

Please follow the steps below <u>before</u> your immigrant visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, Kosovo.

#### Step 1: Register

Registration is free. Click the "Register" button below. If you want to cancel or reschedule your appointment, you will be able to do so after your appointment.

Register

#### Step 2: Get a medical exam in Kosovo

As soon as you receive your appointment date, you must schedule a medical exam in Kosovo. Click the "Medical Exam Instructions" button below for the designated panel physician in Kosovo. Please schedule and attend a medical exam before your interview.

**Medical Exam Instructions** 

#### Step 3: Complete your pre-interview checklist

It is important that you send all required documents to the Consular Section of the U.S Embassy in Pristina the **week** prior to your interview, on Tuesdays at 16:00 (Example: if your appointment is on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 you should send original documents to the Embassy on Tuesday, September 4, 2023at 16:00). You may bring your medical examination results on your interview date. We have created a checklist that will tell you what documents to submit.

**Pre-Interview Checklist** 

#### **Step 4:** Review interview guidelines

Read our interview guidelines to learn about any special actions that you need to take to *before* your visa interview.

**Interview Guidelines** 

#### Contact information

U.S. Embassy Pristina Arberia 3 4 Korriku #25 Pristina, Kosovo 10000

**≢** Email:

PristinaVisas@state.gov

- Website:
  U.S. Embassy Pristina
- Cancel and Reschedule:
  PristinaVisas@state.gov
- Map:



#### Other links

- Diversity visa instructions
- After your interview
- Frequently asked questions

Where to find Civil Documents

#### Social media







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### **Medical Exam Instructions**



All immigrant visa applicants, regardless of age, require a medical examination prior to the issuance of a visa. Only a physician accredited by the U.S. Consulate can perform this exam. It is your responsibility to schedule a medical exam with the doctor listed below before your visa interview appointment at the U.S. Embassy. Medical examination results from other physicians will not be accepted.

#### **Approved physician**

American Hospital Kosova
Dr. Gresa Elezi and Dr. Linda Cara

Shkupi 35, te rrethi i Spitalit 10000 Pristina

Tel: +383 (0)38-221 661 / +383 45 500 910

+383 45 503 255 / +383 49 513 513

(8 am - 8 pm M - F)

#### Items to bring to your medical examination

The doctor will need the following items to complete the medical exam forms:

- Your visa interview appointment letter
- Your passport
- Four (4) recently taken passport-sized color photographs
- A copy of your immunization records
- DS-260 Confirmation page

Any medical examination fees, including x-ray and blood test fees, must be paid directly to the examining physician.

#### **During the medical exam**

The medical examination will include a medical history review, physical examination, chest X-ray, gonorrhea test, and blood tests (for applicants 15 years of age or older). The United States also requires tuberculosis (TB) testing for all applicants two years of age and older. Please be prepared to discuss your medical history, medications you are taking, and current treatments you are undergoing. More information on general medical requirements for U.S. immigrants is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.

U.S. immigration law requires immigrant visa applicants to obtain certain vaccinations prior to the issuance of a visa. Current immigrant visa vaccination requirements are available on <a href="CDC.Gov">CDC.Gov</a>. You can also read Frequently Asked Questions about our medical examination requirements on <a href="Travel.Stae.Gov">Travel.Stae.Gov</a>.

#### After the medical exam

When your examination is completed, the doctor will either provide you with exam results in a sealed envelope or send them directly to th U.S Embassy. **DO NOT OPEN THIS ENVELOPE**. Instead, bring it to your visa interview or when you drop off your documents (E-Medical will be transmitted electronically from panel physicians to the U.S Embassy).

Any x-rays taken will be given to you. You **DO NOT** need to bring the x-rays to your visa interview unless you suffer from tuberculosis (TB). However, you **must** carry the x-rays with you when you travel to the United States for the first time. The medical report must be less than six months old when you enter the United States as an immigrant.

## **Pre-Interview Checklist ☑**



# Please use the list below to determine the items that every applicant must bring to the immigrant visa interview: A copy of your NVC interview letter (does not apply to Diversity Visa, fiancé (e), adoptive, or asylum/refugee applicants). Unexpired passport valid for six months beyond your intended date of entry to the United States and a photocopy of the biographic page (where your name and photo are located). Two (2) color passport-size photographs of each person applying for a visa (5 cm x 5 cm, or 2 inch x 2 inch). Please review our online photo requirements Confirmation page from the Form DS-160/260 Application for an Immigrant Visa you submitted online at ceac.state.gov/iv. Your **original** birth certificate <u>and</u> a photocopy. Medical examination results in a sealed envelope (if the physician gives you these results). Original or certified copies of birth certificates for all children of the principal applicant (even if he or she is not accompanying). Applicants who fall into any category listed in italics below should bring these additional documents: For family-based visa applications: The appropriate Form I-864 Affidavit of Support for each financial sponsor along with a photocopy of the sponsor's IRS transcript or most recent U.S. federal income tax return, and any relevant W-2s. Proof of your U.S. petitioner's status and domicile in the United States (photocopy of a U.S. passport, naturalization certificate, or lawful permanent resident card). Evidence of the relationship between the petitioner and visa applicant (such as photographs, letters, or emails). If you are married: Your original marriage certificate, If you were previously married: Your original divorce or spouse's death certificate, Court certificates for applicants over 16 years of age. The original court certificate (and English translation) from your country of current residence and countries of previous residence. If you have ever been arrested or convicted of a crime you are required to declare it on the DS-160/260 application. Please bring relevant court documents relating to the charges. For employment-based visa applications: Letter from your U.S. employer dated less than one month ago. If you have served in any military: Military records, and a photocopy. If you are adopted: Adoption papers or custody documents, and a photocopy. If you are the petitioner's stepchild: The original marriage certificate of the petitioner and your biological parent, and a photocopy along with divorce records for any previous marriages of either parent.

☐ English Translation of any civil document if it is issued in any language other than Serbian or Albanian.

## **Interview Guidelines**



#### Sending documents to the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, Kosovo

If the U.S. Embassy requests additional information or documentation from you, the letter given to you by the Consular Officer at the interview will instruct you how to complete your application. Please follow the instructions in the letter.

#### Rescheduling or cancelling your interview

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please email: <a href="PristinaVisas@state.gov">PristinaVisas@state.gov</a>. There may be a significant wait before the next available appointment, so please attempt to attend the date already assigned. For some family-based and employment preference visa categories, a visa became available within the month you have been scheduled by NVC. DV applicants should be aware that visas are numerically limited and must be issued by September 30 of the program year. There is no guarantee that a visa will still be available on the date of your rescheduled interview. Please carefully consult the Visa Bulletin before you decide to reschedule your interview.

#### Security screening procedures

All visitors to the U.S. Embassy must follow certain security procedures. Any visitor who declines to be screened by U.S. Embassy security personnel will be unable to enter the embassy. To avoid delaying your entry and that of those in line behind you, please bring only what is required for your interview.

#### **Accompanying persons**

The following persons may accompany a visa applicant to their interview:

- Interpreter: Applicants may bring ONE interpreter if they do not speak English, Albanian or Serbian well enough to participate in an interview.
- The U.S. Citizen Petitioner: The Petitioner's presence at the interview is allowed, but is not required.
- Special Needs Visitors: Applicants may bring ONE person to help if they are elderly, disabled, or a minor child.

Attorneys are **not** permitted to accompany clients into the waiting room or to their interview.

#### **Immigrant visa fees**

If you have not paid all required fees to either the National Visa Center or via the appointment website, please be prepared to pay these fees on the day of your interview.

All fees may be paid in U.S. dollars or Euros Fees may only be paid in cash. *Please note that if you are found ineligible to receive a visa, the application fee cannot be refunded*. A complete list of fees can be found <u>here</u>.

#### Do not make travel plans outside of Kosovo

If your visa is approved, we will keep your passport at the embassy while we prepare your immigration packet and print a visa for your passport. You may generally pick up your approved visa and documents two working days after your interview, although cases involving administrative processing may take significantly longer. If you have to travel to neighboring countries while your passport is still with us, please make sure you have a valid national ID other than your passport.

# **After Your Visa Interview**



A consular officer can make a decision on a visa application only after reviewing the formal application and interviewing the applicant. *There is no guarantee that you will receive a visa*. Do not sell your house, car or property, resign from your job or make non-refundable flight or other travel arrangements until you have received your immigrant visa.

#### If more information is needed

Sometimes a consular officer is unable to make a decision on a visa application because s/he needs to review additional documents or the case requires further administrative processing. When additional documents are requested, the consular officer will give you a refusal letter that asks you to submit additional documents. The letter will include instructions on how to send those documents to the Embassy.

Administrative processing takes additional time after the interview. Most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days. However, the timing varies based on the circumstances of each case. Before inquiring about the status of administrative processing, please wait at least 60 days after your interview.

#### What happens after visa approval

**Passport, Visa, and Sealed Immigrant Packet** – We will place your immigrant visa on a page in your passport. Please review your visa to make sure there are no spelling errors.

With the new Modernized Immigrant Visa format, you will no longer receive the sealed envelope with documents; however, previous older cases will continue to receive such envelope containing documents that must be given to U.S. immigration authorities when you arrive in the United States for the first time. **Do not open this envelope. You must carry it with you; do not put it in your checked luggage.** If you receive X-rays during your medical examination, carry those with you and give them to the U.S. immigration authorities.

**USCIS Immigrant Fee** – All individuals who are issued immigrant visas overseas must **pay an Immigrant Fee** to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) **prior to traveling** to the United States. This fee is for processing your residency status and printing your Permanent Resident Card. The only people exempt from paying this fee are: children entering the United States under the Hague Process, returning residents, and people traveling on a K visa.

When You Should Travel – You must enter the United States *before* the expiration date on your visa, which is usually six months from the date of the medical examination. Your visa cannot be extended and all fees are nonrefundable. The principal applicant must enter **before or at the same time** as other family members with visas. Children who turn 21 years old *after* visa issuance must enter the United States before they turn 21 years old; otherwise they will lose their immigrant status.

**Getting a Green Card** – Your Form I-551 Permanent Resident Card, also known as a green card, will be automatically mailed to the address in the United States that you write in your visa application form. This is a very important document that proves you have permission to reside in the United States. *Do not travel outside of the United States until you receive your Permanent Resident Card. Once your card is issued, you should not stay outside of the United States for more than one year. If you do, you will lose your status as a Lawful Permanent Resident.* 

Children's Issues – Children are required to have certain vaccinations before they can enroll in school in the United States. Therefore, we recommend that you bring your child's complete vaccination records with you to the United States. Additionally, if your child is adopted, you have full custody as a result of a divorce, or you share custody with the child's other parent; we recommend that you bring a copy of all applicable adoption or custodial papers from the authoritative court in your home country. You will likely need these papers (translated into English) in the United States for issues such as school enrollment, medical care, and eventual citizenship.

# After Your Visa Interview



**Information for New Immigrants** – Please visit the USCIS web page for helpful information on moving to the United States. You can read their publication "<u>Welcome to the United States</u>: A <u>Guide for New Immigrants</u>" online.

## **Diversity Visa Applicants – Additional Information**



If you are interviewing for a Diversity Visa (DV), all of the above instructions apply to you. Please schedule and attend a medical examination prior to your visa interview; please register you appointment at step one; and gather the required documents.

Below are additional instructions that apply **only** to DV applicants.

#### **Bring to your interview**

| In addition to the documents listed on the Pre-Interview Checklist in this package, DV applicants should a following items to your visa interview:   | so bring the   |
|--|----------------|
| Appointment information printed from the "Entrant Status Check" on the <u>E- DV website</u> Docume you have either a qualifying high school education <b>OR</b> have two years of qualifying work experier five years immediately prior to application (for the principal applicant only; more information is a <u>online</u> ). | ce in the last |
| Payment in cash of the \$330 Diversity Visa Application Fee (dollars or the equivalent sum in euros  | accepted).     |

#### **Review your DV Lottery entry**

Prior to your visa interview, we recommend that you review the data on your initial E-DV entry. On your initial E-DV application, you must have correctly entered your marital status. If you are legally married you must have listed your spouse, even if you are currently separated from him/her (unless your spouse is a U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident).

Additionally, you must have listed ALL of your living children who are unmarried and under 21 years old. This includes your natural children, your spouse's children, or children you have formally adopted in accordance with the laws of your country.

Failure to have listed an existing spouse or children at the time of your entry in the Diversity Visa lottery will result in the denial of your visa and visas for your family. Any fees paid to the U.S. government in support of your visa application(s) are nonrefundable. If you failed to include a child who had already been born, or a spouse to whom you were married when you entered the lottery, you should not proceed with the visa application. You can review the eligibility requirements online.