

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

DS-160: online nonimmigrant visa application and confirmation

How do I distinguish a DS-160 submission from a visa appointment and visa decision?

DS-160 is the online nonimmigrant visa application accessed through the Department of State's CEAC system. Submission, confirmation, appointment arrangements and visa adjudication are separate tasks. Use accurate personal records and the receiving embassy or consulate's current instructions rather than treating a confirmation page as a visa.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the Department of State visa process.
- ☐ Read the official DS-160 FAQ and receiving-post directions.
- ☐ Build a private source-based personal-information index.
- ☐ Keep draft, submitted and confirmation records distinct.
- ☐ Track appointment and decision stages separately.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

Department of State: DS-160 frequently asked questions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/forms/ds-160-online-nonimmigrant-visa-application/ds-160-faqs.html>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

<https://immigrantinsider.com/editorial-policy/>

DS-160: online nonimmigrant visa application and confirmation

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/forms/ds-160/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.