Business Travel to the United States

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Ho Chi Minh City

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U.S. Consulate General, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Business Travel to the United States

It is our desire to facilitate the travel of all legitimate travelers who want visit the United States for business

- Visa application process
- Visa interviews
- Business activity in the United States
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>32 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>4 Calendar Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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U.S. Consulate General, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
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
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 printouts of
  - Your DS-160 confirmation sheet
  - Appointment letter
  - Photo taken less than 6 months ago with no eyeglasses
  - Valid passport

- Arrive no more than 20 minutes before or after your appointment time
Visa Renewals by Mail (Drop Box)

- Vietnamese citizen or resident, present in Vietnam
- Most recent visa
  - Expired less than 12 months ago*
  - Was the same type (business, student) as the visa you are applying for now
- You haven’t been refused since your last visa issuance
  
  Processed & returned in 5-7 business days

* Change as of January 2017
Visa interview
Which of the below documents must a business traveler present to receive a B1/B2 visa?

- Invitation letter from a U.S. business
- 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!

- 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 United States 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 United States.

- 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 United States.
  - 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
Legitimate business activity

- “Other than one coming for the purpose of… performing skilled or unskilled labor”
- Commercial transactions, negotiations, consultations/meetings, conferences/seminars, litigation, independent research
- Installation, service, and repair of commercial or industrial equipment or machinery (by contract)
- Board meetings or board functions
- Seeking investment
- Trade fair/expo exhibitors
“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
  - No salary from a U.S. source except for an expense allowance or reimbursement for expenses, including room and board
Reminders
Correct Appointment Scheduling

- Once the fee is associated with the applicant’s profile, name and passport number changes are not allowed
  - Do NOT create “dummy” accounts on ustraveldocs.com
  - Personal information in the ustraveldocs profile and the DS-160 must match the passport. Discrepancies between the profile, DS-160 and passport information may require completion of a new profile and purchase of a new MRV fee receipt. MRV fees are not refundable nor transferrable after they are assigned to a particular applicant.
Correct Appointment Scheduling

- Update DS-160 barcode numbers at least three working days prior to the interview
  - If you fail to update it three working days prior to your appointment date, you will not be allowed to come for an interview and will need to make a new appointment using a valid DS-160 barcode.
Correct Appointment Scheduling

- Do not provide fake or doctored appointment letters
  - We will find them, and then your clients could end up facing additional scrutiny
Contact Information:

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

https://vn.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas/

https://vn.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas/niv-inquiries/