

The U.S. Mission to Kenya understands that many visa applicants have paid the visa application processing fee and are still waiting to schedule a visa appointment. We are working diligently to restore all routine visa operations as quickly and safely as possible. In the meantime, rest assured that the U.S. Mission will extend the validity of your payment (known as the MRV fee) until December 31, 2021, to allow all applicants who were unable to schedule a visa appointment as a result of the suspension of routine consular operations an opportunity to schedule and/or attend a visa appointment with the already paid fee. Please continue to monitor this site for information on when we will return to routine visa operations. If you have an urgent need to travel immediately, please follow the guidance provided at <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-ke/niv/information/niv> to request an emergency appointment. Please be advised that all entrants to the U.S. Embassy, including consular applicants, are subject to body temperature screening, and may be refused entry if displaying an elevated temperature.

The purpose of your intended travel and other facts will determine what type of visa is required under U.S. immigration law. As a visa applicant, you will need to establish that you meet all requirements to receive the category of visa for which you are applying.

See our [Directory of Visa Categories](#) on usvisas.state.gov to determine which visa category might be appropriate for your purpose of travel to the United States.

WHAT IS A VISA?

A citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the United States generally must first obtain a U.S. visa, which is placed in the traveler's passport, a travel document issued by the traveler's country of citizenship.

Certain international travelers may be eligible to travel to the United States without a visa if they meet the requirements for visa-free travel. The Visa section of this website is all about U.S. visas for foreign citizens to travel to the United States.

(Note: U.S. citizens don't need a U.S. visa for travel, but when planning travel abroad may need a visa issued by the embassy of the country they wish to visit.).

Non-Immigrant Visa Unit

Answers to almost all questions about nonimmigrant visa categories, requirements, and procedures are available at <https://usvisa-info.com>. If you are unable to find the answer to your question after reviewing the website, you may send an inquiry to essa_contactus+ke+info+en@visaops.net or speak to a representative at the visa call center by calling +254-20-619-0600 (in Kenya) or +1 703-439-2302 (in the United States). The call center hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Kenya time, or if you are calling from the United States, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time.

For questions which the call center cannot answer, the nonimmigrant visa unit may be contacted directly at visitorvisanairobi@state.gov

- [Contact Us](#)
Immigrant Visa/Diversity Visa Unit
- **Email Address:** ImmigrationVisaNairobi@state.gov
- **Telephone number:** +254 020 363 6622
- **Calling days –** Monday to Thursday
- **Calling hours –** 1 pm to 4 pm (local time)

CUSTOMER SERVICE STATEMENT

The Department of State manages the visa process strictly but fairly in order to best protect the United States. We are committed to the essential openness for which the United States has always been known. Travel to the United States is welcomed and encouraged.

We promise to you, the visa applicant, that:

- We will treat you with dignity and respect, even if we are unable to grant you a visa.
- We will treat you as an individual and your case as unique.
- We will remember that, to you, a visa interview may be a new or intimidating experience and that you may be nervous.
- We will use the limited time available for the interview to get as full a picture as possible of your travel plans and intentions.
- We will use our available resources to fairly assist all applicants to get appointments to allow travel in time for business, study, and other important obligations.
- We will post detailed and accurate information on visa requirements and application procedures on every Embassy and Consulate website.
- We will provide information on non-immigrant appointment waiting times at every Embassy and Consulate posted on <http://travel.state.gov>.
- We will explain the reason for any visa denial to you.

Furthermore, if you are a:

- Student, we will make every effort to ensure that you get an appointment and, if qualified, a visa in time to start classes.
- Medical and humanitarian emergency traveler, we will expedite processing for those dealing with life threatening emergencies.
- Business traveler, we will establish appropriate mechanisms to facilitate business travel and expedite cases of particular concern to American business.

At the same time, we expect you, the visa applicant, to:

- Plan your travel and visa application as far in advance as possible.
- Complete your application fully and accurately.
- Be forthcoming about your purpose and plans.
- Prepare for your interview by being able to clearly and concisely describe your intentions.

Wait Time for Interview

The estimated wait time to receive an interview appointment at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate can change weekly and is based on actual incoming workload and staffing. These are estimates only and do not guarantee the availability of an appointment.

Qualifications for an Expedited Interview Appointment

Consular sections overseas may be able to expedite your interview date if there is an urgent, unforeseen situation such as a funeral, medical emergency, or school start date. The process to request an expedited nonimmigrant visa interview varies by location. You should refer to the instructions on the website of the [Embassy or Consulate Visa Section](#) where you will interview, or on their online appointment scheduling site. You will need to provide proof of the need for an earlier appointment.

In all cases: You must first submit the online visa application form (DS-160), pay the application fee, and schedule the first available interview appointment. Only at this point will a consular section consider your request for an expedited appointment.

Note: Travel for the purpose of attending weddings and graduation ceremonies, assisting pregnant relatives, participating in an annual business/academic/professional conference, or enjoying last-minute tourism does not qualify for expedited appointments. For such travel, please schedule a regular visa appointment well in advance.

Administrative Processing

These estimates do not include time required for administrative processing, which may affect some applications. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary based on individual circumstances of each case.

Administrative Processing Information

There are only two possible outcomes for U.S. visa applications. The consular officer will either issue or refuse the visa. If a visa applicant has not established that he or she is eligible for a visa, the consular officer must refuse that application. However, some refused visa applications may require further administrative processing. When administrative processing is required, the consular officer will inform the applicant at the end of the interview. The duration of the administrative processing will vary based on the individual circumstances of each case. At the conclusion of the administrative processing period, the consular officer might conclude that an applicant is now qualified for the visa for which he or she applied. The officer may also conclude that the applicant remains ineligible for a visa. Visa applicants are reminded to apply early for their visas, well in advance of the anticipated travel date.

Important Notice: Except in cases of emergency travel (i.e. serious illnesses, injuries, or deaths in your immediate family), before making inquiries about status of administrative processing,

applicants should wait at least 180 days from the date of interview or submission of supplemental documents, whichever is later.

About Visa Processing Wait Times – Nonimmigrant Visa Applicants

Information about nonimmigrant visa wait times for interviews and visa processing time frames are shown on this website, as well as on U.S. Embassy and Consulate websites worldwide. It should be noted that the “Wait Times for a Nonimmigrant Visa to be Processed” information by country does not include time required for administrative processing. Processing wait time also does not include the time required to return the passport to applicants, by either courier services or the local mail system.

In addition, it is important to thoroughly review all information on the specific [Embassy or Consulate Visa Section website](#) for local procedures and instructions, such as how to make an interview appointment. Embassy and Consulate websites will also explain any additional procedures for students, exchange visitors and those persons who need an earlier visa interview appointment.

U.S. Embassy Nairobi

United Nations Avenue Nairobi
P. O. Box 606 Village Market
00621 Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: 254 20 363-6000

Directory of Visa Categories

The purpose of your intended travel and other facts will determine what type of visa is required under U.S. immigration law. As a visa applicant, you will need to establish that you meet all requirements to receive the category of visa for which you are applying. When you apply at a U.S. embassy or consulate, a consular officer will determine based on laws, whether you are eligible to receive a visa, and if so, which visa category is appropriate.

Nonimmigrant Visa Categories

The chart below contains many different purposes of temporary travel and the related nonimmigrant visa categories available on this website. Select a visa category below to learn more:

Purpose of Travel	Visa Category	Required: Before
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		applying for visa*
Athlete, amateur or professional (competing for prize money only)	<u>B-1</u>	(NA)
Au pair (exchange visitor)	<u>J</u>	SEVIS
Australian professional specialty	<u>E-3</u>	DOL
Border Crossing Card: Mexico	<u>BCC</u>	(NA)
Business visitor	<u>B-1</u>	(NA)
CNMI-only transitional worker	<u>CW-1</u>	(USCIS)
Crewmember	<u>D</u>	(NA)
Diplomat or foreign government official	<u>A</u>	(NA)
Domestic employee or nanny - must be accompanying a foreign national employer	<u>B-1</u>	(NA)
Employee of a designated international organization or NATO	<u>G1-G5, NATO</u>	(NA)
Exchange visitor	<u>J</u>	SEVIS
Foreign military personnel stationed in the United States	<u>A-2</u> <u>NATO1-6</u>	(NA)
Foreign national with extraordinary ability in Sciences, Arts, Education, Business or Athletics	<u>O</u>	USCIS
Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Professional: Chile, Singapore	<u>H-1B1 - Chile</u> <u>H-1B1 - Singapore</u>	DOL
International cultural exchange visitor	<u>Q</u>	USCIS
Intra-company transferee	<u>L</u>	USCIS
Medical treatment, visitor for	<u>B-2</u>	(NA)
Media, journalist	<u>I</u>	(NA)
NAFTA professional worker: Mexico, Canada	<u>TN/TD</u>	(NA)
Performing athlete, artist, entertainer	<u>P</u>	USCIS
Physician	<u>J</u> , <u>H-1B</u>	SEVIS
Professor, scholar, teacher (exchange visitor)	<u>J</u>	SEVIS
Religious worker	<u>R</u>	USCIS
Specialty occupations in fields requiring highly specialized knowledge	<u>H-1B</u>	DOL then USCIS
Student: academic, vocational	<u>F, M</u>	SEVIS
Temporary agricultural worker	<u>H-2A</u>	DOL then USCIS
Temporary worker performing other services or labor of a temporary or seasonal nature.	<u>H-2B</u>	DOL then USCIS
Tourism, vacation, pleasure visitor	<u>B-2</u>	(NA)
Training in a program not primarily for employment	<u>H-3</u>	USCIS

Treaty trader/treaty investor	<u>E</u>	(NA)
Transiting the United States	<u>C</u>	(NA)
Victim of Criminal Activity	<u>U</u>	USCIS
Victim of Human Trafficking	<u>T</u>	USCIS
Nonimmigrant (V) Visa for Spouse and Children of a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)	<u>V</u>	(NA)
<u>Renewals in the U.S. - A, G, and NATO Visas</u>		(NA)

***What the abbreviations above mean** - Before applying for a visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate, the following is required:

- [DOL](#) = The U.S. employer must obtain foreign labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor, prior to filing a petition with USCIS.
- [USCIS](#) = U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) approval of a petition or application (The required petition or application depends on the visa category you plan to apply for.)
- [SEVIS](#) = Program approval entered in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
- (NA) = Not Applicable - Additional approval by another U.S. government agency is not required prior to applying for a visa

Important Notes:

- **About this chart** – It is not a complete list of all travel purposes for the visa category. Select a visa category webpage for more information. The chart lists almost all nonimmigrant visa categories, with the exception of several not listed above. Refer to the Foreign Affairs Manual, [9 FAM 402.1](#) for all nonimmigrant visa categories.
- **Canadian NAFTA Professional workers** – A visa not required; apply to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at border port of entry.
- **K nonimmigrant visas** – For U.S. citizen fiancé(e) and spouse for immigration related purposes. Refer to [Immigrant Visa Categories](#).