



NONIMMIGRANT VISA INTERVIEW WAIVERS (DROPBOX APPOINTMENT)



In general, an in-person interview at a U.S. consulate is required to obtain a visa. However, some applicants may be eligible for visa interview waivers.

Due to the limited capacity to adjudicate visa applications during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of State announced the expansion of its nonimmigrant visa interview waiver program through **December 31, 2022**.

THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022, A VISA APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN INTERVIEW WAIVER IF THEY SATISFY THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicant fits in **one** of the below categories:
 - a. Applicant for an F, H-1, H-3, H-4, J (academic), L, M, O, P, or Q visa and was previously issued **any** type of visa;
 - b. Applicant for a visa category included above, from a country that participates in the Visa Waiver Program, and previously traveled to the United States under ESTA authorization;
 - c. Applicant for an H-2 visa (temporary agricultural and non-agricultural workers);
2. Applicant is applying at the consular post in the country of usual residence or citizenship; and
3. Applicant was not previously refused a visa in any classification unless the refusal was overcome or ground for inadmissibility was waived.

A VISA APPLICANT MAY QUALIFY FOR AN INTERVIEW WAIVER, INDEFINITELY, FOR A NONIMMIGRANT RENEWAL VISA APPLICATION IF THEY SATISFY THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicant is applying at the consular post in the country of usual residence;
2. Applicant has a previously issued U.S. visa in the **same** classification as the visa for which they are applying and the prior visa is still valid or has expired within the last 48 months;
3. Applicant's prior visa is not annotated "Clearance Received" or "Department Authorization";
4. Applicant's most recent visa in the same classification for which they are applying was not lost/stolen or canceled; and
5. Applicant was not previously refused a visa in any classification.

Please note U.S. consulates may have varying procedures for interview waivers, therefore please review the local U.S. consulate's website or appointment scheduling website. Consular officers also have the discretion to require an in-person interview on a case-by-case basis. In general, if the applicant is eligible for visa interview waiver, the U.S. consulate will require the applicant to schedule an appointment to drop off or mail in documents to a designated location. The applicant must be present in the country where they are applying for the visa interview waiver at the time visa application is submitted and until the passport is picked up with the issued visa stamp.

TYPICAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR DROPBOX/MAIL-IN:

- DS-160 confirmation
- Valid passport
- Pre-paid courier packaging for passport/document return
- Evidence of payment of applicable fees to the consulate
- Two passport style photos
- I-797 approval notice, I-20, DS-2019, etc. as applicable to visa type