

FAQ about Consular Processing: “I’ve scheduled my consular interview appointment. Now what?”

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*This material is not intended to substitute as legal advice.

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FAQ about What Happens During Consular Processing

You've scheduled your consular interview appointment. Now you're wondering: what happens next?

Non-immigrant visa consular processing can be a stressful process. These FAQs can prepare you and facilitate the process.

1. What should I do to prepare for the interview?

- Review the appointment notice to ensure that you have all required documents.
- Do not staple documents. Use binder clips if necessary.
- Bring clear and legible photocopies of all required documents as well as originals, if required.
- Do not submit oversized documents. All documents must be 8.5 x 11 inches.

2. What should I wear for the interview?

Dress neatly and professionally. Consider business attire.

3. Who can attend the visa interview appointment?

Only visa applicants can attend the appointment. The exception is applicants under eighteen who may be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Children under fourteen do not need to appear in person. If you are also applying for a visa, you may carry your child's application documents with you, along with one photograph of the child on a white background (2 x 2 inches or 51 x 51 mm in size).

4. When should I arrive?

Arrive no more than twenty minutes prior to your appointment time. Be prepared to stand outside in line with other interviewees.

5. What items can I bring?

Bring only the required documents in an unsealed transparent plastic bag or folder. Mobile phones and most purses and bags are not permitted inside the consulate.

For a full list of items that are not permitted, please check the applicable post's website. Most embassies or consulates do not have storage capabilities.

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6. What is the interview like?

The interview with the consular officer typically lasts five to ten minutes and is conducted through a window. The officer will ask you five to ten questions to verify information on your application.

Provide short and concise answers. Do not engage in unnecessary conversation with the officer. A successful interview should result in the approval of your visa.

7. What kinds of questions will the officer ask me?

For an employment-based interview, typical questions include:

- What will you be doing in the United States?
- How much will you be paid?
- Who is your employer?
- How long will you stay in the United States?
- Where will you stay?

8. What is a visa?

If you are a citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the United States, generally you must first obtain a US visa, which is placed in the traveler's passport.

It is an endorsement within the passport indicating that the holder is allowed to apply for admission into the United States in the stated visa category.

9. Is there a guarantee that my visa will be approved?

No guarantees can be given in advance that a visa will be approved. A consular officer makes a decision after review of all documents and your interview. Applications are rarely denied on the spot.

If there are problems, kindly ask the officer to put any requests for more documents or information in writing, stating exactly what you need and why. The consular officer should give you a paper listing the documents required.

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