



U.S. Consulate General
1969 Upper Water Street
Suite 904, Purdy's Wharf Tower II
Halifax, Nova Scotia
<https://ca.usembassy.gov/>

Tuesdays and Thursdays
(by appointment only)

8:30 am to 11:30 am

Closed all U.S. and Canadian holidays

NON-IMMIGRANT VISA INFORMATION

Personal Appearance Waiver: Applicants under the age of 14 and over 79, who are applying for a non-immigrant visa, are not required to make a personal appearance at the U.S. Consulate for the visa interview.

Interview Waiver Visa Renewal: Under certain conditions, applicants who are renewing a non-immigrant visa may not be required to come to the U.S. Consulate to be interviewed.

Each applicant who qualifies under either of these two waivers is required to complete their own DS-160 CEAC application form, pay the non-refundable, non-transferrable Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee and then complete the scheduling process in order to print out a courier in form for Canada Post. For more information, please visit U.S. Visa Info at <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-ca/niv>

If you do not qualify for either of the above waivers, you will be required to complete your own DS-160 CEAC application form, pay the non-refundable, non-transferrable Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee and book an appointment through the U.S. Visa Info website: <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-ca/niv>. Should you need further assistance, please contact U.S. Visa Info Services at the following number: (902) 702-0292 or Skype using the Skype name USVISACANADA.

When calling from the United States, please dial 703-249-4643.

Call center hours of operation are 8am - 8pm EST, Monday-Friday, except holidays

Do not contact the U.S. Consulate General directly, as they cannot provide service for scheduling, cancellation or technical issues related to your appointment.

Only visa applicants, who have a scheduled appointment, will be admitted to the Consulate on the day of their appointment. One additional person may be permitted to accompany the applicant(s) when (1) an applicant's age or health makes it necessary or (2) an applicant is unable to speak English and requires the services of an interpreter.

In most circumstances, **Canadian citizens do not require visitor, business, transit or other visas** to enter the United States, either from Canada or from other countries. There are, however, some exceptions to this situation.

Please visit the U.S. Embassy website <https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/do-i-need-a-visa/> for additional information.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE CONSULATE

- ✓ **DS-160 APPLICATION FORM:** Complete and print, one DS-160 (regardless of age) for each person who is applying for a non-immigrant visa at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv>.
- ✓ **PHOTO:** Upload a recent passport style photo without eye glasses, measuring 2 inches by 2 inches, on a white background. If you are unable to upload the photo online, you will be required to bring a recent passport photo with you at the time of your interview. Reminder that the wearing of eye glasses are no longer permitted in photos. For complete photo requirements, please visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/photos.html>
- ✓ **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** The following documents are generally useful to help establish ties for all applicants and can be presented at the time of your interview for a non-immigrant visa application (**submit originals only**):
 - Canadian Work or Study permit
 - Canadian permanent resident card
 - Current employment letter, showing date hired, salary, full or part-time status, and position
 - Current and past school transcripts, Enrolment letter with proof of tuition payment
 - Pay slips and tax documents
 - Property deeds or lease
 - Monthly bank statements
 - If self-employed, registration of company, business permits/license, taxes filed for previous year(s), bank statements and business income

In addition to the above, please provide the following with your application:

- **For business**, provide documentation and detailed information on type of business or conference attending. Current CV/Resumé including all publications/papers published at the time of your scheduled interview.
- ✓ **A VALID PASSPORT OR TRAVEL DOCUMENT:** To be eligible for a visa, your passport must be valid for at least six months past your intended stay in the United States. Applicants must bring evidence of their current immigration status in Canada, as well as any documents related to prior visits to the United States. Such documents might include expired passports with old visas, I-20 Forms for former students, DS-2019 Forms for exchange visitors, I-94 cards, Employment Authorization Cards, etc.
- ✓ **PROOF OF RELATIONSHIP TO PRINCIPAL APPLICANT:** If you are applying as a dependent family member, such as a spouse or a child, you should bring proof of your relationship to the principal applicant. Such proof might include marriage certificates, birth certificates, adoption papers, etc. Documents must be in English or officially transcribed to English.
- ✓ **RECORDS OF ANY ARRESTS OR CONVICTIONS:** If you have ever been arrested or convicted of a crime, you should bring copies of relevant police and court records.

NOTE:

Applicants who present false or misleading documents during the course of their interview may be found permanently ineligible for further visa consideration.

Persons who provide false documentation to applicants, likewise, may be found permanently ineligible for U.S. visas.

FEES:

RECIPROCALITY FEE: Depending on your country of citizenship, you may also be required to pay a fee for visa issuance, known as a "reciprocity" fee. If your visa application is approved, you will be asked to pay this fee at the time of your interview. The following methods of payments are accepted: cash in U.S. funds, Bank Money Order in U.S. fund, or a major credit card.

For more information on reciprocity fees, please visit the following website:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/fees/reciprocity-by-country.html>



Beginning **November 29, 2016**, all travelers holding **People's Republic of China** passports with **10-year U.S.B1/B2, B1 or B2 visas** must enroll in the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS) program.

For more information on this program, please visit www.cbp.gov/EVUS or contact the U.S. Customs and Border Protection office at the following: evus@cbp.dhs.gov or EVUS Call Center at 1-202-325-0180.

Register for EVUS: <https://www.evus.gov>

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO THE CONSULATE

The following items are prohibited inside the U.S. Consulate:

- Electronic or recording equipment of any kind to include laptops, cell phones, tape/CD/MP3 players, pagers, keyless remotes, etc.
- Backpacks, bags, luggage, or large purses (purses 12 x 10 x 6 in. and smaller will be permitted although we strongly encourage you not to bring any bags in order to expedite the screening process)
- Weapons, knives, lighters or tools of any kind
- Food and beverages
- Oversized strollers

This list is not all-inclusive. As we have no facilities for storing these items, please do not bring them when you visit the consulate.

The U.S. Consulate reserves the right to deny entry of any items deemed suspicious and you may be required to reschedule your appointment and any cost associated with this change.

LOST or STOLEN VISA

If you misplace your passport containing a U.S. visa, you should report the loss to a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate. If your passport is stolen, then you should report theft to the police as soon as possible. If you apply for a replacement visa, you will be asked for a police report detailing the circumstances of the theft. We recommend you photocopy your visa and maintain the copy in a safe place.

SPECIALIZED VISAS

Most visa applications in Halifax are for business or personal travel (Visa category "B"). If you are seeking another type of visa, such as for study or work in the U.S., please visit Travel State for more information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>. Selecting the VISA WIZARD will help you determine which visa may be more suited to your purpose of travel. For additional information on visas, please visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>

Diplomatic and International Organization Workers (categories "A" and "G"): Email the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa for more information at OttawaDipinfo@state.gov.

Student Visas (categories "F" and "M"). Applicants planning to study in the U.S. must present a valid form I-20 from the institution in the United States and that the SEVIS fee has been paid in advance of your appointment with a consular officer. Please ensure that your educational or training institution has entered your name and relevant data into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) so that the Consular Officer can verify your documentation. Also required is proof of adequate English language skills, and proof of sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses. Applicants must also be able to demonstrate that they intend to depart the U.S. upon completion of their studies.

See SEVIS information sheet attached.

Temporary Workers. ("H", "L", "O", "P", "Q" & "R"). **Post issues employment based visas for residents of our consular district and for state-side revalidations only. (Revalidation: employment based visa existing in current or expired passport and is seeking renewal of that visa, if originally issued in Halifax).** Applicants should present a copy of Form I-797, a copy of the Labor Condition Application (LCA), an employment letter (indicating nature and duration of employment as well as remuneration). You may also want to bring a complete copy of the I-129 petition with all supporting documents as well as evidence of qualifications for the job (original diplomas and transcripts) and CV/Résumé. Former exchange visitors (J-1 visas) whose programs were subject to the two-year foreign residency requirement will require an original Immigration and Naturalization Service 212(e) waiver approval form.

Exchange Visitors (category "J"). Applicants must present a valid form DS-2019. Please ensure that your educational or training institution has entered your name and relevant data into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) so that the Consular Officer can verify your documentation. Also, proof of sufficient funds to cover all expenses while participating in the exchange program is required. They must also demonstrate adequate knowledge of English and that they intend to depart the U.S. upon completion of the program.

See SEVIS information sheet attached.

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee

F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa applicants with I-20 or DS-2019 forms issued on or after September 1, 2004 are required to pay a SEVIS fee before applying for the visa. This is a one-time fee charged to F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa applicants to cover the cost of administering the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

SEVIS (Form I-901) fee amounts:

I-901: F-1/M-1 visa applicants (full payment)	\$200
I-901: J-1 visa applicants (full payment)	\$180
I-901: Special J-visa categories (au pairs, summer work travel & camp counselors) (subsidized payment)	\$ 35
I-901: Government visitor – G-1/G-2/G-3 (no payment)	\$ 0

The fee must be paid and fully processed at least three days prior to the date of the visa interview. Proof of payment of the fee must be presented at the time the applicant applies for the visa. The fee is nonrefundable. No refunds will be made because a visa has been refused. Refunds will only be made for payments made in error.

The SEVIS fee may be paid by the applicant, by the sponsor or by a third party. The fee is paid to the Department of Homeland Security in the United States. **It cannot be paid at the Embassy or U.S. Consulate.** To find out if the fee has been paid on your behalf, you should check with your school or sponsor. The person paying the fee will receive a receipt, either by return mail or electronically. Those paying through the Internet may print off the fee receipt. **You will require the SEVIS Form I-901 receipt to apply for the visa.**

EXCEPTIONS AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Persons or Derivative F-2, M-2 or J-2 visa applicants with I-20 or DS-2019 forms issued before September 1, 2004 are not subject to the SEVIS fee.
- J-1 visa applicants participating in an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government (G-1, G-2, and G-3) are not required to pay the fee. At the time of application/appointment, it is recommended to let the Consulate know your program is U.S. government sponsored to avoid any concerns regarding SEVIS payment. The requirement still exists for you to be documented in SEVIS.
- Students who have been accepted at more than one school may have more than one SEVIS record. As the SEVIS fee is based on the individual applicant, not program, there may be cases where the applicant has paid the fee against one SEVIS record but is applying for a visa against another. That is acceptable.
- Applicants taking part in two or more different programs, such as exchange visitors, are required to pay separate SEVIS fees for each program, even if only one visa is issued.
- You will not be required to pay the SEVIS fee each time you apply for a visa. It is charged only at the time of the initial visa application. If you reapply for a visa based on the same program then you will not be required to pay a new fee. If you apply for a new visa based on a different program a new fee will be required.
- The SEVIS fee receipt is valid for twelve months. If your application is refused, you may reapply using this fee receipt provided it is within twelve months of the initial payment.
- The fee receipt may be used if you are reapplying for the same visa or applying for a new visa for a different program provided the SEVIS fee payment meets the fee required for the different program.

For more detailed information, including online payment options, please visit DHS SEVIS website at <http://www.fmjfee.com>