Business Travel to the United States

Sara Michael, Nonimmigrant Visa Chief

*Ho Chi Minh City*

*April 25, 2014*

*Renaissance Riverside Hotel*
Business Travel to the U.S.

It is our desire to facilitate the travel of all legitimate traveler who want visit 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
Plan ahead: start the process as early as possible

- In peak seasons, the wait for the next available appointment may be a month or more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonimmigrant Visa Type</th>
<th>Appointment Wait Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Visas</td>
<td>24 Calendar Days*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Exchange Visitor Visas</td>
<td>7 Calendar Days*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Nonimmigrant Visas*</td>
<td>7 Calendar Days*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Visa Services

- **Dedicated website** for visa information and appointment scheduling: [www.ustraveldocs.com/vn](http://www.ustraveldocs.com/vn)
- **Call Center** 19006444, 8am-8pm weekdays
- **Passport delivery** for approved visas
- **Mail in renewal applications**

*All at no additional cost once the visa application fee has been paid*
Follow the step-by-step instructions to:

- Complete the **DS-160** (online application)
- Pay your $160 **application fee**
- Make an **interview appointment**
  (or mail in your renewal application)
On the day of your interview

- Bring printout of
  - Your DS-160 confirmation sheet
  - Appointment letter

- Arrive no earlier than 20 minutes before your appointment time
Visa Renewals by Mail (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 the visa you are applying for
- You haven’t been refused since your last visa issuance

Processed in 5-7 business days

* Soon to be “less than 2 years ago”
Visa interview
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., 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
Reaplication

- Applicants who reapply will interview with a different officer, but must pay the $160 fee and make a new appointment.
- We do not recommend reapplication 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 likely result in a second refusal.
Legitimate business activity
Legitimate business activity

- “Other than the performance of skilled or unskilled labor”
- 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:

- www.ustraveldocs.com/vn
- 1900-6444
- In U.S. 703-665-7350
- support-vietnam@ustraveldocs.com


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