



**Transcript for the February 23, 2012  
Nonimmigrant Visa WEBCHAT**

Q. I applied for a B1 visa (Business Visa) on the 9th of January 2012 from US Consulate in London. I was refused under section 221g for additional administrative processing, to double check the information I have provided to them and should be completed within 16 days. Yesterday I called the Department of States for the status of my pending application and they have told me that I have provided all the additional documents. The review should have been completed for this type of visa (B1) within 30 days and lastly they said that they will email the US Embassy to ask them as to why they are still holding my case. The US Embassy should then contact me with regard to the reasons for still holding the file under review. Are they going to send an email to the US embassy in London? How long it takes before they read this email from Department of States and then to contact me. I also hold SC clearance DBS, NSV. Isn't this supposed to speed up the process because I am already cleared by the Defence Ministry?

A. Administrative processing often takes several months. For information on your specific case, you can call the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras)

Q. Hi, I have job back in my home country, my employer sent me here for studying PhD (full time) at the University of Leeds, UK. Presently I am on "study leave with pay" from my employer. Or in simple words I am still on job while doing PhD. I have no other previous jobs. I want to apply for B2 visa to attend my brother's wedding in US. I have few queries regarding this.1) How and where should I mention this in DS-160 form?2) If I mention my fulltime student details in primary occupation of "work/Education/Training information section" then how I mention my job details? 3) My visit will be financially sponsored by my brother do I need I-134 form from him for B2 visa? 4) Apart from my brother's financial details can I also show my own savings for sufficient funds availability? That is both are sharing the expenses.

A. If you are currently in the UK as a full time student, you should list that in the Education information. If you are still employed, you may list that as a current employment and should be prepared to discuss your circumstances at the time of your interview. If your brother will be responsible for you financially while in the U.S. you may wish to bring an I-134 or information regarding his financial situation. However, you should note that each applicant must demonstrate their eligibility for a visa based on their own merits. The final decision on your eligibility can only be made by a consular officer at the time you apply.

Q. I have leave to remain status in the UK; currently I am working in one UK University as a researcher. I am planning to go to USA this summer for research conference. However, my travel document will be expiring in January 2013. I am wondering if I am eligible to apply for visa. Thanks in advance for your help!

A. Mike, depending on what country's passport you hold, you may need to have at least 6 months validity on your passport to enter the United States. As long as you have a valid travel document, you are eligible to apply for a visa to the United States.

Q. My parents in law have come to visit family in the UK from India. They are Indian citizens and have UK tourist visas. They are scheduled to return home on 5th July. They would like to visit family in the USA and would like to travel there directly from the UK. Are they able to apply for US tourist visas from the UK?

A. If your parents are currently present in the UK, and will remain present while processing in their



case is completed, they may be eligible to apply for a visa in London. When applying, your parents will be required to demonstrate strong social, economic and financial ties to their place of residence. If your parents are not able to demonstrate such ties to the UK, they may wish to consider applying in India

Q. I know that it is not permitted to work with a B-2 tourist visa. However, is it possible to volunteer with no monetary compensation? For example, as a campground host where no money would be paid but a camping site with water and electricity would be provided free of charge?

A. Information about travelling to the United States as a volunteer is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b1.html>. If you do not meet the requirements to qualify for this visa type, you would require the appropriate employment based visa.

Q. I hold a UK passport as British citizen, ESTA application for a planned trip has been approved, but I'm not sure if the particularities of my trip require a visa as well. After a few days in Vancouver, I will leave from there on a cruise to Alaska, taking in Denali Nat. Park and Fairbanks. Return will be by air from Fairbanks to Vancouver, stopping in Seattle only for connecting flight. After a couple of days, I'll return to the UK from Vancouver. Do I need a visa for any part of this trip?

A. Provided that you will travel as a tourist and that you otherwise meet the requirements for visa free travel, you will not require a visa for your intended travel. The final decision to admit or deny all travelers to the United States rests with immigration officials at the port of entry.

Q. Dear Visa Officer, I'm planning for Vacations in US during July 2012. I've a valid B-1/B-2 Visa. Do I need to apply for another B-2 visa for holidays? I've checked the website, but it does not clarify.

A. A B-2 visa is the appropriate category for holiday travel to the United States. If your visa will be valid for the duration of your trip, you do not need to apply for another visa.

Q. Hello, I wish to attend a conference in the US in May and my current UK visa expires in Oct. Can I still apply for a US visa? Is there a certain validity requirement for the existing UK visa while applying for a US visa?

A. No, provided that you are resident in the UK, you may apply for a visa at the Embassy in London. At the time you apply, you will be required to show strong social, financial and economic ties outside the United States. The final determination on your eligibility for the visa can only be made by a consular officer at the time you apply.

Q. I have a friend (UK citizen) who is hoping to travel to the USA shortly on holiday. Having looked at the ESTA visa application questions – Have you ever been arrested or convicted for an offence or crime involving moral turpitude. In April 2009 he received a conviction with a conditional discharge 12months for damage to property (car) please advise would this be considered as moral turpitude.

A. Dave - We would advise that any person who has been arrested, cautioned or convicted of a crime should apply for a visa and allow a consular officer to adjudicate their eligibility. Information about applying for a tourist visa is available from our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>.

Q. We have been asked by a Us blue chip company to get our engineers working visa's. The engineers work for a UK company that did the work for the UK arm of the US company. The work is



specialised and the engineers will change around curing the installation and commissioning of the industrial equipment. We have been told a B1 in lieu of a H1B is the best visa to apply for is this correct?

A. If the engineers will install, service or repair commercial or industrial equipment or machinery sold by a company in the United Kingdom to a buyer in the United States, and the purchase contract requires that the UK company provide such services, then the B-1 visa or visa free travel under the Visa Waiver Program, (VWP) is appropriate. However, in such cases, the engineer(s) must possess the specialized knowledge essential to perform the services, receive no remuneration from a U.S. source, and the company must not receive any payment for these services in addition to that specified in the original contract of sale. If the proposed activities are not exactly as described, temporary work (H-2) visas will be required

Q. we applied for E2 visa, the officer in the embassy told us that every thing is ok, but one page of my ds160 wouldn't appear so we are all in administrative processing. I called the embassy and they said, my husband and kids pass are ready for the visa but not mine. As i read the administrative processing terms, i noticed it might take a long time for my visa to process. Now i know that my husband can travel, I was wondering, is it possible that one of my daughter get her visa without waiting for me, she is nearly 18 years old this month, she need to travel and look for colleges there. we have to look for schools too. so is it possibel that she send her passport to get her visa too? or is it ok that my husband and my daughter travel with thier ESTA and go for a month to find out about colleges and of course he has bought a business and he wants to be there for that too. the point is , that i don't want them to wait because of me. i will try to come to your webchat. thanks so much and God bless.

A. We cannot advise on individual cases at these webchats. If you have a query about your application, or your daughter's, you should contact the Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras) for assistance.

Q. Dear Visa Officer, I'm an Indian National living in UK for last 3 years. I'm planning for Vacations in US during July 2012 with my family. Does my 11 year old son need to appear for a Face to face interview? Regards, Meghna

A. if your son is under 14, he will not be required to attend the Embassy in person to apply for a visa. If you will apply for a visa, you can bring your son's application with you at the time you attend the Embassy. If you already have a visa, check out our website, [http://london.usembassy.gov/applying\\_by\\_courier.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/applying_by_courier.html) for information about applying for your son by mail.

Q. My partner and I are coming to US for a week holiday. I am holding a valid C1/D visa while my partner doesn't have any. Kindly advise if I still need to apply for ESTA. Thank you.

A. If you will travel to the U.S. for a holiday, you will require a B-2 visa or, if otherwise qualified, may travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. Information about the Visa Waiver Program is available from our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>

Q. Adi Sudhakar – I'm an Indian national, live and work in NY, and wanted to know if I could get my H1B visa appointment in London since I'll be traveling there on work (this isn't my first H1B). Thanks a lot.

A. Provided that you are physically present in London at the time you apply, you may apply to renew



your visa at the Embassy in London. Should your case need administrative processing, you would not be able to return to the U.S. until the processing is finished, and you would need to be in the UK when the visa is issued. Information about applying for an H1B at the Embassy in London is available from our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/work.html>.

Q. Thank you. Their place of permanent residence is in India. Their are staying with us whilst on holiday in the UK. Therefore when applying from here is their place of residence deemed to be the one on India?

A. If your parents will apply in the UK, they will still be required to demonstrate strong ties outside the United States. Consular officers cannot adjudicate ties to a third country, if your parents will demonstrate their strong ties to India, they may wish to apply there. If your parents believe that they can demonstrate sufficient ties to the UK, they are not prohibited from applying at the Embassy in London. The final decision can only be made by the consular officer at the time they apply.

Q. I had a custodial sentence back in 2003 for benefit fraud and want to travel to usa Oct 2012 for a holiday. I have already visited the states in 2008 so do I still have to apply for a visa now and do I have to apply for a Police Report before making the appointment at the Embassy.

A. If you have been arrested, cautioned or convicted, you will require a visa to travel to the United States. You may wish to contact the Operator on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras) to make an appointment to apply for the visa.

Q. My brother wrote a letter to consulate requesting a tourist visa for me , should I also write a request letter for the same and present both letters to interviewer?

A. Each applicant is required to demonstrate their eligibility on their own merits. If you wish to present a letter from your brother, you are not prohibited from doing so, but you should note that the consular officer may not require such a document and may not request it.

Q. The B-2 visa permits the holder to remain in the USA for up to 6 months. For an extended vacation, would it be possible to spend 6 months in the USA, then 6 months in Mexico and then another 6 months in the USA, travelling by road?

A. The length of time a person is admitted to the United States is determined at the port of entry by the Immigration official. Travellers holding a B-2 visa may request entry for up to 6 months. There is no set period of time that a person must remain outside the U.S. before applying to re-enter. If Immigration officials are not convinced that you are a bona fide visitor, you will be refused entry to the U.S.

Q. I am a chilean national but UK permanent resident for the last 14 years. I have been as a tourist in the USA twice in the past in 1999 and 2001 in this last visit I was given a multiple visa entry valid for ten years. I am travelling to New york on the 21 of March. How long will it take to get the new visa? How long in the future are the interviews normally arranged?

A. If you wish to travel to the United States and your visa has expired, you will be required to apply for a new one before travelling. Standard processing time for a nonimmigrant visa is 5-7 working days, however, we cannot guarantee that a visa will be issued to any applicant by a specific date. If you wish to apply for a new visa, please call the Operator to arrange an appointment to do so.



Q. Hello! I am a Filipino Citizen. I have some questions regarding US Visit visa. I currently hold a US visit visa R Type B1, class B2. I applied for this visit visa last 2009 and the US Embassy in Paris granted me a ten year visa until 2019. I had no opportunity to use this visa since 2009 and I am planning to go to the US this June 2012. Question 1: The original US Visa was pasted in my expired passport, what do i do with this? Question 2: Is it still valid? Question 3: Will I be able to just attached my old passport (with the US Visa) with the new one? Question 4: Do I need to register under ESTA before I leave my country?

A. Provided that your 10 year visa remains valid, and that it was not damaged when your old passport was cancelled, you may still use that visa to travel to the United States. You should travel to the U.S. with your new passport and your old passport, containing the valid U.S. visa. The final decision to admit or deny all travelers rests with Immigration officials at the port of entry. Please note that you will not be required to register under ESTA, as this is only for visa free travelers.

Q. I have a leave to remain status in UK and my travel document will be expire in January 2013. Currently I am working as a researcher in one UK university, and am planning to go to USA for conference in the coming summer. I am wondering if I am eligible to ask visa from US embassy.

A. If you are physically present in the UK, you may apply for a visa at the Embassy in London. You should be prepared to demonstrate strong social, economic and financial ties to your place of residence. The final determination on your eligibility for a visa can only be made by a consular officer at the time of your application. For more information, please see our blog post on the subject: <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772>

Q. I have completed my PhD from UK university recently, and I am working as a part time lab demonstrator at the moment. I have been here in Uk for the past four and half years and my current visa expires on 31st May 2012. I have received an offer from US university for a post doc position and which is fully funded. Can I apply from London Embassy as a Third Country National (TCN)?. Does it take longer time than usual?. Is it better to apply from my home country?

A. If you are resident in the UK, you may apply for a visa at the Embassy in London. You will be required to demonstrate strong social, financial and economic ties to your place of residence. If you believe that you will be unable to show these kind of ties to the UK, you may wish to apply in your home country. The final determination on your eligibility can only be made by a consular officer at the time of your application.

Q. I have a 2 year driving ban. Can I still enter the US on an esta?

A. If you have been cautioned or convicted of a crime, you may require a visa to travel to the United States. If you are unsure if your driving ban is as a result of a crime of moral turpitude, you may wish to contact the Embassy's Operator on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min) for advice

Q. I was convicted of Making Indecent Images and sentenced to 6 months. This was over seven years ago, and I am no longer on the Sex Offenders Register. I have an ESTA, but wanted to spare any embarrassment at the Airport. Will I be allowed entry to the US to visit Family?

A. If you have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, even if the conviction is considered "spent" in the UK, you will require a visa in order to travel to the United States. Please remember, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does not apply to U.S. visa law. Information about applying for a tourist visa is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>.



Q. Is it possible to travel with my Esta visa and stay for 2 weeks while my E2 is processing or not?  
thank you

A. If you have applied for an E2 visa and your application is under administrative processing, you will be required to answer "yes" to the question "have you ever been refused a visa to the United States?" If you previously registered for ESTA and answered "no" to that question, you will be required to register again. If your ESTA registration is not approved, you will require a visa to travel to the U.S. as a tourist.

Q. Yes our engineers have a minimum of 12 years experience in this field and are paid in the UK. I think the work visa is due to a specific CIA site that we have been asked to do the installation. We may need to get them to the US in under 8 weeks is that possible with a B1?

A. Standard processing time for a nonimmigrant visa is 5-7 working days. The Embassy cannot guarantee that a visa will be issued by a specific date.

Q. Have a visa interview for the 27th of March but I have not received the SEVIS number yet, I've checked all confirmation letters received from the embassy and I cannot find it.

A. The Embassy does not provide Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) numbers, each student must register themselves under the SEVIS program. Information about registering with SEVIS and obtaining your unique number is available from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis>.

Q. I am a 21 year old British citizen and I was wondering how easy it would be for me to get a holiday working visa for 12 months?

A. In general, if you wish to work in the United States, you require a firm job offer from a U.S. based company before you can apply for a visa. Details about the requirements for an employment based visa can be found on our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/work.html>.  
If you wish to travel to the U.S. for a holiday for more than 90 days, you will require the appropriate B-2 (tourist) visa. Note that you cannot engage in employment if you travel on a tourist visa.  
If you are a student, you may wish to learn more about the summer work and travel program: <http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/summer-work-travel/>

Q. Hi I am hoping to visit Florida in 2013 with my boyfriend and parents. I am worried as my boyfriend has a criminal record. 4 years ago he was charged with taking a vehicle without owner's consent and drink driving and received a 1 year driving ban. He was 19 when he did this and is the only time he has ever been in trouble with the law. Can he apply for an ESTA or will he need to have an interview for a visa?

A. If your boyfriend has been convicted of a crime, he will be required to apply for a visa if he wishes to travel to the United States. Information about applying for a tourist visa is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>. We strongly recommend that applicants do not make final travel plans until they have obtained a visa, as the Embassy cannot guarantee that a visa will be issued to any applicant by a specific date.

Q. and please also let me know, how long does it take to get your passport back after you send it with DX secure?

A. Once your passport has been passed to DX secure, it generally takes 2-3 working days to be



delivered.

Q. Thank you. They have no financial ties in the UK. Though we will be funding the trip. They want to apply from the UK as they would like to travel from the UK before returning to their home on India. They can demonstrate ties in UK through us and in India too.

A. For more information on applying for a visa from the UK if you are not a UK citizen, please see our visa blog: <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772>

Q. Can I obtain a US driving license on a B-2 tourist visa? I have purchased a motorhome in the US and the insurance would be much cheaper if I could show a US license?

A. Information about foreign visitors obtaining a U.S. drivers license is available from USA.gov: [www.usa.gov/Topics/Foreign-Visitors-Driving.html](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Foreign-Visitors-Driving.html)

Q. hi, i am an international student here in the United Kingdom . i am from pakistan. i want to apply for a pleasure multiple entry visit visa for this summer. what are the documents i need to bring along?

A. Information about applying for a tourist visa, including documentation you may require, is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Q. i am planning to visit US on a holiday in april. My wife and I have got a valid US visit visa but our twins dont. Do i have to apply for their visa in person to US embassy in london or using the courier services a viable option?secondly do i have to send me and my wife's passport along with my kids passport?

A. If your children are under 14, they may be eligible to apply for visa via the courier service. Information about doing so is available from the Embassy website: [http://london.usembassy.gov/applying\\_by\\_courier.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/applying_by_courier.html). Details of all the documentation you are required to provide is also available from that webpage.

Q. Sir, I have recently been accepted onto a year long study abroad exchange program at Boston College that starts in September 2012. I therefore need to apply for F-1 visa. However, this summer I am planning on working at an American summer camp and I am also applying therefore for a J-1 visa. As I intend to travel to the US in early June, is it possible for me to apply for both these two visas at the same time in the coming weeks as I would be in the United States not London throughout the summer and only plan to return home for a a week or two before starting in Boston. Thank-you for all your advice.

A. If an applicant wishes to apply for two different visas at the same interview, they may do so. The applicant must specify both visa types on their DS-160, pay two Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fees and demonstrate at interview that their principal purpose of travel on each occasion will be different. If an individual wishes to apply for two different categories of visa at one interview, they should pay one MRV fee when they call the Operator Assisted Information Service to schedule their visa interview and the other MRV fee should be paid at the Embassy on the day of the visa interview. When applying for the visas, you must demonstrate that you will depart the U.S. between the end of your J-1 activity and the beginning of your studies on the F-1 visa.

Q. I am applying for a C1/D visa as I will be working on a cruise ship (I am a UK citizen). There is a small section in your website that states it can take upto 60 days for administrative processing. Are



you told at the interview if this is going to be required or if approved then it is only the process time you need to wait for? You are also asked for your last 5 previous visits to the US. Apart from the last 2 holidays, my previous visits have all been working on cruises ships going out of US Virgin Islands/Costa Rica weekly during 2002 and lengths of stay were hours rather than days (this was under my expired C1/D VISA). How do I record this type of information on the DS-160 form when I don't have exact dates

A. If administrative processing is required in your case, you will be advised at the time you apply. When listing your previous visits to the United States, you should be as accurate as possible and should be prepared to discuss the visits with the consular officer at the time of your interview.

Q. I am a university student looking to come over to work in the USA as part of my course, in which we have a placement year. At the moment I am planning on working in the summer with a coaching company called USSI and then the rest of the year doing a sports internship at a high school. I was wondering if you could help me with what visa would be required and would it be possible to work these jobs under immigration regulations? I look forward to your response.

A. If you will work in the United States, you will require the appropriate employment based visa. Information is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/work.html>.

Q. hi , i would love to visit florida with my boyfriend and my son this summer. i have an appointment on tuesday .but i dont know how to prepare myself for it, what documents to bring with me to prove that its just a family holiday? i am polish and my boyfriend and son are british. any hopes of me getting a visa?

A. Each application is reviewed on a case by case basis. There is no set form of evidence that applicants must bring in order to demonstrate their eligibility for the visa. As this office does not pre-adjudicate applications, we cannot speculate on the likely outcome of your interview.

Q. Thank you for your reply. If this line of work extends past 1 year is there a preferred visa for multiple entry that runs for a number of years? Or can a 1 year visa be extended.

A. This will depend on the specifics of the situation. For case specific information, you may wish to contact the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

Q. I am applying for a B2 visa and have a criminal conviction. I have my interview scheduled for a couple of weeks time. Should I bring some personal references with me? Also if I am granted a visa would I be able to get this extended to a 10 year multiple entry visa?

A. You are not required to bring personal references with you at the time of your application. Each applicant is required to demonstrate their eligibility for the visa based on their own merits. The Embassy cannot accept assurances of third parties that a traveler will abide by the visa requirements. The length of time a visa will be granted is determined by the reciprocity schedule and the discretion of the consular officer.

Q. How long the additional administrative processing for B1 visa takes? What exactly are they checking? Finger prints? Watch list? My name is Mohammed Rafi Khan and i was told that my name is on watchlist in USA. I have never been to USA.

A. Administrative processing often takes several months, and in some cases can take longer than six





months. For information on your specific case, you can call the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

Q. This is a follow on from a previous question about applying for two visas at the same time, is it still possible to apply for the two visas (one J-1 and one F-1 visa) at the same time despite one (the F-1) being intended for travel in excess of 120 days from the date of applying? As I would hope to be in the United States (under the J-1 visa) during the period in which I would have otherwise applied for the F-1 visa. Sorry for any repetition.

A. You must apply for the F-1 less than 120 days from the course start date. If you are not able to meet this requirement, you would be required to either adjust status while in the United States, or return to the UK for a second visa interview at the end of your planned summer travel. You may wish to look at our Student Visa FAQs, available from our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/students.html>

Q. Thank you. I have visited the blog. This is the final question. may they apply for multiple entry visa?

A. Indian citizens are eligible to apply for multiple entry visas to the United States.

Q. Hello there, I am a PhD student with Medical Research Council. My lab will be visiting Florida for a conference ( 7 days). My current UK visa expires on 6th Sep 2012. And my conference is on 18th May. I have a house and job in UK.

A. If you are resident in the UK, you may apply for a visa at the Embassy in London. You will be required to demonstrate that you have strong and binding ties to your place of residence. If you are unable to demonstrate such ties, the consular officer will refuse your application.