



EMAIL BULLETIN

CONSULAR APPOINTMENT BACKLOGS FORCE APPLICANTS TO SCHEDULE NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPOINTMENTS FAR IN ADVANCE OF TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

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Foreign nationals applying for nonimmigrant visas to enter the United States for business, leisure, school, or employment have recently found U.S. Consular appointment availability backlogged for several weeks at many high-volume U.S. Consular Posts worldwide. During the summer months, vacationers and students applying for visas to return to school for the Fall Semester tend to increase the volume of applications, and therefore, the appointment backlogs, at many of the European Consular Posts. Because visa revalidation by mail in the United States is no longer available for visa "renewals," this trend is likely to continue.

U.S. Consular Posts in Berlin, Chennai, London, Mumbai, and Frankfurt are among those posts with the longest wait for a visa appointment. Applicants calling to schedule appointments through the automated appointment systems are likely to receive appointment dates three to five weeks out. After the appointment, issuance of the visas and return of the passports could take from one to three weeks, or longer if security clearances cause delays. Consequently, applicants should call to schedule their appointments well in advance of intended travel. Beneficiaries of premium processed visa petitions or Blanket L Programs should contact appropriate U.S. Consulates as soon as their cases are initiated with the employer's Tindall & Foster, P.C. attorney.

For more information about specific upcoming travel and visa appointments, please contact your Tindall & Foster, P.C. immigration attorney. He or she will be able to assist you in determining the appropriate U.S. Consulate for your upcoming visa application, as well as the current approximate backlogs for visa appointments and visa issuance at that consular post.