Business Travel to the United States
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It is our desire to issue a visa to any legitimate traveler who wants to go to the United States for business.

1. Applying for a visa
2. Visa interviews
3. Legitimate business activity in the U.S.
U.S. Visa Procedures

All visa decisions and procedures are based on U.S. law and regulations

- Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended (INA)
- U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- Additional State Department regulations in Volume 9 of the Foreign Affairs Manual (9 FAM)
Applying for a visa
First Steps:

Plan ahead – apply as far in advance as possible!
First, visit our website: hochiminh.usconsulate.gov

- Apply for an appointment
- Request an expedited appointment if necessary

■ A note about visa referrals
Before interview:

- Complete the online visa application, DS-160, and print out the confirmation sheet with barcode.
- Make an appointment via our website and print out your confirmation sheet.
- Your passport must be valid until the date you will leave the U.S.
- Pay your $160 interview fee at Citibank, if applying for a B1/B2 visa; petition-based visas (L1, H1-B) have a base fee of $190.
Q: Which of the below documents must a business traveler present to receive a B1/B2 visa?

- Invitation letter from a business in the U.S.
- Confirmation of employment from one’s employer
- Pay stubs or statements of income
- Bank statements
- Tax returns or other evidence of tax payments
- Evidence of land or real estate holdings
By law, a valid passport is the only "document" you need to receive a B1/B2 visa.
Visa issuance is based on an applicant’s interview

- An applicant must be able to explain what he or she will do in the U.S., where and why
- We are unlikely to issue a visa to an applicant who cannot do this, no matter how many documents he or she has
- Applicants should not claim “market research” or “conference” attendance if their primary purpose is tourism or a family visit
Why visas are issued or refused

- Our goal is to issue a visa to every lawful traveler aiming to conduct business in the U.S.
- The consular officer considers the applicant's overall circumstances when deciding
- Visa applications are denied if:
  - it does not appear credible that the applicant primarily intends to conduct business in the U.S.
  - the applicant has extremely weak ties to Vietnam
  - the applicant’s activity may not be allowable on B1/B2 status in the United States
Reaplication

- U.S. Embassies and Consulates cannot maintain a written reaplication process
- Applicants who come in person to reapply will speak with a different officer if possible, but must pay the $160 fee
- We do not recommend reaplication unless there is new information you want us to review about the applicant or the purpose of travel
- Quick reaplications with no new information will result in a second refusal
Legitimate business activity
Legitimate business activity

- “Other than the performance of skilled or unskilled labor” (Matter of Hira, BIA)
- Commercial transactions, negotiations, consultations/meetings, conferences/seminars, litigation, independent research
- Installation, service and repair (by contract)
- Board meetings or board functions
- Seeking investment vs. managing a business
- Foreign vs. U.S. exhibitor
- Observation vs. clerkship
“Training”

- When training is not available in the home country but will further a career abroad
- Will not be placed in a position which is in the normal operation of the business
- Salary from the foreign employer, and no salary from a U.S. source except an expense allowance or reimbursement for expenses, including room and board
Contact Information:

- U.S. Consulate General, HCMC
  Telephone: (8) 3 520-4610
  E-mail: HcmcInfo@state.gov
  http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/

- Citibank (pay visa fee):
  115 Nguyen Hue St, D1, HCMC