is each individual's responsibility to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the adjudicating consular officer that they are eligible for a visa, and you may choose to bring whatever documentation that you feel helps to demonstrate your eligibility. However, please be aware that applying for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa is not primarily a document based process. Please review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=157> for more information.

Q: can photo uploaded on form and actual photo for interview can be different?

A: Individuals must try to upload a photograph when they complete Form DS-160, and they may also wish to bring a photograph with them on the day of the interview. These photographs must meet the Department of State's specifications, which are listed at http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotofaq/visaphotofaq_5328.html

Q: Sir, I am invited to attend a conference. What sort of visa I should apply.

A: Please visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b1.html> to help you determine if the B-1 visa classification is appropriate for the purpose of travel. If you are unsure, please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service for further assistance.

Q: I met Diana a US citizen in August and I have just returned after staying with her for four weeks. I have booked another flight 23 Nov to Jan 10th to stay with her. As we are in our 50's and have both been married before we are not in any rush to get married in the 90 day deadline and would prefer to get married at a time of our choosing. Diana has a good well paid job and I own 3 properties in the UK where I am a British subject and resident which give me an income so I don't have to work in either the UK or the USA. Can I get a visa that allows me to stay at her address for longer than 90 days without getting married?

A: Please review our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/immigrant-visas/marriage-to-a-u.s.-citizen.html> If you require further information, please contact our Operator Assisted Information Service.

Q: I am a Fingerprint Expert from Scotland, I have family in the US, but not directly related. I am interested in working and living in the US, but are finding that US police employers are keen on my skills and abilities as there is a general shortage of latent examiners, but back off when they learn that I do not have a visa to work in the US. Is there any other visa's that I could apply for that would overcome this?



A: Temporary work visas are generally based on a specific offer of employment. For a list of visa classifications, please visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>. If you wish to reside in the United States indefinitely or permanently, you will require an immigrant visa. See <http://london.usembassy.gov/immigrant-visas.html> for more information.

Q: My current British passport is due to expire in December 2012 but my B1/B2 visa is valid until Feb 2018. Can you advise whether the current visa can be transferred when my passport is renewed in 2012, or if not possible, please advise the procedure.

A: If the passport in which your visa is endorsed expires, the visa in the old passport still can be used provided that you also carry a valid passport of the same nationality. However, if the passport authority clips the corners of the passport when canceling it, and in doing so damages the visa in any way, that visa will no longer be valid and you will be required to apply for a new visa.

Q: Hi, my wife and I are going on a caribbean cruise in november 2011 which stops over at Puerto Rico for a day. We are Indian citizens with indefinite leave to remain in the UK. Do we need visas to go on a day trip at st juan?

A: If you wish to visit Puerto Rico, you should apply for a B-2 (tourist) visa. Please visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> for more information.

Q: I am wishing to take my fiancee with me, to visit my parents in Delaware for the christmas season. We will be there for 20 days, and then return to England, where we live. I am an American citizen, and she is a Romanian citizen until we are married next year. I know she needs a visa to visit, but the question is... how difficult will it be for her to obtain one, she has no criminal record, we will be financially able to handle the visit.

A: As with all nonimmigrant visa applicants, your fiancée will be required to demonstrate that she is eligible for the visa classification she applies for. This will include satisfying the interviewing consular officer that she will return to her permanent residence abroad after visiting the United States. Applicants typically confirm this by demonstrating sufficiently strong social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel their return.

Q: I am british citizen my wife is srilankan but she has permanent resident of the U.K please advise how can I get her visa.

A: Comprehensive information about nonimmigrant visa classifications and the visa application process can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>. As with all nonimmigrant visa applicants, your wife will be required to complete Form DS-160 online and attend an interview with a consular officer. Nonimmigrant visas interviews can only be scheduled by calling the Operator Assisted Information Service. As your wife is not a British citizen, she may wish to read our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> before scheduling an interview appointment.



Q: My mother wants to travel to the usa this year,her passport states she is a British Subject with a british passport but her nationality originally was republic of ireland (eire)– will she qualify for the visa waiver programme? The esta website says not. Does this mean she can fill out forms on the plane or will she have to get a full visa from the embassy any guidance is greatly appreciated

A: British Subjects are not eligible to travel under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program. Full details on applying for a nonimmigrant visa can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

Q: i been in young offenders would it be possible to use vwp still? i aint offended for 5yrs i last offended @ 16

A: We advise individuals that have ever been arrested, cautioned or convicted – regardless of when or why – to apply for a visa if they wish to visit the United States. See http://london.usembassy.gov/add_req.html for more information.

Q: Hello I have pakistani passport with indefinite leave to remain previously i had UK travel document and travelled to USA on that in 97 and 98 visa expired in june 2002 . since i got pakistani passport now can i apply for USA visa by mail or online . What is the procedure for that can you please kindly advise me on that . Thankyou

A: Registering under ESTA is only for individuals that are eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. As a Romanian citizen, you are required to apply for a visa. To schedule a visa interview appointment, please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042-450-100. Calls to this line are charged at £1.23/min plus network extras. Callers from outside the U.K. and some mobile and network providers cannot access this number.

Q: I am a British citizen and would like to take the New York Bar exams as well as attend preparatory classes in the US. From my enquiries, I also understand that I may have to do about 20 credits to qualify to seat the exam. My question is what kind of non-immigrant visa do I have to apply for and what documents do I need to provide. Thank you.

A: The appropriate visa classification for an individual wishing to study in the United States depends on a number of factors. We are unable to answer case-specific inquiries in this format, so please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service for further assistance. Contact information is available at http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_contact_information.html

Q: can i apply by mail or online . what i was thinking sending the documents by mail and if you like to do the interview than i will travel to london because i live in N.Wales.

A: Information about applying for a visa by courier is available on our website at Operator Assisted Information Service. See our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/applying_in_london.html However, please be aware that all nonimmigrant visa applicants between the ages of 14 to 79 are required to attend a personal interview with a consular officer.



Q: i am a romanian citizen married to a UK national. Does that make a difference or still need to get an ESTA?

A: Registering under ESTA is only for individuals that are eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. As a Romanian citizen, you are required to apply for a visa. To schedule a visa interview appointment, please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042-450-100. Calls to this line are charged at £1.23/min plus network extras. Callers from outside the U.K. and some mobile and network providers cannot access this number.

Q: I'm 75 and mobility is a problem. Do I have to go for an interview?

A: Before you consider applying for a visa, please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html> to help you determine if you are eligible to travel visa free under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program. If so, registration under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is done online at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> and no interview is required. However, if you do need to apply for a visa then, as with all applicants aged between 14 and 79, you will be required to attend an interview with a consular officer. If you are disabled and require an assistant or carer, please notify the operator when you call the Operator Assisted Information Service to schedule your visa appointment.

Q: I live in Scotland - can I apply for my visa in Edinburgh?

A: The Consulate in Edinburgh does not process visas. However, you can choose to apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in London or the U.S. Consulate in Belfast. In either case, appointments can only be scheduled by calling the Operator Assisted Information Service. Contact information is available at http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_contact_information.html

Q: I'll be travelling from Newcastle to London for my visa interview and I need to buy my ticket to get home after. How long will I be at the Embassy? Cheryl x

A: There is no set period of time that you may be at the Embassy as the interview process varies for each individual. However, you should expect to be at the Embassy for at least two to three hours.

Q: hello im looking to travel to florida with my family but me and my partner have a criminal record will this stop ue?

A: We advise individuals that have ever been arrested, cautioned or convicted – regardless of when or why – to apply for a visa if they wish to visit the United States. See http://london.usembassy.gov/add_req.html for more information.

END OF WEBCHAT