

Form DS-160 Questions & Answers

PERSONAL INFORMATION 1

Surname: Enter your surname as it appears in your passport. Your surname is your last name (or family name). If your surname consists of multiple names, please enter them all.

Given Names: Enter your given name as it appears in your passport. Given name includes both your first and middle name. Please enter the exact spelling and name in the order indicated in your passport.

Full Name in Native Alphabet: Click “does not apply” if your native language utilizes the alphabet.

Have you ever used other names (i.e. maiden, religious, professional, alias, etc.)?

If not, select ‘No’. If you used any other names in the past, select ‘Yes’ and list them here. If there are different variations of your name in different documents, you can enter those variations here.

Do you have a telecode that represents your name? If yes (i.e., your native language does not utilize the alphabet), you will need to list it here.

Sex: Self-explanatory.

Marital Status: Self-explanatory.

Date of Birth: Enter in the order of ‘day, month, year’. Make sure this date matches your passport.

Place of birth: Place where you were born. Write down the city (village/town), state/province and country you were born. Use the current city name (e.g., use “Ho Chi Minh City” and not “Saigon”).

State/Province of birth: If State/Province is not applicable, check “does not apply”.

Country of birth: Use the current country name.

PERSONAL INFORMATION 2

Country/Region of Origin (Nationality): Your nationality is your citizenship country, which may be different from your birth country.

Do you hold or have held a nationality other than the one you have indicated above: Answer “yes” or “no”. If you answer “yes”, enter the following details about each nationality you had:

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Other Nationality: Select from list

Do you hold a passport for the nationality above? Answer “yes” or “no”. If yes, provide the following information: Passport Number.

National Identification Number: If your country has such number, write it here. For India, check “does not apply”.

US Social Security Number (US SSN): If you were ever issued a US SSN, enter it here. Otherwise, check “does not apply”.

US Taxpayer ID #: If you were issued an ITIN number or any other US taxpayer ID #, enter it here. Otherwise, check “does not apply”. Do not enter US SSN here.

ADDRESS AND PHONE

Please enter complete home address, including apartment #, street, city, state or province, postal code and country. This address should be the one you have been residing for the past six months. It can differ from your permanent address mentioned in the passport. If you currently reside in the US, please list your foreign home address here. Note: Online system does not allow a forward slash “/” as part of the address. You can write it as a dash “-” in its place.

Mailing Address

Is your mailing address the same as your home address? If you answer “no” you will be asked to enter your entire mailing address here. Your passport with the visa stamp will be sent to this address.

Primary phone #: You can enter a land line or cell number, whichever you are most likely to be reached.

Secondary phone #: If you have an additional land line or cell phone number, please list here. If you don’t have one, click “does not apply”.

Work phone #: Type in your work phone # if you have one. Otherwise, click “does not apply”.

Email Address: Type your email address here. If you do not have one, click “does not apply”. If you provide one, this email may be used by the consulate to send a confirmation of appointment or other communication.

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PASSPORT INFORMATION

Passport/Travel Document Type: Select the appropriate document type from the list: regular, official, diplomatic or other.

Passport Number: List the number from your current passport number, not from previous passports. This must be the same passport you will be using when traveling to the US. It should be a valid unexpired passport of at least six months or longer.

Passport Book Number: This is also commonly known as the inventory control number. You may or may not have a passport book number on your passport. Please contact your passport issuing authority if you are unable to determine whether or not your passport contains a passport book number. Click “does not apply” if not applicable to you. Indian passports do not have a passport book number.

Country/Authority that issued passport: This should be the country you are a citizen of even though you may have received your passport while you were in another country.

Where was the passport issued?

City: City where the passport was issued. Write in the city name where you applied for your passport. For example, if you applied for your Indian passport in San Francisco, CA. Write “San Francisco” here.

State/Province: State where the passport was issued. For example, if your Indian passport was issued in San Francisco, CA, write “California” here.

Country: Country where the passport was issued. For example, if your Indian passport was issued in the U.S., select “United States” here.

Issuance date: Date the passport was issued.

Expiration date: Date the passport expires.

In most cases, your passport must have at least six months of validity beyond the date of your visa application and/or arrival in the US. Some countries are exempt from this rule. See [link](#) for more information.

Have you ever lost a passport or had one stolen: Answer “yes” or “no” accordingly.

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If yes, enter the passport number or “do not know,” the country/authority the passport was issued, and provide an explanation if needed. If you had more than one passport lost or stolen, you can click on “add another” and enter the information.

Please note: The visa will be issued in the name as it appears in your passport. If you want a different name (e.g. your married name), you must first change your passport.

No First/Last Name: If your entire name is written in the field for surname, and the given name field is left blank, the consulate will treat your entire name as your surname and write “FNU” (First Name Unknown) in the first name section (or write “LNU” if you leave the surname field blank). If you have more than one name but they are all written as either your surname or given name, and you do not want “FNU” or “LNU” as part of your name on your visa, you should get your passport changed before applying for the visa.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Purpose of Trip to the US: Pick the category that is appropriate for you.

Specify: Pick the category that is appropriate for you.

Dependent visas: You will be asked the surname and given name of the primary applicant.

Application Receipt/Petition Number: Applicable for CW/E2C, H, K, L, O, P, R, T or U visas.

Principal Applicant’s Company Name: Only used if applicant is not the Principal applicant and trip purpose is Treaty Trader/Investor (E1, E2).

Intended Date of Arrival: If unsure of travel plans, provide an estimate date.

Intended Length of Stay in US: Select accordingly.

Address where you will stay in the US

It can be a hotel if you don’t know where you will be staying upon arrival in the US. Provide specific hotel address and not just “any hotel”. If you are employed in the US and maintain an apartment in the US, provide that address and telephone number.

Person/Entity Paying for Your Trip

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If you choose “Self” or “U.S. Petitioner”, no further questions regarding it will be asked. If you choose “other person,” you will be asked to provide the name of the person who has agreed to support you financially while you are in the US.

TRAVEL COMPANIONS INFORMATION

Are there any other person traveling with you? Answer “yes” if you have family members traveling with you. You will need to know their full names and relationships to you.

Are you traveling as part of a group or organization? If you answer “yes,” you will need to provide the group or organization’s name. If you answer “no,” you will need to provide the surnames/last names, given names and relationship to person traveling with you. Click “add another” if you have more than one person traveling with you. You can prepare a family/group application once you are done with the first applicant’s application. All of you will be interviewed at the same time.

PREVIOUS U.S. TRAVEL INFORMATION

Have you ever been in the US? If you answer “yes,” provide the date of arrival and length of stay for each of your last five visits. If you are unsure about the dates of prior visits, provide your best estimate. The consulate will look at your answer to see whether you have violated any visas terms during your last visits.

Did you ever hold a US driver’s license? If “yes”, please provide the driver’s license number or check “do not know.” Click “add another” if you have had more than one US driver’s license.

Have you ever been issued a US visa? If “yes,” you will have to provide date your last visa was issued, the visa number (click “do not know” if appropriate). The visa # is the red color number towards the lower right side of the visa stamp. For lost or stolen visa, select “do not know.”

Are you applying for the same type of visa? Answer “yes” or “No.”

Are you applying in the same country where the visa above was issued and is this country your principal country of residence? Answer “yes” or “no.”

Have you been ten-printed? Answer “yes” or “no.” Ten-printed means that you have provided fingerprints of all your fingers, as opposed to only two fingerprints.

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Has your US visa ever been lost or stolen? If you answer “yes”, you will need to provide the year it was lost or stolen.

Has your US visa ever been cancelled or revoked? If “yes,” provide an explanation.

Have you ever been refused a US visa, been refused admission to the US or withdrawn your application for admission at the point of entry?

If you answer “yes,” provide an explanation here. If your visa was refused under Section 221(g) and later you received the visa, it is, nonetheless a refusal and, therefore, you must respond “yes” to this question and explain reason for refusal and outcome here.

Has anyone ever filed an immigrant petition on your behalf with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services?

If a company has filed an I-140 petition on your behalf, select “yes.” In the explanation box, list the petitioner’s name, EB category, and Alien # if applicable.

U.S. POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Your US point of contact can be any individual in the US who knows you. If you do not know anyone in the US, you may enter the name of the company or organization you plan to visit during your trip.

Contact person: You can provide last name and given name or enter “do not know.”

Organization Name: You can specify the organization name or click “do not know.” If you do not have any contact in the US, enter the name of the hotel where you will be staying.

Relationship to you: Select from the drop-down menu.

Address and phone # of point of contact: Self explanatory.

Email Address: Provide email address or click “do not apply.”

FAMILY INFORMATION: RELATIVES

Choose “yes” or “no” and indicate that person’s status in the US (i.e., US legal permanent resident, US Citizen, visiting, studying, working, etc.). If the relative is in the Adjustment of Status process, the legal status selected should be “non-immigrant.”

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Do you have any immediate relatives, not including parents, in the US? This includes fiancé/fiancée, spouse, child or sibling. You can add multiple relatives by clicking “add another.”

Family Information – Spouse:

This section may or may not show up depending on how you answer your marital status in “personal information” section.

Enter your current spouse’s information. If divorced, enter your previous spouse’s information. This information is required even if your spouse is not traveling with you or applying for a visa with you.

PRESENT WORK/EDUCATION/TRAINING INFORMATION

Primary occupation: Choose from the list provided. If you choose other, you will be asked to specify.

Present employer or school name: Self-explanatory.

Present employer or school address: Self-explanatory.

Monthly Income in local currency: List income if employed. If not, check “does not apply.”

Briefly describe your duties: Look to the H-1B/L-1 support letter.

Were you previously employed? If “yes,” provide employer name, complete address, telephone number, job title, supervisor’s name, date of employment and briefly describe your duties. You can add multiple employers by clicking “add another.”

Do you belong to a clan or tribe? If “yes,” list name of clan or tribe.

Have you traveled to any countries within the last five years? If “yes,” list all countries visited in the past five years.

Have you belonged to, contributed to, or worked for any professional, social or charitable organization? If “yes,” provide a list of organizations.

Do you have any specialized skills or training, such as firearms, explosives, nuclear, biological or chemical experience? If “yes,” explain in detail and expect delays as a background check is likely required.

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Have you ever served in the military? If “yes,” provide the country you served, branch of service, rank/position, military specialty, and date of service.

Have you ever served in, been a member of, or been involved with a paramilitary unit, vigilante unit, rebel group, guerrilla group, or insurgent organizations? If “yes”, explain in detail, and expect delays as a background check is likely required.

SECURITY AND BACKGROUND

If you check “yes” to any of these questions, you may be denied the visa. Please seek advice from an immigration attorney should you have questions regarding this section.

TEMPORARY WORK VISA INFORMATION

If you indicated that the purpose of your trip to the US is to work temporarily, provide the additional information about your employer.

UPLOAD PHOTO

Click on the “Upload Your Photo” button. Your photo must be in JPEG image format and the file size should be 240 KB or less. If your photo is accepted, it will indicate so. If not, it will display the specific error messages regarding what is wrong with the photograph and you may choose to update another photo that meets the requirements, or you can proceed without a photo. If you proceed without a photo, you will have to submit a regular photo at the time of interview or in advance in some cases depending on the procedures at that consulate/embassy.

Preparer of Application: If the application was prepared by another person on your behalf, answer “yes” and ask that person to fill out this section. However, note that you must be the one to click the “submit” button since it serves as your electronic signature.

Signature: If the applicant is under 16 or is unable to electronically sign the form for any reason, their parents, guardians or other individuals who have legal custody over them must submit the form on their behalf.

Confirmation Page: Once you complete the online form, carry the printout of the confirmation sheet with a barcode. That will allow the consular officer to access the information contained in

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the DS-160. You must print the confirmation page with a laser printer so the barcode can be properly read.

If the confirmation page includes the image of your photograph, the photo was uploaded successfully. If you see an “x” in the box where the photo should be, it means that the photo upload has failed, and you will need to submit one printed photograph along with the confirmation page of the online DS-160.

You do not need to take the printout of the DS-160 form itself. You can save the DS-160 form data for your own records.

Before you close the application, you should click on the “email confirmation” button to have a confirmation emailed to you for your records. You may also save a backup copy by hitting the “back” button on your web browser after you have printed the barcode confirmation page. You can email yourself a backup copy of the Form DS-160 for your records.

TERMS

Explanations of the following terms contained in the online DS-160 form are available to you as help topics while you complete the DS-160 and are also provided below.

Help: Surnames

Enter all surnames (or family names) exactly as they are written in your passport. If only one name is written in your passport, enter that as your “Surname.”

Help: Given Names

If your passport does not include a first or given name, please enter 'FNU' (meaning “first name unknown”) in the space for “Given Names.”

Help: Other Names

Other names used include your maiden name, religious name, professional name, or any other name by which you are or have been known.

Make sure to enter the other names you have used in full. Thus, if you have only used another surname, enter it along with your usual given name. If you have only used another given name, enter it along with your usual surname.

Help: Telecode

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Telecodes are four-digit code numbers that represent characters in some non-Roman alphabet names.

Help: Date of Birth

Enter as shown in your passport.

Help: Place of Birth

Please choose the name currently used for the place where you were born.

Help: Phone

You must provide a primary phone number. The primary phone number should be the phone number at which you are most likely to be reached; this could be a land line or a cellular/mobile number. If you have an additional land line or a cellular/mobile number please list that as your secondary phone number.

Help: Identification Numbers

Your National ID Number is a unique number that your government may have provided. For example, the U.S. Government gives unique numbers to people looking to work or who pay taxes.

Help: Other Nationality

Enter all nationalities you currently hold and all nationalities you have previously held (including United States, if applicable), regardless of whether you have formally and/or legally relinquished the nationality. If the country where you previously held nationality no longer exists, choose the name of the country that is currently used for that location. (For example, if you used to be a citizen of the former East Germany, choose "Germany.")

Help: Passport/Travel Document Number

Enter the number of the passport or travel document you will use to travel to the United States. This passport/document must still be valid, and must identify you and your nationality.

Help: Passport Book Number

The Passport Book Number is commonly called the inventory control number. You may or may not have a Passport Book Number on your passport. If you do, the location of the Passport Book Number on your passport may vary depending on the country that issued your passport. Please contact your passport issuing authority if you are unable to determine whether or not your passport contains a Passport Book Number.

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Help: Expiration Date

In most cases your passport or travel document must be valid for at least six months after your arrival in the United States.

Help: Application Receipt/Petition Number

If you are applying for a petition-based visa, your application receipt/petition number was given to you by the Department of Homeland Security's U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) after you filed your petition application at a USCIS Service Center. The application receipt/petition number is 13 characters long and the first three characters are letters.

Help: Previous Employer

Please enter information regarding your previous two employers only. Applicants may choose to bring along a separate written list of *all* previous employers to the visa interview for reference.