

Mumbai Consulate FAQ's for F1-Visa

This Document Contains Various FAQ information from Mumbai Consulate and Visa-services.com websites.

It's in Five Parts.

- First Part deals with FAQ's on Non-immigrant Visas.
- Second Part deals with FAQ's on F1 & M1 Visa Categories.
- Third Part deals with J1 / J2 Visas FAQ's.
- Fourth Part deals with Procedure to Schedule a Web Appointment and FAQ'S
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1. Non-immigrant Visas - Frequently Asked Questions

Q:1- What is a non-immigrant visa?

Q:2 - What is the difference between a "non-immigrant visa" and an "immigrant visa"?

Q.3 - Can I pay the non-immigrant visa fees in cash or credit card?

Q.4 - Should I carry original documents or photocopies?

Q.5 - Do I have to be fingerprinted?

Q.6 - May I bring my relative / friend / etc. to the interview with me?

Q.7 - Can the sponsor send documents directly to the Consulate?

Q.8 - Can I get my passport immediately after the interview?

Q.9 - I currently have a valid U.S. visa, do I need to be electronically fingerprinted at your office before I travel to the United States?

Q.10 - I need to renew my recently expired nonimmigrant visa. What should I do?

Q.11 - Why has the drop box facility been discontinued?

Q.12 - I am a green card holder, which I wish to surrender and apply for a non-immigrant US visa. How do I apply?

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Q.18 - I was denied a U.S. visa under Section 214(b). How do I reapply?

Q.19 - What if the Officer keeps my case on hold 221(g)?

Q.20 - I am planning to "stopover" in the U.S. en route to my final destination (e.g. Canada, Latin America, and Caribbean) should I apply for a Tourist (B1/B2) or Transit (C1) visa?

Q.21 - What address do I mention on form DS-156, if my current home address and my address on the passport is not the same?

Q.22 - How can I contact the Consulate?

Q:1- What is a non-immigrant visa?

A non-immigrant visa is most frequently a tourist, business, student or specialty worker travel document that permits you to travel to the United States during the validity of the visa to accomplish a specific purpose, such as visiting, studying or working in a specialty job.

Q:2 - What is the difference between a "non-immigrant visa" and an "immigrant visa"?

Individuals who are traveling to the United States for a temporary purpose are classified under U.S. law as non-immigrants, since they do not intend to remain there permanently. These persons must obtain a "non-immigrant visa" (NIV). Individuals who are traveling to the United States to live and work permanently are classified as immigrants and must obtain an "immigrant visa" (IV) permitting them to stay indefinitely.

Q.3 - Can I pay the non-immigrant visa fees in cash or credit card?

No. You must pay for your nonimmigrant visa fees by Bank Demand Drafts / Pay Orders only, drawn in favor of "American Consulate General, Mumbai" payable in Mumbai. We will not accept Bank Demand Drafts payable at any other Indian city.

Q.4 - Should I carry original documents or photocopies? (Students are requested to confirm on this with consulate.)

You should carry originals and one photocopy of all your submitted documents.

Q.5 - Do I have to be fingerprinted?

All visa applicants, except those traveling on official government business or who are under age 14 or over age 79, will be required to submit two electronic fingerprint impressions. At the time of the visa interview, applicants will be asked to electronically scan the index (second) finger of each hand. Applicants who are required to be fingerprinted who have a cut or blister or other temporary skin injury on their index fingers may not be issued a visa until their finger heals before they can be fingerprinted. The scanned fingerprint data collected at time of visa application will be compared with fingerprint scans at the U.S. port of entry to prevent the use of U.S. visas by imposters and by those wanted for more serious offenses. Please remember, however, that all visa applicants, regardless of their age or visa category, will require an interview.

Q.6 - May I bring my relative / friend / etc. to the interview with me?

Due to security concerns and space limitations, the Consulate does not permit interested parties such as friends, relatives or business contacts to accompany nonimmigrant visa applicants to their interviews. However, interpreters are allowed to accompany hearing-impaired applicants

Q.7 - Can the sponsor send documents directly to the Consulate?

If you wish to convey information to the Consulate in support of an application, please send it directly to the applicant, who can share it with the Consulate during his/her interview, or who can include it with his/her documents.

One of the most common misconceptions regarding non-immigrant visas is that someone can act as a sponsor or offer to guarantee a person's return to their home country. We receive many such well-intentioned letters. Unfortunately, U.S. immigration law makes no provisions for offers of guarantee or the like. The burden of proof is on the applicant.

Q.8 - Can I get my passport immediately after the interview?

It is the policy of the Consulate to send your visa to you using our courier service

Q.9 - I currently have a valid U.S. visa, do I need to be electronically fingerprinted at your office before I travel to the United States?

No. You will be electronically fingerprinted at a Port of Entry on arrival in the U.S. If you are applying for a visa for the first time you will be fingerprinted at the Consulate, during your appointment with a Consular Officer

Q.10 - I need to renew my recently expired nonimmigrant visa. What should I do?

A U.S. non-immigrant visa cannot be renewed. You must apply for a new visa to replace an expired one. You may schedule an appointment for a personal interview.

Q.11 - Why has the drop box facility been discontinued?

The reason for ending the drop-box facility is that in July 2004 U.S. consular sections in India began collecting two electronic fingerprint impressions from all visa applicants, except those traveling on official government business or who are under age 14 or over age 79. However, all visa applicants, regardless of their age or visa category, will require an interview.

Q.12 - I am a green card holder, which I wish to surrender and apply for a non-immigrant US visa. How do I apply?

You need to come to a US Visa Application Center and pay your fees and take an appointment for a non-immigrant visa. At the same time you may also collect the green card surrender form (Form I-407) [Click here to download the form](#), which is also available at the centers. When you arrive at the US Consulate on the date of interview you have to Complete this form and submit it along with your passport at the Intake Window.

Q.13 - I am neither an Indian national nor a British Overseas Citizen of Indian origin. What are the visa fees applicable to me?

The application Fee of Rs 4400/- and the Logistics fee of Rs. 441/- is payable by all visa applicants. This includes service and education cess tax at 10.2% (Rs 41/-) The Issuance Fee level for visa class B/H/I/L/O/P/Q/R of Rs 2200/- is applicable only to Indian citizens and British Overseas Citizens of Indian origin. To confirm the Issuance fee level for other nationals kindly contact The American Consulate General, Mumbai.

E-mail: - mumbainiv@state.gov,

Phone:- 022- 23637407 or 022-23637408.

Q.14 - How long may I stay in the United States?

Your length of stay in the United States is decided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) inspector at the port of entry.

Q.15 - I still have a valid U.S. non-immigrant visa but my Indian passport has expired. Can I transfer this visa to my new passport?

No. If you are holding a valid U.S. non-immigrant visa in an expired Indian passport, you may carry both your expired and new Indian passport together and travel between India and the United States until the non-immigrant visa expires. You do not need to obtain a new non-immigrant visa.

Q.16 - I overstayed in the U.S. during my last visit and I am reapplying, what must I present during my interview for a new visa?

It is illegal to overstay in the U.S. unless you have obtained lawful permission from the USCIS. This is reflected on Form I-797 (Notice of Action), determining that you were granted permission to remain legally in the U.S. for an extended period on your non-immigrant visa. You must present a Form I-797 Extension of Status Approval Notice during your subsequent visa interview

Q.17 -. What do I have to do if I have lost or misplaced my Indian passport with a valid U.S. visa?

A U.S. non-immigrant visa is a valuable document. Inform the U.S. Consulate immediately if you have misplaced your passport and lost your visa. You can contact the Mumbai Consulate at 022-23637407/08 or email at mumbainiv@state.gov. You would need to obtain a new non-immigrant visa. At the time of your application please present the Police First Incident Report (FIR) from the Police precinct where the passport was lost in India or overseas as well as a photocopy of the lost Passport and valid U.S. visa, if possible.

Q.18 - I was denied a U.S. visa under Section 214(b). How do I reapply?

If you have been denied a U.S. non-immigrant visa under Section 214(b), you must demonstrate a significant change in your circumstances or present compelling new evidence to an adjudicating Consular Officer at a subsequent interview in order to be granted a visa. You may reapply for a non-immigrant visa after three working days have passed since your last interview. There is no limitation on the number of times you may apply for a non-immigrant visa.

Q.19 - What if the Officer keeps my case on hold 221(g)?

If your visa was not issued under section 221(g) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act, it means that your application was incomplete or requires further administrative action. The Consul will return you your passport and a yellow colored envelope containing the demand Draft of Rs 2200/-that you submitted towards Issuance fee. You may return to the Consulate on any working day with the required documents. You will have to carry the same yellow colored envelope containing a valid draft of Rs 2200/-. If granted a visa, the consulate will retain the yellow colored envelope with the Demand Draft. Your passport will be returned to you by courier. Please follow the instructions that were given to you at the time of your refusal. No new application fee will be required for a period of one year following the initial application.

Q.20 - I am planning to "stopover" in the U.S. en route to my final destination (e.g. Canada, Latin America, Caribbean) should I apply for a Tourist (B1/B2) or Transit (C1) visa?

If you intend to visit the United States for any length of time, you should obtain a B1/B2 visa, which grants you permission to appear at a Port of Entry for the purpose of entering to visit the United States. If your visit to the U.S. is strictly incidental to your travel to a third country, you may apply for a Transit (C1) visa.

Q.21 - What address do I mention on form DS-156, if my current home address and my address on the passport is not the same?

You should mention your current home address of India and not the address from your passport on form DS-156. The current home address may differ from your passport address.

Q.22 - How can I contact the Consulate?

For general information, visit us at www.visa-services.com or e-mail us at info@visa-services.com or call (022) 23524666. For specific inquiries in person, visit the Consulate between 8:30 and 11:00 am or dial 022-2363-7407/08 or e-mail at mumbainiv@state.gov.

2. F/M Visas - Frequently Asked Questions

Q:1- What are the types of student visas?

Q:2- How early should I apply for my Student (F1 or M1) visa?

Q:3- I have received my Student visa, when should I travel?

Q:4- What is the SEVIS system and how does it affect me?

Q:5- Can a person on a visitor visa, if he/she gets admission to a school and gets an I-20, change his status to student in the U.S.?

Q:6- What if my university does not require that I take the TOEFL or GRE?

Q:7- I have taken a loan from a bank to cover my tuition. Do I still need to show other financial documents?

Q:8- What documents should I show to prove that I could pay for my education in the U.S.?

Q:9- Is it required that I pay the first year tuition expenses in advance and show a receipt from the university?

Q:10- What if I receive an I-20 to a better school?

Q:11- Is there a quota for the number of student visas issued each year?

Q:12- I have a valid F2/M2 visa and I have got admission in to a college. Can I use the Drop Box facility?

Q:13 - I am applying for an F1/M1 visa and I would like my spouse to travel with me, can he/she apply for a dependant visa (F2/M2) at the same time that I do or must they wait until my visa has been issued?

Q:1- What are the types of student visas?

The Immigration and Nationality Act provides two non-immigrant visa categories for persons wishing to study in the United States. The "F" visa is reserved for non-immigrants wishing to pursue academic studies and/or language training programs, and the "M" visa is reserved for non-immigrants wishing to pursue non-academic or vocational studies.

Q:2- How early should I apply for my Student (F1 or M1) visa?

The Consulate encourages you to apply early for your student non-immigrant visa to ensure that you get the interview date. You may apply up to 90 days prior to your start date as mentioned in the I-20.

Q:3- I have received my Student visa, when should I travel?

Students (F1 or M1) may travel within 30 days of the commencement of the course of study as stated on your I-20 regardless of how early your visa was issued.

Q:4- What is the SEVIS system and how does it affect me?

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) program requires schools and exchange programs to verify the enrolment status of all continuing and new foreign students and exchange visitors. However the visa cannot be issued until your SEVIS fee has been paid. Applicants applying with I-20 or DS-2019 forms processed after 1 Sept 2004 are required to provide the SEVIS I-901 fee receipt as proof of payment. You can log on to www.ice.gov/sevis for further details.

Q:5- Can a person on a visitor visa, if he/she gets admission to a school and gets an I-20, change his status to student in the U.S.?

No. Previously, U.S. law permitted persons entering on tourist, B-2 visas to change status to F-1 visas. That is no longer the case. A non-immigrant wishing to study in the U.S. must apply from their country of origin or residence if they wish to study in the U.S. on an F-1 visa.

Q:6- What if my university does not require that I take the TOEFL or GRE?

Students whose prospective university does not require that they take the TOEFL or GRE should provide a letter from the university stating the same. However, the Consulate strongly recommends that all student visa applicants provide standardized test scores. Also, if you are studying art or design, it is helpful to bring to the interview a portfolio showing your work.

Q:7- I have taken a loan from a bank to cover my tuition. Do I still need to show other financial documents?

In that case, please bring official documents, which verify the loan approval, not just the application. You must prove that funds are immediately available to cover the first year's costs, and show evidence that funds will be available for all subsequent years. Also since Indian banks ordinarily give educational loans of relatively modest amounts, the application must still demonstrate additional liquid assets and any financial documentation you provide should be in support of this. This applies to all student visa applicants.

Q:8- What documents should I show to prove that I could pay for my education in the U.S.?

There are no specific documents that prove a student is able to pay for his/her education. Bank account statements, pay slips, income tax return statements, employment letters, property documents and chartered accountant statements are the most common documents

used to show proof of funds. However, these are only suggested documents. A visa is not assured if you have any or all of these documents.

Q:9- Is it required that I pay the first year tuition expenses in advance and show a receipt from the university?

No, Paying the tuition expenses in advance is a good way to show proof of funds, but it is NOT a requirement to pay in advance

Q:10- What if I receive an I-20 to a better school?

In that case, you will need to change the name of the university annotated on your visa. To do so, you will have to go through the complete process once again, schedule a fresh appointment with full fees, Original Form I-20 (Student Copy) at one of our US Visa Application Centres. For their locations, see our website [Click here](#)

Q:11- Is there a quota for the number of student visas issued each year?

No, all qualified students receive visas

Q:12- I have a valid F2/M2 visa and I have got admission in to a college. Can I use the Drop Box facility?

No, From July 2004 onwards all applicant travelling to the US have to go through the interview process irrespective how many times they have travelled to the US.

Q:13- I am applying for an F1/M1 visa and I would like my spouse to travel with me, can he/she apply for a dependant visa (F2/M2) at the same time that I do or must they wait until my visa has been issued?

It is advisable for dependant spouses (and children) to go for their visas interviews at the same time as the principal applicant.

3. J1 / J2 Frequently Asked Questions

Q:1- What is "J" Exchange Visitors program?

Q:2- What financial resources are required to apply for a J1 visa?

Q:3- How long may I stay in the U.S. on my J-1 visa?

Q:4- What is "The Two-Year Rule"?

Q:5- Can the "The Two-Year Rule" be waived?

Q:6- What visa category can the dependants of a J1 travel on?

Q:7- I am applying for an J1 visa and I would like my spouse to travel with me, can he/she apply for a dependant visa (J2) at the same time that I do or must they wait until my visa has been issued?

Q:1- What is "J" Exchange Visitors program?

The "J" visa is for educational and cultural exchange programs designated by the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs.

The "J" exchange visitor program 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 traveling, observing, consulting, conducting research, training, sharing, or demonstrating specialized knowledge or skills, or participating in organized people-to-people programs.

Q:2- What financial resources are required to apply for a J1 visa?

Participants in the "J" exchange visitor program must have sufficient funds to cover all expenses, or funds must be provided by the sponsoring organization in the form of a scholarship or other stipend.

Q:3- How long may I stay in the U.S. on my J-1 visa?

When you enter the United States on an exchange visitor visa, you will usually be admitted for the duration of your program. The immigration inspector at the BCIS (formerly INS) at the port of entry/airport makes the final decision on how long anyone may stay in the U.S.

Q:4- What is "The Two-Year Rule?"

"The Two-Year Rule" is the common term used for a section of immigration law which requires that many exchange visitors return to their home countries and be physically present there for at least two years after the conclusion of their exchange visit before they can be issued certain types of nonimmigrant visas, specifically H-1, L-1, K-1 and immigrant visas. It is important to note that only a preliminary finding of whether the 'two year rule' applies to you is made on your DS-2019 when your J-1 visa is issued. The final decision is made only when/if you choose to apply for an H-1, L-1, K-1 or Immigrant visa.

Only after two years may these persons apply again for certain types of nonimmigrant visas. It is also not permitted to remain in the United States and apply for an adjustment/change of status to a prohibited nonimmigrant status (for example, J-1 to H-1) or to apply for permanent resident status (Green Card) without first returning home for two years, and without an approved waiver. Whether you are subject to the Rule is determined by a number of factors, including your source of funding and your country's "Skills List" It is not determined by the amount of time you spend in the U.S.

Q:5- Can the "The Two-Year Rule" be waived?

Only the Department of State's Visa Office adjudicates the Two-Year Rule waivers. This Visa Office is also the final authority on whether an applicant is actually subject to the Rule, regardless of whether it was annotated in your passport or not. If you are subject to the Two-Year Rule requirement, you may be able to obtain a waiver, and thus be eligible to apply for visas normally prohibited for those subject to the Two Year Rule. Please note that the Two-Year Rule applies only to the later issuance of H (work), L-1 (intra-company transfer), K-1 (fiancé) or Immigrant visas. Even if subject to the 'two year rule', you may still qualify for the issuance of a tourist visa, or any other nonimmigrant visa except for those noted above.

Q:6- What visa category can the dependants of a J1 travel on?

Spouses and children (under the age of 21) can apply on a J2 visa as dependants of a J1 visa holder.

Q:7- I am applying for an J1 visa and I would like my spouse to travel with me, can he/she apply for a dependant visa (J2) at the same time that I do or must they wait until my visa has been issued?

It is advisable for dependant spouses (and children) to go for their visas interviews at the same time as the principal applicant.

4. Procedure to Schedule a Web Appointment and FAQ'S

To schedule a web appointment or online appointment, kindly proceed as mentioned below:

1. On the home page of the website www.visa-services.com, select the visa class you wish to apply for, by clicking on the image.

2. The selected web page will offer you two options of scheduling an appointment, select Online appointment.
3. On the following web page that opens, click on Schedule your appointment.
4. This will lead you to the web interview-scheduling module, where you can feed in the details required and select an interim date from the options given. A maximum of 5 persons can be scheduled on 1 appointment letter. You may make multiple appointments, if the party size is more than 5.
5. You will be then issued a tentative appointment letter known as the Interim Confirmation of Interview letter. This appointment letter will also have a Docket number, which you must refer to for all further communication with VFS regarding your Interim appointment.
6. You now have to send all the documents as listed on the Interim appointment letter to VFS. For this purpose you must use the services of Blue Dart courier only. Details of the Blue Dart offices accepting the application are available on <https://visa-services.com/bluedart.html>.
7. Prepare your application pack for handover to Blue Dart in a cloth-lined envelope. Kindly refer to the entire list of documents as mentioned in your Interim Appointment Letter.
8. Please seal the envelope in front of Blue Dart staff before handover. You do not have to pay any extra courier charges to Blue Dart. Blue Dart will give you an Airway Bill in exchange of the envelope. Please preserve this Airway Bill carefully since you will require it after the interview, at the time of receiving your passport.
9. Once these documents reach VFS, they will be verified. If everything is in order, VFS will email you a Final Confirmation of Interview Appointment along with an Invoice cum receipt at the email address, as intimated by you at the time of scheduling your appointment. You need to print this confirmation letter and carry it along with you to the American Consulate as proof of your interview appointment, without which you will not be allowed entry at the American Consulate.
10. On the day of your interview, you will have to be present at the American Consulate General, Mumbai, 15 minutes before the appointed time, along with the original : Passport, Supporting documents and Final Confirmation of Interview Appointment cum Invoice cum receipt.
11. After the visa interview, if your visa is granted the Consul officer will retain your passport. If your visa is denied, your passport will be handed back to you in the Consulate at the end of your interview.
12. Blue Dart courier will return the passport to you within 3-4 working days at your current home or office address circled by you on the Form DS-156.
13. At the time of receiving your passport, Blue Dart will take back the original Airway Bill, which was given to you at the time of handing over the envelope to Blue Dart.
Important: Blue Dart will not handover the passport without the original Airway Bill.
Kindly note: You must have all your documentation ready prior to scheduling your Interim appointment. These documents must reach VFS within 12 business days of scheduling your appointment, failing which the Interim appointment stands cancelled.

Please note that your Interim Appointment letter is not the Final Confirmation of Interview Appointment.

FAQ'S FOR WEB APPOINTMENT

Q 1 - What is the courier acceptance service?

All US visa applicants have to schedule an appointment for an interview. They may do so, by going personally to the Application Center or taking a web appointment. Applicants who have taken a web appointment have to send their documents to VFS via Blue Dart courier only. For Mumbai applicants hard pressed for time, VFS offers a service to pick-up the application pack from the applicant's home or office. For residents of 15 other cities in Western India, applicants can turn in their applications at the nearest Blue Dart office.

Kindly refer to our web page

<http://visa-services.com/bluedart.html> for details regarding the Blue Dart addresses.

Q 2 - IS there an additional charge for this service?

There is an additional courier charge of INR 166/- per application pack upto a maximum of 5 applications per pack, which is inclusive of INR 150/- as courier charges and service and education cess tax @ 10.2%.

Q 3 - Do I need to pay Blue Dart anything for the courier service?

No, for your convenience, the courier charges have been included in the visa Logistics fee mentioned in your Interim Appointment Letter. No money has to be paid to the Blue Dart staff either for collection of package before interview or delivery of passport after the interview.

Q 4 - How many applications can I send in a pack?

You can schedule maximum 5 persons in one interview letter, hence you can send a maximum of five application forms in a pack.

Q 5 - Do I have to send the documents and if yes, how do I send them?

Yes, after scheduling an Interim Appointment on the web, you are required to compulsorily send the documents as listed on the Interim Appointment letter within 12 business days of scheduling your appointment failing which your Interim appointment stands cancelled. The documents have to be couriered through Blue Dart courier at:

US VFS,

Tirupati Apartments,

Opposite Mahalaxmi Temple,

Bhulabhai Desai Road,

Mumbai-400036.

Q 6 - How do I prepare the application pack?

Your application pack must consist of the following:

- a. A fully completed and signed visa application form DS-156, printed Back to Back and in addition form DS-157 from male applicants aged 16 to 45 years.
- b. One photograph as per specification (click here for photo specs link to <https://visa-services.com/photospecs.html>) affixed on form DS-156.
- c. Demand Drafts as listed on your Interim Appointment Letter.
- d. Supporting documentation as printed on your Interim Appointment letter, based on your visa class.
- e. A copy of the Interim Appointment letter.

The above mentioned documents must be placed in a cloth-lined envelope and addressed to US VFS, Tirupati Apartments, Opposite Mahalaxmi Temple, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai - 400036.

Q 7 - How will Blue Dart accept my application pack?

- a. You will have to handover your application pack in an open condition.
- b. The Blue Dart staff will perform a security check and then seal the pack in your presence.
- c. The Blue Dart staff will then issue you an Airway Bill as an acknowledgement.
- d. Please preserve this Airway Bill carefully as you will need to surrender it back to Blue Dart when they come to deliver your passport after the interview.

Q 8 - Is it mandatory to send the documents through Blue Dart courier only?

Yes, as a security precaution and due to the sensitive nature of documents handled, we have appointed a single courier company for the collection of documents and return of passport.

Q 9 - What happens if I send an incomplete application?

You will be contacted by email on the email address indicated by you while making an Interim appointment. You may be asked to send additional documents if required. Kindly note that the interview appointment confirmation will not be issued till the application is complete in all respects.

Q 10 - What makes an application pack incomplete?

An application pack could be incomplete due to various reasons. Some common examples stated below:

- i. Form DS-156 or Form DS-158 printed on two separate sheets instead of being printed back to back.
- ii. Form DS-156 or Form DS-158 not signed by the individual applicant above 14 years of age.
- iii. The photograph affixed on the form is not as per the specification or may be more than 6 months old at the time of interview.
- iv. Demand drafts: a) expired before the date of interview. b) wrong payable amount. c) payable to whom is not as per specification.
- v. Mandatory documents as printed on the Interim Confirmation letter.
- vi. Passport is not valid for 6 months beyond interview date.

Q 11 - Can I make the payment in dollars?

No, The US visa fees applicable to you can be paid via demand draft in Indian Rupees only. Demand drafts can be drawn on nationalized banks or local branches of foreign banks. Demand drafts drawn on co-operative banks are not accepted.

Q 12 - Can I send my application from US through a reputed courier service?

No. However, you can send your application pack to any of your relatives/ representatives in Western India, who may in turn contact Blue Dart to send in your application.

Q 13 - How do I prepone or postpone my interview?

We regret, we cannot prepone or postpone any appointments in the web appointment system. However, if you have not sent your application pack, you may cancel your Interim appointment and schedule a fresh Interim Interview Appointment.

Q 14 - How do I cancel my interview?

To cancel an Interim Interview appointment, please proceed as mentioned below:

- i. On the home page, select the visa class by clicking on the image.
- ii. The selected web page will indicate two options of scheduling an appointment, click on online appointment.
- iii. On the web page that opens, click on Cancel your appointment.
- iv. You will be asked to enter your name and WEB booking number, given to you at the time of scheduling your Interim appointment. Submitting this data will cancel your interview appointment. To cancel a Confirmed Interview appointment, kindly email us at response_us@visa-services.com

Q 15 - What happens if I am not eligible for an interview with the Mumbai Consulate?

If you do not qualify for an interview appointment with the Mumbai Consulate and you have already couriered your documents to VFS, we will return you your documents and demand drafts via Blue Dart courier after deducting the Logistics and courier fees which you have paid towards the administrative charges.

Q 16 - If issued a visa, how will I receive my passport?

You should get your passport within 3-4 working days from the date of your interview through Blue Dart courier only. At the time of delivery of your passport, you will require to handover the Airway Bill. Blue Dart will not deliver the passport if the Airway Bill is not

surrendered. Kindly note that the passport will be delivered to an address serviceable by Blue Dart in Western India only.

Q 17 - What happens if Blue Dart does not have a delivery service to my address?

If your address is not serviceable by Blue Dart, you will have to collect your passport from the nearest Blue Dart authorized Hold At Location center. The same information will be conveyed to you in your Final Confirmation letter.

Please note: Blue Dart office will hold your passport for a maximum of 3 working days from their receiving date. If you do not collect your passport within 3 working days, it will be returned back to the American Consulate.

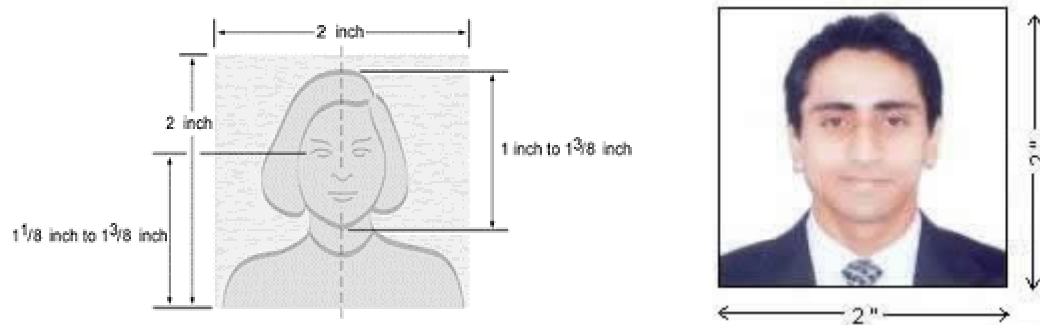
Q 18 - What if the Airway Bill copy is lost or misplaced by me?

Blue Dart staff will not handover the passport without the original Airway Bill. The passport will then be handed back to the American Consulate, Mumbai. You may collect your passport from the Consulate, on any working day between 1400 hrs to 1415 hrs. Kindly carry proof of identity.

5. Photograph Specifications to be affixed on Visa form

Applicants, submit your Nonimmigrant Visa Application, DS-156 with the new photo format, as explained below.

Sample Photograph



General

The photograph for each visa applicant must be an unmounted, full face photo, as described below. The photograph must have been taken within the last six months. One (1) photograph must be submitted stapled or glued to the application DS-156.

Photo Size

The photo for each visa applicant submitted must measure: 2 by 2 inches (roughly 50 mm square) with the head centered in the frame. The head (measured from the top of the hair to the bottom of the chin) should measure between 1 inch to 1 3/8 inches (25 mm to 35 mm) with the eye level between 1 1/8 inch to 1 3/8 inches (28 mm and 35 mm) from the bottom of the photo.

Photo Appearance

The photograph must be a full-face front view in which the visa applicant is facing the camera directly. The face should cover about 50 percent of the photo area.

The photograph may be in color or black and white, but must have only a white or off-white background. Photos with dark, busy, or patterned backgrounds will not be accepted.

In general, the applicant's head, including both face and hair, should be shown from the crown of the head to the tip of the chin on top and bottom and from hairline side-to-side. It is preferable that ears be exposed. Head coverings and hats are only acceptable due to religious beliefs, and even then, may not cover any portion of the applicant's face.

Sunglasses or other wear, which detracts from the face, are not acceptable unless required for medical reasons (an eye patch, for example).

A photograph depicting a person wearing a traditional facemask or veil that does not permit adequate identification is not acceptable.

Photos of military, airline, or other personnel wearing hats are not acceptable. Photographs of applicants wearing tribal, national costume, or other headgear not specifically religious in nature are not acceptable.

Attaching the Photo to the DS-156

Staple or glue one photograph to the DS-156 in the designated space. If the photograph is stapled, staples should be placed as far away as possible from the applicant's face.

Note: Please follow these above instructions carefully. If photographs presented do not meet these requirements your application will be considered incomplete.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How many photos are required to be submitted with the visa application form DS-156?

One (1) photo must be submitted with the visa application.

What type of paper are the photographs to be printed on?

The photos should be printed on thin photo-quality paper.

Do the photos have to be in color?

No, the photos may be in color or black and white but must have a white or off-white background only.

How recent must the photos be?

The photos must be no older than 6 months.

How big must the photos be?

The photos must measure exactly 2 inches by 2 inches.

What pose should the photos show?

The photo should show a clear, front view, full face of the applicant. The applicant should be in normal street attire, without hat or dark glasses against a plain white or off-white background.

The applicant should have a natural expression, mouth closed, and eyes open and looking directly ahead. Photos in which the face of the person being photographed is not in focus will not be accepted.

How big should the head be in the photo?

The applicant's head, measured from the bottom of the chin to the top of the hair, should be between 1 inch and 1-3/8 inches. The head should be centered in the photo. The head of the person being photographed should not be tilted up, down or to the side. It should cover about 50% of the area of the photo.

Can hats or religious headgear be worn for the photo?

Unless worn daily for religious reasons, all hats or headgear should be removed for the photo. In all cases, no item or attire should cover or otherwise obscure any part of the face.

Can eyeglasses be worn for the photo?

Eyeglasses worn on a daily basis can be worn for the photo. However, there should be no reflections from the eyeglasses that obscure the eyes.

Can sunglasses or tinted glasses be worn?

Dark glasses or nonprescription glasses with tinted lenses are not acceptable unless you need them for medical reasons. A medical certificate may be required.

Can work uniforms be worn for the photo?

Uniforms should not be worn in photographs except in the case of religious attire that is worn daily. Otherwise, normal street attire should be worn.

Can a parent or guardian appear in the photo of a minor child?

No, the minor child must be the only subject in the photo. Nothing used to support the minor child, whether by mechanical or human means, should be in the camera's frame.

Are photos that are copied from recent driver licenses or other official documents acceptable?

No, only original photographs are acceptable. Copied or digitally scanned photos of photos will not be accepted. In addition, photos must not be retouched to alter the customer's appearance in any way.

Are group photos accepted for a party applying for a visa together?

No, since a separate visa is issued to each qualified applicant, an individual photo is required in all cases. Group photos are not acceptable.