



অভিবাসী
তথ্য
কেন্দ্র

MIGRANT
RESOURCE
CENTRE

United States of America

Visa Options for Bangladeshi Nationals

January 2021

Supported by



Federal Foreign Office

Implemented by



USA: Visa Options for Bangladeshi Nationals

USA maintains a resident diplomatic mission in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Address:

U.S. Embassy

Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

Telephone: +(880) (2) 5566-2000

E-Mail: dhakavisasupport@state.gov (for case-specific visa enquiries)

Fax: + (880) (2) 882 4449

Website: <https://bd.usembassy.gov>

Types of visa:

1 Business/Tourist Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typeb1b2.as>

Overview

The B-1/B-2 visitor visa is for people traveling to the United States temporarily for business (B-1) or for pleasure or medical treatment (B-2). Generally, the B-1 visa is for travelers consulting with business associates, attending scientific, educational, professional or business conventions/conferences, or settling an estate or negotiating contracts. The B-2 visa is for travel that is recreational in nature, including tourism, visits with friends or relatives, medical treatment and activities of a fraternal, social or service nature. Often, the B-1 and B-2 visas are combined and issued as one visa: the B-1/B-2.

Qualifications

If you apply for a B-1/B-2 visa, you must demonstrate to a consular officer that you qualify for a U.S. visa in accordance with the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Section 214(b) of the INA presumes that every B-1/B-2 applicant is an intending immigrant. You must overcome this legal presumption by showing:

- That the purpose of your trip to the United States is for a temporary visit, such as business, pleasure, or medical treatment
- That you plan to remain in the United States for a specific, limited period of time
- Evidence of funds to cover your expenses while in the United States
- That you have a residence outside the United States, as well as other binding social or economic ties, that will ensure your return abroad at the end of your visit

Personal or domestic employees and **crew members** working aboard vessels within the Outer Continental Shelf may qualify for B-1 visas under certain circumstances.

Some foreign nationals may be ineligible for visas according to the Immigration and Nationality Act. You can read more about The Immigration and Nationality Act and visa ineligibility [here](#).

Application Items

If you apply for a business/tourist visa, you must submit the following:

- A Non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application and possess their own valid passport.
- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- A receipt showing payment of your US\$160 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

Schedule your appointment on [the](#) web page. You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:

- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click [here](#) if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one photograph taken within the last six months and your current and all old passports. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are only one of many factors a consular officer will consider in your interview. Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make this information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of the information.

You should bring the following documents to your interview. Original documents are always preferred over photocopies and you must bring these documents with you to the interview. Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview. Do not fax, email, or mail any supporting documents to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

- Current proof of income, tax payments, property or business ownership, or assets.
- Your travel itinerary and/or other explanation about your planned trip.
- A letter from your employer detailing your position, salary, how long you have been employed, any authorized vacation, and the business purpose, if any, of your U.S. trip.
- Criminal/court records pertaining to any arrest or conviction anywhere, even if you completed your sentence or were later pardoned.

Additionally, based on your purpose of travel, you should consider bringing the following:

Students

Bring your latest school results, transcripts and degrees/diplomas. Also bring evidence of financial support such as monthly bank statements, fixed deposit slips, or other evidence.

Working adults

Bring an employment letter from your employer and pay slips from the most recent three months.

Businessmen and company directors

Bring evidence of your position in the company and remuneration.

Visiting a relative

Bring photocopies of your relative's proof of status (e.g., Green Card, naturalization certificate, valid visa, etc.).

Previous visitors to the United States

If you were previously in the United States, any documents attesting to your immigration or visa status.

Supporting Documents for Applicants Seeking Medical Care

- If you wish to travel to the United States for medical treatment, then you should be prepared to present the following documentation in addition to the documents listed above and those the consular officer may require:
- A medical diagnosis from a local physician explaining the nature of your ailment and the reason you require treatment in the United States.
- A letter from a physician or medical facility in the United States expressing a willingness to treat this specific ailment and detailing the projected length and cost of treatment (including doctors' fees, hospitalization fees, and all medical-related expenses).
- A statement of financial responsibility from the individuals or organization paying for your transportation, medical and living expenses. The individuals guaranteeing payment of these expenses must provide proof of their ability to do so, often in the form of bank or other statements of income/savings or certified copies of income tax returns.

More Information

For more information about business and tourist visas, visit the Department of State's [website](#).

2. Work Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typework.asp>

Overview

If you want to work in the U.S. temporarily as a non-immigrant, under U.S. immigration law, you need a specific visa based on the type of work you will be doing. Most temporary worker categories require that your prospective employer or agent file a petition, which must be approved by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the United States before you can apply for a work visa.

All applicants for H, L, O, P and Q visas must have a petition approved on their behalf by USCIS. The petition, [Form I-129](#), must be approved before you can apply for a work visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. When your petition is approved, your employer or agent will receive a Notice of Action, Form I-797, which serves as your petition's approval notification. The consular officer will verify your petition approval through the Department of State's Petition Information Management Service (PIMS) during your interview.

You must bring your I-129 petition receipt number to your interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to verify your petition's approval. Please note that approval of a petition

does not guarantee issuance of a visa if you are found to be ineligible for a visa under U.S. immigration law.

Visa Descriptions and Qualifications

H-1B (specialty occupation)

An H-1B visa is required if you are coming to the United States to perform services in a pre-arranged professional job. To qualify, you must hold a bachelor's or higher degree (or an equivalent degree) in the specific specialty for which you seek employment. USCIS will determine whether your employment constitutes a specialty occupation and whether you are qualified to perform the services. Your employer is required file a labor condition application with the Department of Labor concerning the terms and conditions of its contract of employment with you.

H-1B1 Treaty-based Temporary Work Visas

Free trade agreements signed with Chile and Singapore permit qualified Chilean and Singaporean citizens to temporarily work in the United States in certain circumstances. Only Chilean and Singaporean citizens are eligible as principal applicants, although their spouses and children may be nationals of other countries.

Applicants for H-1B1 visas should already have a job offer from an employer in their chosen work area in the United States, but the employer does not have to file Form I-129, Petition for Non-immigrant Worker, and the applicant does not need to obtain a Notice of Approval, Form I-797 form before submitting the visa application. However, the petitioner does need to file an Application for Foreign Labor Certification with the Department of Labor prior to applying for the visa. For more information on the H-1B1 visa, please visit [this page](#).

H-2A (seasonal agricultural workers)

An H-2A visa allows U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs for which U.S. workers are not available. An H-2A non-immigrant classification applies to you if you seek to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature in the United States on a temporary basis. A U.S. employer (or an association of U.S. agricultural producers named as a joint employer) must file a Form I-129, Petition for Non-immigrant Worker, on your behalf.

H-2B visa (skilled and unskilled workers)

This visa is required if you are coming to the United States to perform a job which is temporary or seasonal in nature and for which there is a shortage of U.S. workers. Your employer is required to obtain a Department of Labor certification confirming that there are no qualified U.S. workers eligible for the type of employment on which your petition is based.

H-3 (trainee)

An H-3 visa is required if you are coming to the United States to receive training from an employer in any field or endeavor, other than graduate education or training, for a period of up to two years. You can be paid for your training and "hands-on" work is authorized. Training cannot be used to provide productive employment and cannot be available in your home country.

H-4 (dependents)

If you are the principal holder of a valid H visa, your spouse or unmarried children (under age 21) may receive an H-4 visa to accompany you to the United States. However, your spouse/children are not permitted to work while in the United States.

L-1 (intra-company transferees)

An L-1 visa is required if you are the employee of an international company which is temporarily transferring you to a parent branch, affiliate, or subsidiary of the same company in the United States. The international company may be either a U.S. or foreign organization. To qualify for an L-1 visa, you must be at the managerial or executive level, or have specialized knowledge and be designated to a position within the U.S. company at either of these levels, although not necessarily in the same position as held previously. In addition, you must have been employed outside the United States with the international company continuously for one year within the three years preceding your application for admission into the United States. You may only apply for an L-1 visa after your U.S. company or affiliate has received an approved petition from USCIS, either on a “blanket” or individual basis.

L-2 (dependents)

If you are the principal holder of a valid L visa, your spouse or unmarried children (under age 21) may receive this derivative visa. Due to a recent change in the law, your spouse may seek employment authorization. Your spouse must enter the United States on his or her own L-2 visa and then submit a completed [Form I-765](#) (obtainable from USCIS), along with an application fee. Your children are not authorized to work in the United States.

O

Class O visas are issued to people with extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business and athletics, or extraordinary achievement in motion picture and television production, and their essential support personnel.

P (artists, entertainers)

Class P visas are issued to certain athletes, entertainers, artists and essential support personnel who are coming to perform in the United States and will receive compensation for the performance. P visa holders are responsible for paying U.S. taxes on their earnings.

Q (cultural exchange)

A Q visa is required if you are traveling to the United States to participate in an international cultural exchange program for the purpose of providing practical training, employment, and the sharing of the history, culture, and traditions of your home country. You must have a petition filed on your behalf by the program sponsor and the petition must be approved by USCIS.

When to Apply

The U.S. Embassy or Consulate may process your H, L, O, P or Q visa application up to 90 days prior to the beginning of employment status as noted on your I-797. However, when making your travel plans, please note that due to Federal regulations, you can only use the visa to apply for entry to the United States starting ten days prior to the beginning of the approved status period noted on your I-797.

Application Items

If you apply for an H, L, O, P, or Q visa, you must submit the following:

- A Non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application and possess their own valid passport.
- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- A receipt showing payment of your US\$190 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- If you are an L-1 applicant on a blanket petition, you must pay a fraud prevention and detection fee (more information about this fee is here).
- The receipt number printed on your approved I-129 petition. Paper copies of the I-797 are not required at the interview.
- In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [Non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

- Schedule your appointment on [the](#) web page. You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:
- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click here if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one

photograph taken within the last six months and your current and all old passports. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make your information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of your information.

Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

If you are a first time visa applicant, you may save time by bringing the following documents to your interview:

- Evidence that establishes your job qualifications, including any university diplomas.
- Original letters from current and previous employers detailing your position and projects you worked on and how long you worked with your employers.
- If you are currently working and holding H-1B status, please submit your pay slips for the current calendar year and your Federal tax returns (IRS Form 1040 and W-2) for all the years in which you have been employed in the United States. You should bring:
 - pay slips from your current or most recent place of employment
 - the names and current phone numbers of the personnel managers at your present and previous places of employment
 - your resume or CV

Dependents

Your dependents should bring all required documents for any non-immigrant visa, plus:

- An original marriage (for your spouse) and/or birth certificate (for unmarried children under 21), as applicable
- A letter from your employer confirming your continued employment
- If your spouse is currently working in the United States on an H1-B visa, his or her pay slips for the current calendar year and federal tax returns (IRS Form 1040 and W-2s) for all the years in which he or she has been employed in the United States on the H-1B visa.

- Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview.

More Information

For more information about H, L, O, P and, Q visas, visit the Department of State's [Temporary Workers webpage](#).

3. Student Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typefandm.asp>

Overview

The United States welcomes foreign citizens who come to the United States to study. Before applying for a visa, all student visa applicants must be accepted by a school or program. Once accepted, educational institutions will provide each applicant the necessary approval documentation to be submitted when applying for a student visa.

Visa Descriptions and Qualifications

F-1 Visa

This is the most common type of student visa. If you wish to engage in academic studies in the United States at an approved school, such as an accredited U.S. college or university, private secondary school, or approved English language program then you need an F-1 visa. You will also need an F-1 visa if your course of study is more than 18 hours a week.

M-1 Visa

If you plan engage in non-academic or vocational study or training at a U.S. institution then you need an M-1 visa.

More information about each of these visas and opportunities for studying in the United States can be found at the Education USA [website](#).

U.S. Public Schools

U.S. law does not permit foreign students to attend public elementary school (kindergarten to 8th grade) or a publicly funded adult education program. Hence, F-1 visas cannot be issued for study at such schools.

An F-1 visa can be issued for attendance at a public secondary school (grades 9 to 12), but the student is limited to a maximum of 12 months at the school. The school must also indicate on the Form I-20 that the student has paid the unsubsidized cost of the education and the amount submitted by the student for that purpose.

For more information about F-1 legal requirements, visit the Department of State [website](#).

Note: Holders of A, E, F-2, G, H-4, J-2, L-2, M-2 or other derivative non-immigrant visas may enroll in public elementary and secondary schools.

Student Assistance, Finding a U.S. School

Students who hope to enroll in a U.S. educational institution are encouraged to contact and visit [EducationUSA](#).

Application Items

To apply for an F or M visa, you must submit the following:

- A Non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application and possess their own valid passport.
- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- A receipt showing payment of your US\$160 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- An approved Form I-20 from your U.S. school or program.
- In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

Schedule your appointment on [the](#) web page. You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:

- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click here if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one photograph taken within the last six months, your current and all old passports, and the

original visa fee payment receipt. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are only one of many factors a consular officer will consider in your interview. Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make your information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of your information.

You should bring the following documents to your interview:

- Documents demonstrating strong financial, social, and family ties to your home country that will compel you to return to your country after your program of study in the United States ends.
- Financial and any other documents you believe will support your application and which give credible evidence that you have enough readily-available funds to meet all expenses for the first year of study and that you have access to funds sufficient to cover all expenses while you remain in the United States. M-1 applicants must demonstrate the ability to pay all tuition and living costs for the entire period of their intended stay.
- Photocopies of bank statements will not be accepted unless you can also show original copies of bank statements or original bank books.
- If you are financially sponsored by another person, bring proof of your relationship to the sponsor (such as your birth certificate), the sponsor's most recent original tax forms and the sponsor's bankbooks and/or fixed deposit certificates.
- Academic documents that show scholastic preparation. Useful documents include school transcripts (original copies are preferred) with grades, public examination certificates (A-levels, etc.), standardized test scores (SAT, TOEFL, etc.), and diplomas.

Dependent

Spouses and/or unmarried children under the age of 21 who wish to accompany or join the principal visa holder in the United States for the duration of his or her stay require derivative F or M visas. There is no derivative visa for the parents of F or M holders.

Family members who do not intend to reside in the United States with the principal visa holder, but wish to visit for vacations only, may be eligible to apply for visitor (B-2) visas.

Spouses and dependents may not work in the United States on a derivative F or M visa. If your spouse/child seeks employment, the spouse must obtain the appropriate work visa.

Supporting Documents for Dependents

Applicants with dependents must also provide:

- Proof of the student's relationship to his or her spouse and/or child (e.g., marriage and birth certificates)
- It is preferred that families apply for their visas at the same time, but if the spouse and/or child must apply separately at a later time, they should bring a copy of the student visa holder's passport and visa, along with all other required documents.

Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview.

Other Information

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

F-1 visa holders may be eligible for [optional practical training](#) following completion of all course requirements for graduation (not including thesis or equivalent), or after completion of all requirements. OPT is separate from a student's academic work, and time for OPT will not normally be reflected during the student's academic program or in the completed study date. Students applying for an F visa to do OPT may present an I-20 with an original end of study date that may have passed. However, these I-20s must be annotated by the designated school official to reflect approval of an OPT program that extends beyond the end of the regular period of study. In addition, the student must have proof that USCIS has approved their practical training program or that an application is pending, either in the form of an approved Employment Authorization Card or a Form I-797 indicating that s/he has a pending application for an OPT program.

Validity of Student Visas after a Break in Studies

Students who are away from classes for more than five months can expect to apply for and receive a new F-1 or M-1 student visa to return to school following travel abroad, as explained below.

Students within the United States

A student (F-1 or M-1) may lose that status if they do not resume studies within five months of the date of transferring schools or programs, under immigration law. If a student loses status, unless USCIS reinstates the student's status, the student's F or M visa would also be invalid for future travel returning to the United States. For more information see the USCIS website, and instructions for Application for Extend/Change of Non-immigrant Status Form I-539 to request reinstatement of status.

Students - Returning to the United States from Travel Abroad

Students who leave the United States for a break in studies of five months or more may lose their F-1 or M-1 status unless their activities overseas are related to their course of study. In advance of travel, students may want to check with their designated school official, if there is a question about whether their activity is related to their course of study.

When the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) immigration inspector at port of entry is presented a previously used, unexpired F-1 or M-1 visa by a returning student who has been outside the United States and out of student status for more than five months, a CBP

immigration inspector may find the student inadmissible for not possessing a valid non-immigrant visa. CBP may also cancel the visa after granting the student permission to withdraw the application for admission. Therefore, it is prudent for students to apply for new visas at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad prior to traveling to the United States to return to their studies, after an absence of more than five months that is not related to their course of study.

4. Exchange Visitor Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typej.asp>

Overview

The United States welcomes foreign citizens who come to the United States to participate in exchange programs. Before applying for a visa, all exchange visitor must be accepted by an authorized program sponsor. When accepted, the applicant will receive the necessary approval documentation from the educational institution or program sponsors, to be submitted when applying for a visa.

The exchange visitor program's J visa is designed to promote the interchange of persons, knowledge, and skills in the fields of education, arts, and sciences. Participants include students at all academic levels; trainees obtaining on-the-job training with firms, institutions, and agencies; teachers of primary, secondary, and specialized schools; professors coming to teach or do research at institutions of higher learning; research scholars; professional trainees in the medical and allied fields; and international visitors coming for the purpose of travel, observation, consultation, research, training, sharing, or demonstrating specialized knowledge or skills, or participating in organized people-to-people programs.

Dependents

Spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who wish to accompany or join the principal visa holder of a J-1 visa to the United States for the duration of his or her stay must have J-2 visas. Spouses or children who do not intend to reside in the United States with the principal visa holder, but who will visit for vacations only, may be eligible to apply for [visitor \(B-2\) visas](#).

The spouse and/or child of an exchange visitor in the United States may not work while holding a J-2 visa unless they have filed [Form I-765](#), Application for Employment Authorization. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) must have reviewed the Form I-765 and given permission to the J-2 holder to work. The USCIS website has a PDF document titled "[Employment Authorization](#)" that has more information.

Application Items

To apply for a J visa, you must submit the following:

- A non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application and possess their own valid passport.

- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- Unless your J program is sponsored by the United States Government (with a program code beginning with a "G"), you must present a receipt showing payment of your US\$160 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee, paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- An approved DS-2019 from your U.S. program.
- Unless your J program is sponsored by the United States Government (with a program code beginning with a "G"), you must pay your Form I-901 SEVIS fee. The SEVIS website has more information.
- In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [Non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

Schedule your appointment on [the](#) web page. You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:

- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click here if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one photograph taken within the last six months, your current and all old passports, and the original visa fee payment receipt. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are only one of many factors a consular officer will consider in your interview. Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your

specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make your information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of your information.

You should bring the following documents to your interview:

- Documents demonstrating strong financial, social, and family ties to your home country that will compel you to return to your country after your program of study in the United States ends.
- Financial and any other documents you believe will support your application and which give credible evidence that you have enough readily-available funds to meet all expenses for the first year of study and that you have access to funds sufficient to cover all expenses while you remain in the United States.
- Photocopies of bank statements will not be accepted unless you can also show original copies of bank statements or original bank books.
- If you are financially sponsored by another person, bring proof of your relationship to the sponsor (such as your birth certificate), the sponsor's most recent original tax forms and the sponsor's bankbooks and/or fixed deposit certificates.
- Academic documents that show scholastic preparation. Useful documents include school transcripts (original copies are preferred) with grades, public examination certificates (A-levels, etc.), standardized test scores (SAT, TOEFL, etc.), and diplomas.

Supporting Documents for Dependents

If you have dependents, you must also provide:

- Proof of your relationship to your spouse and/or child (e.g., marriage and birth certificates).
- Each spouse or child must have their own Form DS-2019. This form is used to obtain the visa required for the spouse/child to enter the United States with you as the principal holder of an exchange visitor visa, or to join you in the United States at a later date.
- Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview.

More Information

For more information about visas for exchange visitors, visit the Department of State's [website](#).

5. Transit/Ship Crew Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typecandd.asp>

Overview

Transit (C visa)

A citizen of a foreign country traveling in immediate and continuous transit through the United States en route to a foreign destination requires a valid transit visa. Exceptions to this requirement include those travelers eligible to transit the United States without a visa under the [Visa Waiver Program](#) or travelers who are nationals of a country which has an agreement with the United States allowing their citizens to [travel to the United States without visas](#).

If the traveler seeks layover privileges for purposes other than for transit through the United States, such as to visit friends or for sightseeing, the applicant will have to qualify for and obtain the type of visa required for that purpose, such as a B-2 visa.

Crew (D visa)

A crew member serving onboard a sea vessel or aircraft in the United States needs a crew visa. Crew members of an aircraft or ship that will be transiting through the United States or its waters generally use a combination transit/crew visa (C-1/D). However, in some cases, individuals may only require the D visa.

Crew members who work aboard vessels within the Outer Continental Shelf may qualify for a modified B-1 visa in lieu of a crew visa.

Crew members who wish to enter the United States during time-off between flights or cruises may also apply for a B-1/B-2 visa to use during these personal/vacation days. Applicants applying simultaneously for both a C-1/D and a B-1/B-2 visa pay only one visa application fee.

Qualifications

To apply for a transit visa, you must show:

- Intent to pass in immediate and continuous transit through the United States.
- A common carrier ticket or other evidence of transportation arrangements to your destination.
- Sufficient funds to carry out the purpose of your transit journey.
- Permission to enter another country upon departure from the United States.
- To apply for other C, D or C-1/D visas, you must demonstrate to a consular officer that:
- The purpose of your trip is to enter the United States solely for transit or crew purposes.
- You do not intend to be paid by a U.S. source while in the United States, unless you have been granted proper approval for a temporary work visa.
- You plan to stay for a specific, limited period of time.
- You have evidence of funds to cover all expenses while in the United States.

Application Items

To apply for a transit or crew member visa, you must submit the following:

- A non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application.
- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- A receipt showing payment of your US\$160 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- If applicable, a seaman's book valid beyond the expiration date of your employment contract and all prior seamen's books. Crew members must submit an official report of loss if they are unable to submit the book.
- In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [Non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

Schedule your appointment on [the](#) web page. You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:

- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click here if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one photograph taken within the last six months, your current and all old passports, and the

original visa fee payment receipt. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are only one of many factors a consular officer will consider in your interview. Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Although supporting documents may assist you in your interview, consular officers rely primarily on the interview to determine your eligibility for a visa. In other words, supporting documents are voluntary and of secondary importance.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make your information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of your information.

You should bring the following documents to your interview:

- Current proof of income, tax payments, property or business ownership, or assets.
- A letter from your employer detailing your position, salary, how long you have been employed, any authorized vacation and the business purpose, if any, of your U.S. trip.
- Where appropriate, an itinerary and/or other information about your planned trip. (This can be tentative.)
- Bank savings account books or other evidence of liquid assets that indicate the balance in your accounts and account activity.
- Real estate lease or deeds.
- For crew: a letter and ID from your company's headquarters and/or your seamen's book.
- Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview.

More Information

For more information about [transit visas](#) and visas for [crew members](#), visit the Department of State's website.

6. Religious Worker Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typer.asp>

Overview

The R visa type is for individuals seeking to enter the United States to work in a religious capacity on a temporary basis, as defined in The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) §101(a)(15)(R).

Qualifications

Religious workers include persons authorized by a recognized religious entity to conduct worship and undertake other duties usually performed by authorized members of the clergy of that religion, and workers engaging in a religious vocation or occupation. You must meet the following criteria if you seek a religious worker visa:

- You must be a member of a religious denomination recognized as a bona fide non-profit religious organization in the United States.
- Your religious denomination and its affiliate, if applicable, must be either exempt from taxation or qualify for tax-exempt status.
- You must have been:
 - A member of your denomination for the two years immediately preceding your application for religious worker status
 - Planning to work as a minister of your denomination, or in a religious occupation or vocation for a bona fide, non-profit religious organization (or a tax-exempt affiliate of such an organization)
- Residing and physically present outside the United States for the immediate prior year, if you have previously spent five years in this category.
- There is no requirement that you have a residence abroad that you have no intention of abandoning. However, you must intend to depart the United States at the end of your lawful status, absent specific indications or evidence to the contrary.

Petitions

Your prospective employer must file [Form I-129](#), Petition for non-immigrant Worker, with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). For more detailed information regarding the filing of Form I-129, as well as requirements, please refer to the USCIS R-1 Temporary non-immigrant Religious Worker [web page](#).

Note: Prospective employers should file the petition as soon as possible (but not more than 6 months before the proposed employment will begin) in order to provide adequate time for petition and subsequent visa processing.

Your petition, Form I-129, must be approved before you can apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. When your petition is approved, your employer or agent will receive a Notice of Action, Form I-797, which serves as your petition's approval notification. The consular officer will verify your petition approval through the Department of State's Petition Information Management Service (PIMS) during your interview.

You must bring your I-129 petition receipt number to your interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to verify your petition's approval. Please note that approval of a petition

does not guarantee issuance of a visa if you are found to be ineligible for a visa under U.S. immigration law.

Application Items

If you apply for a religious worker visa, you must submit the following:

- A non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application.
- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- A receipt showing payment of your US\$190 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- The receipt number printed on your approved I-129 petition. Please note that Form I-797 is no longer required for the interview.
- In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

Schedule your appointment on [the](#) web page. You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:

- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click [here](#) if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one photograph taken within the last six months, your current and all old passports, and the original visa fee payment receipt. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are only one of many factors a consular officer will consider in your interview. Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make your information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of your information.

You should bring the following documents to your interview:

- A letter from an authorized official of the specific unit of your employing organization certifying that if your religious membership was maintained outside the United States, in whole or in part, that the foreign and United States religious organizations belong to the same religious denomination and that, immediately prior to your application for an R visa, you have been a member of the religious denomination for the required two-year period.
- If you are a minister, that you are authorized to conduct religious worship for that denomination. The duties should be described in detail; or
- If you are a religious professional, that you have at least a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent, and that such a degree is required for entry into the religious profession; or
- If you are to work in a non-professional vocation or occupation, that you are qualified if the type of work to be done relates to a traditional religious function.
- The arrangements for remuneration, including the amount and source of salary, other types of compensation such as food and housing, and any other benefits to which a monetary value may be affixed, and a statement whether such remuneration shall be in exchange for services rendered.
- The name and location of the specific organizational unit of the religious denomination or affiliate for which you will provide services.
- If you will work for an organization that is affiliated with a religious denomination, a description of the nature of the relationship between the two organizations.
- Evidence of your religious organization's assets and methods of operation.
- Your organization's papers of incorporation under applicable state law.

- Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview.

More Information

For more information about visas for religious workers, visit the Department of State's [website](#).

7. Domestic Employee Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typedomesticemployee.asp>

Overview

Personal or domestic servants who are accompanying or following an employer to the United States may be eligible for B-1 visas. This category of domestic employees includes, but is not limited to, cooks, butlers, chauffeurs, housemaids, valets, footmen, nannies, mothers' helpers, gardeners, and paid companions.

Those accompanying or following to join an employer who is a foreign diplomat or government official may be eligible for an A-3 or G-5 visa, depending upon their employer's visa status.

Qualifications

If you are a domestic employee and wish to apply for a B-1 visa, you must demonstrate that:

- The purpose of your trip is to enter the United States for work as a domestic employee
- You plan to remain in the United States for a specific, limited period of time
- Your employer meets certain qualifications
- You have evidence of compelling social and economic ties abroad
- You have a residence outside the United States as well as other binding ties that will ensure you return abroad at the end of your contract.

Accompanying a Non-immigrant Visa Holder

A personal or domestic employee who accompanies or follows to join an employer who is seeking admission into, or is already in, the United States in B, E, F, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, or Q non-immigrant status, must meet the following requirements:

- The employee has a residence abroad which he or she has no intention of abandoning (notwithstanding the fact that the employer may be in a non-immigrant status which does not require such a showing);
- The employee can demonstrate at least one year's experience as a personal or domestic employee;
- The employee has been employed abroad by the employer as a personal or domestic employee for at least one year prior to the date of the employer's admission to the United States or if the employee-employer relationship existed

immediately prior to the time of visa application, the employer can demonstrate that he or she has regularly employed (either year-round or seasonally) personal or domestic employees over a period of several years preceding the domestic employee's visa application for a non-immigrant B-1 visa;

- The employer and the employee have signed an employment contract which contains statements that the employee is guaranteed the minimum or prevailing wages, whichever is greater, and free room and board, and the employer will be the only provider of employment to the employee; and
- The employer must pay the domestic's initial travel expenses to the United States, and subsequently to the employer's onward assignment, or to the employee's country of normal residence at the termination of the assignment.

Accompanying a U.S. Citizen

a. Personal or domestic employees who accompany or follow to join U.S. citizen employers who have a permanent home or are stationed in a foreign country and who are visiting the United States temporarily may apply for a B-1 visa. The employer-employee relationship existed prior to the commencement of the employer's visit to the United States, provided that:

- The employee has a residence abroad which he or she has no intention of abandoning;
- The alien has been employed abroad by the employer as a personal or domestic servant for at least six months prior to the date of the employer's admission to the United States; or the employer can show that while abroad the employer has regularly employed a domestic servant in the same capacity as that intended for the applicant;
- The employee can demonstrate at least one year experience as a personal or domestic servant by producing statements from previous employers attesting to such experience; and
- The employee is in possession of an original contract or a copy of the contract, to be presented at the port of entry, which contains the original signatures of both the employer and the employee.

b. The U.S. citizen employer is subject to frequent international transfers lasting two years or more as a condition of the job as confirmed by the employer's personnel office and is returning to the United States for a stay of no more than six years. The employer will be the only provider of employment to the domestic employee and will provide the employee free room and board and a round trip airfare as indicated under the terms of the employment contract; and

c. The required employment contract has been signed and dated by the employer and employee and contains a guarantee from the employer that, in addition to the provisions listed in item (4) above, the employee will receive the minimum or prevailing wages whichever is greater for an eight hour work-day. The employment contract must also reflect any other benefits normally required for U.S. domestic workers in the area of employment.

The employer will give at least two weeks' notice of his or her intent to terminate the employment, and the employee need not give more than two weeks' notice of intent to leave the employment.

Accompanying a U.S. Legal Permanent Resident

U.S. Legal Permanent Residents (Green card holders) are not permitted to bring their domestic workers to the United States on a B-1 visa under any circumstances.

Contract Requirements for B-1 Visa Holders

As a domestic employee applying for a B-1 visa, you must present an employment contract in both English and Bangla and signed by both you and your employer, which includes:

- A description of your duties in the United States
- The number of hours you will work each week
- The number of authorized holidays, vacation and sick days per year
- The regular day(s) off each week
- The rate of pay, which must be at least the prevailing or minimum wage per hour under Federal law (whichever is greater) in the State where you will be employed for all hours of duty. Current minimum wages throughout the United States are found here and currently prevailing wages can be found here.
- A certification that you will receive free room and board
- A certification that your employer will ensure that you do not become a public charge while working for your employer
- A certification that you will not accept any other employment while working for your employer
- A certification that your employer will not withhold your passport
- A certification that both parties understand that you cannot be required to remain on the premises after working hours without compensation
- A certification that your employer will pay your initial travel expenses to the United States and subsequently to your employer's onward assignment, or to your country of normal residence at termination.

Accompanying an A-1, A-2, or G-1 - G-4 Visa Holder (A-3 or G-5 Visas)

Personal or domestic employees accompanying or following to join an employer who is a foreign diplomat or official are eligible for A-3 or G-5 visas, depending on the visa status of their employer.

All A-3 and G-5 visa applicants are required to come in for a personal interview. The Ministry's protocol courier may submit A-3 and G-5 visa application packages to the Embassy

on any Sunday, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., at the Consular Section Waiting Room.

The application package should include following items:

- DS 160
- A note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Valid passport (should be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay in the United States),
- One recently taken 2"x2" photo
- Properly executed employment contract (in both Bangla and English).

Once the application package is received, the Embassy will contact the applicant directly via the Consular Section's e-mail address (DhakaVisaSupport@state.gov) with an interview date and time. If the applicant does not have an e-mail address, the Embassy will notify the Ministry or the international organization of the appointment details.

All employment contracts for domestic workers must state an hourly wage to be paid to each domestic worker entitled to an A-3 or G-5 visa and the rate must be **the greater of the minimum wage** under U.S. federal, state, or local law. In accordance with the revised U.S. law, *deductions on meals, lodging, medical care, medical insurance, or travel are no longer permissible.*

Before the consular officer can finalize adjudication of an A-3 or G-5 domestic worker visa, the foreign mission must register the domestic worker's information with the Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions. The designated office of foreign mission must complete the "[Pre-Notification of a Domestic Worker form](#)" and send it to DomesticWorkers@state.gov, copying DhakaVisaSupport@state.gov. The same rule applies if the A-3 or G-5 applicant's family will follow to join.

Contract Requirements for A-3/G-5 Visa Holders

Consular Officer must be satisfied that the wage to be received by the A-3, G-5 applicant is a fair wage comparable to that offered in the area of employment. To insure that the applicant will receive a fair wage, applications for such visas must include an employment contract signed by the employer and the employee. The contract must include the following elements:

- **Description of Duties:** The contract must describe the work to be performed (e.g., housekeeping, gardening, child care), and must include a statement that the domestic employee shall work only for the employer who signed the contract and will not accept any other employment while working for the employer.
- **Hours of Work:** The contract must state the time of the normal working hours and the number of hours per week. It is generally expected that domestic workers will be required to work 35-40 hours per week. The contract must also state that the domestic employee will be provided a minimum of one full day off each week. The contract must indicate the number of paid holidays, sick days, and vacation days the domestic employee will be provided.

- **Minimum Wage:** The contract must state the hourly wage to be paid to the domestic employee. The rate must be the greater of the minimum wage under U.S. Federal, state, or local law. The contract must state that wages will be paid to the domestic employee either weekly or biweekly, and also state what deductions are to be taken from the wages. No deductions are allowed for meals, lodging, medical care, medical insurance, or travel.
- **Overtime Work:** The contract must state that any hours worked in excess of the normal number of hours worked per week are considered overtime hours, and that hours in which the employee is "on call" count as work hours. It also must state that such work must be paid as required by U.S. local laws. NOTE: Under Federal law, the rate of overtime pay need not exceed the regular hourly rate if the employee resides in the home of the employer, but State law governing overtime rates also applies and must be checked. If the employee does not reside with the employer, overtime for hours in excess of 40 hours per week must be paid at the rate of time and a half.
- **Payment:** The contract must state that after the first 90 days of employment, all wage payments must be made by check or by electronic transfer to the domestic worker's bank account. The bank account must be in the United States so that domestic workers may readily access and utilize their wages. Neither Mission members, nor their family members, should have access to domestic workers' bank accounts.
- **Transportation to and from the United States:** The contract must state that the domestic employee will be provided with transportation to and from the United States.
- **Other Required Terms of Employment:** The contract must state that the employer agrees to abide by all Federal, State, and local laws in the United States. The contract also must include a statement that the domestic worker's passport and visa will be in the sole possession of the domestic worker. In addition, the contract must state that a copy of the contract and other personal property of the domestic employee will not be withheld by the employer for any reason. The contract must include a statement that the domestic worker's presence in the employer's residence will not be required except during working hours.
- **Other Recommended Terms of Employment:** The contract may include additional agreed-upon terms of employment, if any, provided they are fully consistent with all U.S. Federal, State, and local laws. Any modification to the contract must be in writing (in both Bangla and English) and the employee must be informed.
- Consular Officer may hold applications where the applicant does not submit a contract, the contract does not guarantee a fair wage or working conditions, or have any evidence that the employer will not comply with the conditions specified in the contract. In such cases, Consular Officer will refuse the application under the appropriate provision of the U.S. Law.

Application Items

- To apply for a B-1, A-3 or G-5 visa, you must submit the following:
- A non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application and possess a valid passport.
- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- **For B-1 applicants only:** A receipt showing payment of your US\$160 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- A copy of your employer's visa or other method they will use to enter the United States (their Visa Waiver country passport or U.S. passport)
- An employment contract in both English and Bangla and signed by both you and your employer, which meets all requirements listed above

For A-3 and G-5 applicants only: A Note Verbale confirming the employment status of the principal, the date of departure, the purpose of the trip and the length of stay in the United States. The Note Verbale should list the name of the employee and give the employer's title or official status. It should also specify the date of departure, and the purpose of the trip and length of stay in the United States. A-3 and G-5 applicants are ***not required to pay application fees.***

All A-3 and G-5 visa applicants are required to come in for a personal interview. The Ministry's protocol courier may submit A-3 and G-5 visa application packages to the Embassy on any Sunday, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., at the Consular Section Waiting Room.

The application package should include following items:

- DS 160
- A note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Valid passport (should be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay in the United States),
- One recently taken 2"x2" photo

- Properly executed employment contract (in both Bangla and English). Please click [here](#) to find the format of the contract

Once the application package is received, the Embassy will contact the applicant directly via the Consular Section's e-mail address (DhakaVisaSupport@state.gov) with an interview date and time. If the applicant does not have an e-mail address, the Embassy will notify the Ministry or the international organization of the appointment details.

In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through [this service](#). You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

Schedule your appointment on [the web page](#). You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:

- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click [here](#) if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one photograph taken within the last six months, your current and all old passports, and the original visa fee payment receipt. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are only one of many factors a consular officer will consider in your interview. Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make your information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of your information.

- You should bring the following documents to your interview:
- Proof of your employer’s ability to pay the promised wage. **Note:** If you are applying for an A-3 or G-5 visa, this only applies if the employer holds a diplomatic rank of counsellor or below.
- Evidence establishing that your stay in the United States will be temporary.
- Visit the Department of State’s website for more information.
- Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview.

More Information

For more information about [A-3](#), [B-1](#), and [G-5](#) visas, visit the Department of State’s website.

8. Journalist and Media Visa

Weblink: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/bd-niv-typei.asp>

Overview

The media (I) visa is a non-immigrant visa for representatives of the foreign media temporarily traveling to the United States to engage in their profession while having their home office in a foreign country. Some procedures and fees under immigration law relate to policies of the traveler’s home country and, in turn, the United States follows a similar practice, which we call “reciprocity.” Procedures for providing media visas to foreign media representatives of a particular country consider whether the visa applicant’s own government grants similar privileges, or is reciprocal, to media/press representatives from the United States.

Qualifications

There are very specific requirements, dictated by U.S. immigration law, which must be met by applicants in order to qualify for the media visa. To qualify for the media (I) visa applicants must demonstrate that they are properly qualified to be issued a media visa.

Media visas are for “representatives of the foreign media,” including members of the press, radio, film or print industries, whose activities are essential to the foreign media function, such as reporters, film crews, editors and persons in similar occupations, under U.S. immigration laws, traveling to the United States to engage in their profession. The applicant must be engaging in qualifying activities for a media organization having its home office in a foreign country. The activity must be essentially informational, and generally associated with the news gathering process, reporting on actual current events, to be eligible for the media visa. The consular officer will determine whether or not an activity qualifies for the media visa. Reporting on sports events are usually appropriate for the media visa. Other examples include, but are not limited to, the following media related kinds of activities:

- Primary employees of foreign information media engaged in filming a news event or documentary.
- Members of the media engaged in the production or distribution of film will only qualify for a media visa if the material being filmed will be used to disseminate

information or news. Additionally, the primary source and distribution of funding must be outside the United States.

- Journalists working under contract. Persons holding a credential issued by a professional journalistic organization, if working under contract on a product to be used abroad by an information or cultural medium to disseminate information or news not primarily intended for commercial entertainment or advertising. Please note that a valid employment contract is required.
- Employees of independent production companies when those employees hold a credential issued by a professional journalistic association.
- Foreign journalists working for an overseas branch office or subsidiary of a U.S. network, newspaper or other media outlet if the journalist is going to the United States to report on U.S. events solely for a foreign audience.
- Accredited representatives of tourist bureaus, controlled, operated, or subsidized in whole or in part by a foreign government, who engage primarily in disseminating factual tourist information about that country, and who are not entitled to A-2 visa classification.
- Technical industrial information. Employees in the U.S. offices of organizations, which distribute technical industrial information.
- Freelance journalists will only be considered for an I visa if all of the following criteria are met. The journalist must:
 - Hold a credential issued by a professional journalistic organization
 - Be under contract to a media organization
 - Disseminate information or news not primarily intended for commercial entertainment or advertising.
 - Still photographers are permitted to enter the United States with B-1 visas for the purpose of taking photographs, provided that they receive no income from a U.S. source.

Restrictions

Citizens from a country participating in the [Visa Waiver Program](#), who want to enter the United States temporarily as representatives of the foreign media while engaging in their profession as media or journalists, must first obtain a media visa to come to the United States. They cannot travel without a visa on the Visa Waiver Program, nor can they travel on a visitor (type B) visa. Attempting to do so may result in a denial of admission to the United States by the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection officer at the port of entry. The list below describes situations when a [visitor visa](#) or the Visa Waiver Program can be used.

Traveling with a Visitor Visa

A [visitor visa](#) may be used if your purpose of travel is for the following activities:

Attending a conference or meeting

Media representatives traveling to the United States to attend conferences or meetings as a participant and who will not report about the meeting, either while in the United States or upon their return, can travel on a visitor visa. The distinction in immigration law is whether they will be “engaging in their vocation.”

Guest speaking, lecturing or engaging in academic activity

Media representatives must hold a visitor visa when traveling to the United States for the purposes of guest speaking, lecturing, or engaging in other usual academic activity at a related or affiliated non-profit entity, a non-profit research organization, a governmental research organization, or at an institution of higher education from which the applicant will receive an honorarium. However, the speaking activity must last no longer than nine days at a single institution and the speaker cannot have received payment from more than five institutions or organizations for such activities in the last six months.

Purchasing media equipment

A visitor visa can be used by employees of foreign media outlets to purchase U.S. media equipment or broadcast rights or to take orders for foreign media equipment or broadcast rights, since these activities fall within the scope of those executed by ordinary business visitors.

Vacation

A foreign media journalist can take vacation to the United States using a visitor visa and does not need a media visa, as long as he or she will not be reporting on newsworthy events.

Traveling with a Temporary Work Visa

While certain activities clearly qualify for the media visa because they are informational and news gathering in content, many do not. Each application is considered within the full context of its particular case. The consular officer focuses on whether the purpose of travel is essentially informational, and whether it is generally associated with the news gathering process, in order to determine if an applicant qualifies for a media visa. The list below describes situations when a temporary worker visa, such as types H, O, or P, are required instead of a type I journalist/media visa.

A [temporary work visa](#) may be used if your purpose of travel is for the following activities:

Filming material for commercial entertainment or advertising purposes

A media visa cannot be used by applicants whose purpose of travel to the United States is to film, or work on a film, intended primarily for commercial entertainment or advertising purposes. A temporary worker visa is required.

Production support roles such as proofreaders, librarians and set designers

People involved in associated activities such as proofreaders, librarians, set designers, etc., are not eligible for media visas and may qualify under another classification, such as H, O, or P visas.

Stories that are staged events, television and quiz shows

Stories that involve contrived and staged events, even when unscripted, such as reality television shows and quiz shows, are not primarily informational and do not generally involve journalism. Similarly, documentaries involving staged recreations with actors are also

not considered informational. Members of the team working on such productions will not qualify for media visa. Television, radio, and film production companies may wish to seek expert counsel from an immigration attorney who specializes in media work for specific advice tailored to the current project.

Producing artistic media content

Media representatives who will travel to the U.S. in order to participate in the production of artistic media content (in which actors are used) will not qualify for a media visa. Television, radio, and film production companies may wish to seek expert counsel from an immigration attorney who specializes in media work for specific advice tailored to the current project.

Dependents

Spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who wish to accompany or join the principal visa holder in the United States for the duration of his or her stay require derivative I visas. Spouses and/or children who do not intend to reside in the United States with the principal visa holder, but visit for vacations only, may be eligible to apply for visitor (B-2) visas.

Spouses and dependents may not work in the United States on a derivative I visa. If the spouse or dependent seeks employment, the appropriate work visa will be required.

Application Items

To apply for an I visa, you must submit the following:

- A non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application (DS-160) Form. Visit the DS-160 web page for more information about the DS-160.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond your intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in your passport, each person desiring a visa must submit an application and possess a valid passport
- One (1) 2"x2" (5cmx5cm) photograph taken within the last six months. This web page has information about the required photo format.
- A receipt showing payment of your US\$160 non-refundable non-immigrant visa application processing fee paid in local currency. This web page has more information about paying this fee. If a visa is issued, there may be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, depending on your nationality. The Department of State's website can help you find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is.
- Proof of employment:
- Staff Journalist: A letter from your employer that gives your name, your position held within the company, and the purpose and length of your stay in the United States.
- Freelance Journalist under contract to a media organization: A copy of the contract with the media organization showing your name, your position held

within the company, the duration of contract, and the purpose and length of your stay in the United States.

- **Media Film Crew:** A letter from your employer showing your name, your position held within company, the title and a brief description of the program being filmed, and the purpose and length of your stay in the United States.
- **Independent Production Company under contract to media organization:** A letter from the organization commissioning the work showing your name, the title and a brief description of the program being filmed, the duration of the contract, and the period of time required for filming in the United States.
- In addition to these items, you must present an interview appointment letter confirming that you booked an appointment through this service. You may also bring whatever supporting documents you believe support the information provided to the consular officer.

How to Apply

Step 1

Complete the [non-immigrant Visa Electronic Application \(DS-160\) form](#).

Step 2

Pay the visa application [fee](#).

Step 3

Schedule your appointment on [the web page](#). You will need the following information in order to schedule your appointment:

- Your passport number
- The receipt number from your Visa Fee receipt. (Click here if you need help finding this number.)
- The ten (10) digit barcode number from your DS-160 confirmation page

Step 4

Visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) on the date and time of your visa interview. You must bring a printed copy of your appointment letter, your DS-160 confirmation page, one photograph taken within the last six months, your current and all old passports, and the original visa fee payment receipt. Applications without all of these items will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are only one of many factors a consular officer will consider in your interview. Consular officers look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors during adjudication. Consular officers may look at your specific intentions, family situation, and your long-range plans and prospects within your country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Caution: Do not present false documents. Fraud or misrepresentation can result in permanent visa ineligibility. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not make your information available to anyone and will respect the confidentiality of your information.

You should bring the following documents to your interview:

- Press card/credentials
- A letter from your employer indicating the purpose of your trip, the intended length of your stay, the numbers of years you have been with your employer and the number of years of journalism experience you have.
- Supporting Documents for Dependents
- If your spouse and/or child apply for a visa at a later date, a copy of your media visa must be presented with the application.
- Ensure that you do not bring any documents in a sealed envelope to the Embassy for your interview.

More Information

For more information about visas for journalists and media workers, visit the Department of State's [website](#).

Visa Types and Application Fee Amounts - Sorted by Fee Class

Fee Amount (USD\$)	Fee Amount (BDT)	Visa Type	Description
\$160	13760.00	B	Business/Tourist
\$160	13760.00	C-1	Transit
\$160	13760.00	D	Ship/Airline Crew
\$160	13760.00	F	Student (academic)
\$160	13760.00	I	Journalist and Media
\$160	13760.00	J	Exchange Visitors
\$160	13760.00	M	Student (vocational)
\$160	13760.00	T	Victim of Human Trafficking
\$160	13760.00	TN/TD	NAFTA Professionals
\$160	13760.00	U	Victim of Criminal Activity
\$190	16340.00	H	Temporary/Seasonal Workers and Employment, Trainees
\$190	16340.00	L	Intracompany Transferees
\$190	16340.00	O	Persons with Extraordinary Ability

Fee Amount (USD\$)	Fee Amount (BDT)	Visa Type	Description
\$190	16340.00	P	Athletes. Artists & Entertainers
\$190	16340.00	Q	International Cultural Exchange
\$190	16340.00	R	Religious Worker
\$265	22790.00	K	Fiancé(e) or Spouse of U.S. Citizen
\$205	17630.00	E	Treaty Trader/Investor, Australian Professional Specialty

Visa Types and Application Fee Amounts - Sorted by Visa Type

Visa Type	Description	Fee Amount (USD\$)	Fee Amount (BDT)
B	Business/Tourist	\$160	13760.00
C-1	Transit	\$160	13760.00
D	Ship/Airline Crew	\$160	13760.00
E	Treaty Trader/Investor, Australian Professional Specialty	\$205	17630.00
F	Student (academic)	\$160	13760.00
H	Temporary/Seasonal Workers and Employment, Trainees	\$190	16340.00
I	Journalist and Media	\$160	13760.00
J	Exchange Visitor	\$160	13760.00
K	Fiancé(e) or Spouse of U.S. Citizen	\$265	22790.00
L	Intracompany Transferees	\$190	16340.00
M	Student (vocational)	\$160	13760.00
O	Persons with Extraordinary Ability	\$190	16340.00
P	Athletes. Artists & Entertainers	\$190	16340.00
Q	International Cultural Exchange	\$190	16340.00
R	Religious Worker	\$190	16340.00
T	Victim of Human Trafficking	\$160	13760.00
U	Victim of Criminal Activity	\$160	13760.00
TN/TD	NAFTA Professionals	\$160	13760.00

