

Business Travel to the United States

Visa Workshop, New World Hotel

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Ho Chi Minh City

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U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

Business Travel to the U.S.

It is our desire to issue a visa to any legitimate traveler who wants to go to the U.S. for business

- Visa application process
- Visa interviews
- 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





Applying for a visa



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First Steps:

- Plan ahead – apply as far in advance as possible
- Follow the instructions on our website: <http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov>. All of the information that any applicant needs is there
- Apply for an appointment, through our website
- Request an expedited appointment if necessary, also through our website
- A note about “visa referrals”



Detailed Instructions:

The screenshot shows the website for the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The page is in Vietnamese ("Tiếng Việt") and features a navigation menu with options like Home, About Us, Visas, U.S. Citizen Services, Education & Culture, News, and Business. The main content area is titled "Visas" and includes a sidebar with links to Immigrant Visas, Nonimmigrant Visas, and How to Apply. The "How to Apply" section is highlighted and contains the following information:

HOW TO APPLY

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Seven Steps for Preparing for Your Visa Interview

Below are the basic steps to apply for a nonimmigrant visa. If you already have a visa, you may qualify to renew it by mail or drop box. To determine whether you qualify, please click [here](#).

Please note: More information is available by clicking on the steps highlighted in blue.

STEP 1. [Complete the online application form DS-160](#). All nonimmigrant visa applicants are required to submit the electronic DS-160 except K-visa applicants, who must use the paper DS-156, and E-visa applicants, who must use the DS-156E.

Questions about the DS-160? Please refer to the FAQs by [clicking here](#).

STEP 2. Pay the [application fee](#).

STEP 3. Prepare a 5cmx 5cm copy of your visa photo if you could not upload a digital photo with your form DS-160. Bring one copy of the photo

WARNING

Section 212(a)(6)(C) of INA
Applies a serious penalty to applicants who submit fake documents to the U.S. Consulate in support of visa applications. This refusal results in a PERMANENT ineligibility for admission into the United States

USEFUL LINKS

- Lost your appointment confirmation, please [click here](#)
- [Online appointment tips](#)



Online Application

Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160)

Apply For a Nonimmigrant Visa

FAQs

Tooltip Language: English [\[View Tool Tip Help\]](#)

Most of this application has been translated. To see the translation point your mouse over any sentence on the page.

Welcome!

On this website, you can apply for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa. Filling out the application on our site is the first step in the process. After you submit your application, you can move on to the next steps, such as signing up for an interview.

Important: Before You Start

1. [Learn about Types of Visas](#)
2. [List of Documents and Information you will need](#)
3. [Browser Requirements](#)
4. [How to complete the application](#)

Other people can assist you with your visa application. Note that under U.S. law (22 C.F.R. 41.103) you must electronically sign and submit your own application unless you qualify for an exemption. Even if someone else helped you complete the application, you (the applicant) must click the "Sign Application" button, or your application may not be accepted.

Get Started

Select a location where you will be applying for this visa

 - SELECT ONE - 



Some locations require you to upload a passport-type digital photography of yourself.

[Test Photo](#) | [Photo Standard Guide](#)

Select a location and make sure you have the documents and information you will need.

START AN APPLICATION ▶

Select a location then select an application that you previously saved on your computer.

UPLOAD AN APPLICATION ▶

You will be asked for your application ID and answer a security question.



Before interview:

- Complete the online visa application, DS-160, and print out the confirmation sheet with bar code
- 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



Visa Renewals (Drop Box)

- Vietnamese citizen, present in Vietnam
- Last visa was
 - Full validity
 - Still valid or expired less than 1 year ago
- Same type (business, student) as visa you are applying for
- You haven't been refused since your last visa issuance

Accepted Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:00am – 11:00am

Processed in 5 business days





Visa interview



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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



Answer:

NONE!

- 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 who wants 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 overseas
 - the applicant's activity may not be allowable in B1/B2 status in the United States



Reapplication

- U.S. Embassies and Consulates cannot maintain a written reapplication 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 reapplication unless there is new information you want us to review about the applicant or the purpose of travel
- Quick reapplications with no new information will result in a second refusal





Legitimate business activity



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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
- Observation vs. clerkship



“Training”

- When training 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) 3 520-4200

Nonimmigrant Visa Inquiries:

<http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/contact/nivinquiries.html>



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