



WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Traveling to the U.S.?

Recent policy changes could impact your trip. Thanks to the combined expertise of CIBTvisas and Newland Chase, you don't have to navigate these changes on your own. Here's what to check before you go.



Check to See if You Qualify for an Interview Waiver

Visa waiver rules have changed. To qualify for a waiver:

- You must be applying in the same visa category as your existing visa.
- Your visa must still be valid or have expired within the last 12 months.
- Keep in mind: the 48-month grace period **no longer applies**.



Confirm the Status of Pending Waiver Applications

If you applied under the old rules, your waiver may no longer be valid.

Some applicants are being asked to reschedule for an in-person interview, so be prepared.



Expect Longer Wait Times for Visa Interviews

With more travelers now requiring interviews:

- Appointment availability is limited
- Wait times are increasing
- You should book early to avoid delays



Review Your Consulate's Current Procedures

Each consulate has put different procedures into place. Keep in mind that:

- Procedures vary by location
- Some consulates have paused waiver appointments without notice
- 'Your consulate's website will have the latest updates and you should check them before you apply or reschedule



Prepare for U.S. Border Inspection—Even if You Have a Visa, ESTA, H-1B, or Green Card

It's a little-known fact that a visa is not a guarantee of entry into the U.S.

Border officers make decisions at their discretion, so be ready to:

- Explain your travel purpose
- Provide supporting documents (return flight info, accommodation info, post-arrival travel plans, confirmed meetings, etc.)
- Be aware that **you are not exempt** from questioning by CBP officers at the port of entry even if you have an ESTA, H-1B, or a green card.



Confirm Waiver Eligibility if You've Had a Past Refusal

If you've been refused a visa, even if it was later approved:

- You may not qualify for a waiver
- You could face additional questions at the border
- You should check with your immigration advisor before traveling



Stay Informed and Notify Your Employer

Policies can change quickly without public notice:

- Keep your HR, Travel, or Mobility team informed

- Use internal resources to stay up to date
- Partner with CIBTvisas and Newland Chase to stay ahead of evolving U.S. travel policies



A Final Reminder

A little preparation can go a long way when traveling to the U.S.

- Know the rules.
- Plan ahead.
- And travel smart with guidance from CIBTvisas and Newland Chase.

To learn more, visit us at CIBTVisas.com and NewlandChase.com.