

# Announcements

## July 31 to August 6, 2023 - Consular Section open only for emergencies

13 July, 2023

In anticipation of World Youth Day and the Pope's visit to Portugal, the Visa Section of the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon will be open only for emergencies between July 31 - August 6, 2023.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF YOUR VISA FEE

10 July, 2023

Visa application fees are valid to use for 365 days from date of purchase. After the 365 days, if the applicant has not scheduled their interview appointment or submitted their application to apply for a U.S. Non-Immigrant visa (including K fiancé visas), the fee will expire and the applicant will forfeit the right to use the fee for a visa application. However, as a result of the suspension of routine consular operations due to COVID-19 in early 2020 and the U.S. Department of State's efforts to restore all routine visa operations as quickly and safely as possible, the Department extended the validity of visa application fees until September 30, 2023 for all fees that expired between February 20, 2020 and September 30, 2022.

Please check the validity of your visa fee and read the below important information:

- To check the expiry date of your visa fee, log into your account on this website (<https://ais.usvisa-info.com/> (<https://ais.usvisa-info.com/>)), click the Continue button, and select Payment Receipt option. The visa fee expiry date for each visa applicant is listed on the Payment Receipt.
- If you do not use the fee before the fee expiration date, you will be required to pay a new fee if you want to apply for a visa. You can use the visa fee until 23:59 EST time on the expiration date.
- If you have already used your visa fee to schedule an appointment in the future (after the visa fee expiration date), you will not be able to cancel or reschedule your appointment after the fee expiration date, unless you pay a new visa fee. Your current appointment is still valid even if it is scheduled after the visa fee expiration date. Please plan to attend your scheduled visa interview appointment.
- You will NOT be able to cancel or reschedule your appointment after the visa fee expiration date. If you try to cancel or reschedule your appointment, the scheduling system will display a warning message indicating that your visa payment of the original appointment has expired and if you wish to continue with your appointment cancellation or reschedule, the system will require you to pay a new visa fee.
- If you miss your interview appointment and the fee used to schedule the appointment is already expired, you will be required to pay a new visa fee if you wish to continue with your visa application. Plan to attend your scheduled visa interview scheduled appointment to avoid having to pay a new fee.
- If you already attended your consular appointment but you were refused under section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and your visa application is still pending review, you are not affected by the visa fee expiration date because the visa applicant is already in progress. You should follow the guidance received during your interview.

Please check information posted on <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/> (<https://ais.usvisa-info.com/>) for the most updated information regarding your visa fee and appointment.

## Important information about the privacy and security of your account on this website

**30 May, 2023**

Your privacy and security are important. We strongly recommend that you do not share your sign in credentials for this Site, with anyone, under any circumstances. Our team will never request your credentials either over the phone, or via e-mail. Sharing your credentials could result in misuse or compromise of your personal information. Additionally, the use of automated tools such as bots, scripts, or other non-human interfaces within this Site is prohibited. Such tools not only have the potential to jeopardize the integrity of your personal data, but may also result in delays in the processing of your application. Refer to the Privacy Policy and Terms of Use of this Site for additional details. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a high standard of security and privacy.

## Update on Change to U.S. Travel Policy Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for nonimmigrant travel

**12 May, 2023**

The Administration will end the COVID-19 vaccine requirements for international air travelers at the end of the day on May 11, the same day that the COVID-19 public health emergency ends. This means starting May 12, noncitizen nonimmigrant air passengers will no longer need to show proof of being fully vaccinated with an accepted COVID-19 vaccine to board a flight to the United States. CDC's Amended Order Implementing Presidential Proclamation on Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic will no longer be in effect when the Presidential Proclamation Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic is revoked.

Please see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/01/the-biden-administration-will-end-covid-19-vaccination-requirements-for-federal-employees-contractors-international-travelers-head-start-educators-and-cms-certified-facilities/> (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/01/the-biden-administration-will-end-covid-19-vaccination-requirements-for-federal-employees-contractors-international-travelers-head-start-educators-and-cms-certified-facilities/>).

## Important information about your upcoming visa appointment

**2 May, 2023**

Applicants must fill out a DS-160 online visa application form completely and correctly at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/> (<https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>) before scheduling a visa appointment.

Starting on May 2, 2023, applicants with scheduled appointments who entered an incomplete or fictitious DS-160 confirmation number in the appointment system should update the DS-160 barcode number before the appointment. The DS-160 barcode number can now be updated up to one time without having to cancel the existing appointment.

If you bring a DS-160 visa application form to your interview that is different from the DS-160 confirmation number entered in the appointment system, your application may not be accepted and applicants will have to schedule a new appointment based on regular appointment availability.

Steps to follow to update the DS-160 confirmation number:

1. Log into your account at <https://ais.usvisa-info.com> (<https://ais.usvisa-info.com>)
2. In the "Applicant Summary Page", click on the "gear" icon and select "Edit"

3. Update the “DS-160 Number” field with the complete and correct confirmation number
4. Click “Save”
5. Attend your appointment on the scheduled date and time

## **Nonimmigrant Visa Processing Fee Increase**

**31 March, 2023**

The U.S. Department of State has increased certain nonimmigrant visa (NIV) application processing fees and Border Crossing Card (BCC) fees for Mexican citizens age 15 and over. These fee increases are effective as of June 17, 2023.

- The application fee for visitor visas for business or tourism (B1/B2s and BCCs), and other non-petition based NIVs such as student and exchange visitor visas, has increased from \$160 USD to \$185 USD.
- The application fee for certain petition-based nonimmigrant visas for temporary workers (H, L, O, P, Q, and R categories) has increased from \$190 USD to \$205 USD.
- The application fee for a treaty trader, treaty investor, and treaty applicant in a specialty occupation (E category) has increased from \$205 USD to \$315 USD.

Other consular fees remain the same, including the waiver of the two-year residency required fee for certain exchange visitors. Applicants who have already paid a visa application fee that is currently valid and non-expired, but who have not yet appeared for their visa interview or are waiting for their case to be processed, will not be charged any additional fees.

## **Presidential Proclamation on Health Care Revoked**

**2 June, 2021**

On May 14, 2021, President Biden revoked Presidential Proclamation 9945, Suspension of Entry to Immigrants Who Will Financially Burden the United States Healthcare System.

## **Expiration of Presidential Proclamation 10052**

**2 April, 2021**

Presidential Proclamation 10052, which temporarily suspended the entry of certain H-1B, H-2B, J (for certain categories within the Exchange Visitor Program), and L nonimmigrants, expired on March 31, 2021.

Visa applicants who have not yet been interviewed or scheduled for an interview will have their applications prioritized and processed in accordance with existing phased resumption of visa services guidance. Visa applicants who were previously refused visas due to the restrictions of Presidential Proclamation 10052 may reapply by submitting a new application including a new fee.

## Expansion of Interview Waiver Eligibility

**23 March, 2021**

Secretary Blinken, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, has temporarily expanded the ability of consular officers to waive the in-person interview requirement for individuals applying for a nonimmigrant visa in the same classification. Previously, only those applicants whose nonimmigrant visa expired within 24 months were eligible for an interview waiver. The Secretary has temporarily extended the expiration period to 48 months. This policy is in effect until December 31, 2021. This change will allow consular officers to continue processing certain nonimmigrant visa applications while limiting the number of applicants who must appear at a consular section, thereby reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission to other applicants and consular staff. Travelers are encouraged to review the website of the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for detailed information on what services are currently available as well as eligibility information and instructions on applying for a visa without an interview.

## Rescission of Presidential Proclamations 9645 and 9983

**22 January, 2021**

On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed a Presidential Proclamation titled "Ending Discriminatory Bans on Entry to the United States." This proclamation ends the travel restrictions under Presidential Proclamations 9645 and 9983 that had suspended entry into the United States of certain nationals, based on visa type, from Burma, Eritrea, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Nigeria, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Venezuela, and Yemen. Please visit the link for additional information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/rescission-of-presidential-proclamations-9645-and-9983.html> (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/rescission-of-presidential-proclamations-9645-and-9983.html>).

**16 September, 2020**

## Urgent Information For Visa Applicants

Please review the information below before scheduling or attending a visa-related appointment.

[IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF YOUR VISA FEE \(/en-pt/niv/information/announcements#797-important information about the validity of your visa fee 20230707202213\)](#)

[Important information about the privacy and security of your account on this website \(/en-pt/niv/information/announcements#790-important information about the privacy and security of your account on this website 20230530195008\)](#)

[Update on Change to U.S. Travel Policy Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for nonimmigrant travel \(/en-pt/niv/information/announcements#788-update on change to u s travel policy requiring covid 19 vaccination for nonimmigrant travel 20230512005010\)](#)

[Nonimmigrant Visa Processing Fee Increase \(/en-pt/niv/information/announcements#775-nonimmigrant visa processing fee increase 20230331193712\)](#)

[Important Announcement on Waivers of the Interview Requirement for Certain Nonimmigrant Visas \(/https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/important-announcement-on-waivers-of-the-interview-requirement-for-certain-nonimmigrant-visas.html\)](#)

## U.S. Visa and Travel Updates

For the latest information from the U.S. Department of State regarding visa issues and travel to the United States, please visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news.html> (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news.html>).

### Extension of Validity for Venezuelan Passports

**12 June, 2019**

As of June 7, 2019 the Department of State recognizes that previously issued Venezuelan passports and “prorrogas” have been extended by decree of interim Venezuelan President Guaido for an additional five years past their printed date of expiration. Passports rendered valid by this decree will be accepted for visa and other consular services.

### Revised Reciprocity Schedule for Portugal

**17 January, 2019**

As of January 16, 2019, the reciprocity schedule for U.S. visas issued to Portuguese citizens was revised. This change will increase the fee and/or decrease validity for the below categories commensurate to those imposed by the Government of Portugal on U.S. citizens. Note the old reciprocity fees and validities are in parentheses.

| Class Reciprocity Fee Applications |             |          | Validity              |
|------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|
| F1                                 | \$0 (\$0)   | Multiple | 28 Months (60 Months) |
| F2                                 | \$0 (\$0)   | Multiple | 28 Months (60 Months) |
| H1B                                | \$0 (\$0)   | Multiple | 28 Months (60 Months) |
| L1                                 | \$222 (\$0) | Multiple | 40 Months (60 Months) |
| L2                                 | \$222 (\$0) | Multiple | 40 Months (60 Months) |
| R1                                 | \$222 (\$0) | Multiple | 40 Months (60 Months) |
| R2                                 | \$222 (\$0) | Multiple | 40 Months (60 Months) |

The Department of State publishes the reciprocity schedule here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country.html> (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country.html>).