

Business Travel to the United States

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Renaissance Riverside Hotel



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

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



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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.

Nonimmigrant Visa Type

Appointment Wait Time

Visitor Visas

24 Calendar Days*

Student/Exchange Visitor Visas

7 Calendar Days*

All Other Nonimmigrant Visas⁺

7 Calendar Days*



New Visa Services

- **Dedicated website** for visa information and appointment scheduling:
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



www.ustraveldocs.com/vn

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



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



Reapplication

- 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 reapplications with no new information will likely result in a second refusal



Legitimate business activity



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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/non-immigrant-visas.html>

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

