

# A to Z's of Consular Processing: Trends, Strategies and Pitfalls for IV and NIV

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## Consular Processing Strategy

- **WHEN to choose consular vs. in-country filing?**
  - NIV considerations
  - IV considerations

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# Consular Processing

**STEPS:**

1. Prerequisite to Visa Issuance
2. Identifying the correct U.S. Consulate
3. Complete the DS-160 nonimmigrant visa application
4. Schedule an appointment and determine local U.S. Consular Requirements
5. Assemble the visa application and determine the visa fees
6. filing the application: interviews (or waiver), approvals, and anticipate delays
7. Using the visa to enter the U.S. and additional entry requirements and considerations

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## Step 1

Prerequisite to Visa Issuance: I-797 Approval (unless presenting a nonimmigrant visa directly at a U.S.

Consulate or port of entry, i.e. TN, E, or some L visa applicants)

- no I-94 if consular notify

RECEIPT # EAC- 11448-12345	FORM I-797 I-797A PETITION FOR A NONIMMIGRANT WORKER
RECEIPT DATE April 20, 2011	WORKER NAME JEREMY FUJIO
WORKER DATE July 26, 2011	EMPLOYER NAME BERRY APPLEMAN & LEIDEN LLP 3232 MCKINNEY AVE STE 500 DALLAS TX 75204
PAGE 1 of 1	CLASS LIA Notice Type: Approval Notice Valid from 08/18/2011 to 08/17/2013
<p>The above petition and extension of stay have been approved. The status of the named foreign worker(s) in this classification is valid as indicated above. The foreign worker(s) can work for the petitioner, but only as detailed in the petition and for the period mentioned. Any change in employment requires a new petition. Since this employment authorization stems from the filing of this petition, separate employment authorization documentation is not required. Please contact the IIR with any questions about tax withholding.</p> <p>The petitioner should keep the upper portion of this notice. The lower portion should be given to the worker, or if the worker is not currently in the U.S., the left part is for him or her to use when departing the U.S. The left part is for him or her to use when re-entering the U.S. If the worker is not currently in the U.S., the left part can be used in applying for the new visa. If a visa is not required, he or she should present it, along with other required documentation, when applying for Form I-94. <i>Applicator for Action on an Approved Application of Petition</i>. With this notice to request that we verify a consulate, port of entry, or port of entry office of this approval.</p> <p>The approval of this visa petition does not guarantee that the alien beneficiary will subsequently be admitted to the United States, or for an extension, change, or adjustment of status in the United States, or for an</p>	
THIS FORM IS NOT A VISA AND MAY NOT BE USED IN PLACE OF A VISA.	
Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.	
U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SVCS VERMONT SERVICE CENTER 75 LOWER WELDEB STREET SALTURY ALBANY VT 05219-6001 Customer Service Telephone: (860) 375-5283 Form I-797A (Rev. 09/07/93)	
Detach This Half for Personal Records Receipt # EAC- 11448-12345 I-94# 551925697 11 NAME TRAVELER JOE CLASS LIA VALID FROM 08/18/2011 UNTIL 08/17/2013 PETITIONER: US EMPLOYER	
PLEASE TEAR OFF BOTTOM PART OF THIS NOTICE AND RETURN TO ORIGINAL SOURCE IF AVAILABLE 551925697 11 Receipt Number EAC-11448-12345 Immigration and Naturalization Service I-94 Departure Record      Petitioner: US EMPLOYER	

The above petition has been approved, and notification has been sent to the listed consulate. You may also send the tear-off bottom part of this notice to the worker(s) to show the approval. Please contact the consulate with any questions about visa issuance. **THIS FORM IS NOT A VISA AND MAY NOT BE USED IN PLACE OF A VISA.**

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## Step 2

- Identifying the correct U.S. Consulate
- Third country national (TCN) considerations
- Special carve-out for Canadians



## Step 3 – DS-160

### Complete the DS-160 nonimmigrant visa application:

- Prerequisite before booking visa appointment
- Common questions
- Disclose social media handles
- Dependents must complete one separately
- See DoS for sample and additional resources

## Step 4

### Schedule an appointment and determine local U.S.

#### Consular Requirements

- Timing Updates (processing times are improving until there is another rush over the holidays)
- Interview Waiver updates
- Portal and Website updates
- Expedite Requests

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Title search: A to Z's of Consular Processing

Also available as part of the eCourse

[2023 eConference on Immigration and Nationality Law](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law session  
"A to Z's of Consular Processing"