

# **USA Visa Screening Requirements - Detailed Overview**

This document summarises visa screening requirements for United States nonimmigrant and immigrant visas. Content is gathered from official U.S. Department of State and embassy guidance.

The U.S. process emphasises identity verification, security screening, and an in-person interview for many visa categories.

## **Primary Identity & Application Forms**

A valid passport and the appropriate online application (e.g., DS-160 for nonimmigrant visas).

A printed confirmation of the completed application form and payment receipts for visa fees.

## **Security & Background Screening**

Applicants undergo security checks against U.S. government databases; this includes name checks and watchlist screening.

Certain cases may require administrative processing under Section 221(g), which involves additional security or documentation checks before a decision is made.

## **Biometrics, VAC & Interview**

Biometric capture (fingerprints and photograph) is usually taken at a Visa Application Center (VAC) before the consular interview.

An in-person interview at the consulate is often required; officers assess ties to the home country, purpose of travel, and eligibility.

## **Health & Other Checks**

Medical examinations are required for many immigrant visa categories and some long-term stays; vaccinations may be required depending on the visa type.

## **Common Reasons for Refusal & Tips**

Lack of strong home ties, insufficient documentation, misrepresentation or fraud, and unresolved security or criminal history can lead to refusal.

Be honest during the interview and bring original documents; prepare concise answers that match submitted paperwork.

## **Practical Checklist (What to Include)**

Passport, DS-160 confirmation, visa fee receipt, appointment confirmation, photos, financial proofs, employment/education documents, police certificates if requested, and medical exam documentation for applicable categories.

## Sources

U.S. Department of State - Visa information and post guidance:  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>

Notes on administrative processing and VAC appointments as published by U.S. Embassies  
(example): <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/administrative-processing.html>