


## B-1/B-2 Visa Application Tips for UMB Visitors

- Obtain a letter of invitation from your host department.
- Check if you are eligible for the [Visa Waiver Program](#). If you are eligible, [apply for travel authorization](#).
- If you require a visa stamp to enter the U.S., locate the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) where you will apply for the visa.
- Navigate to your U.S. Consulate's website and find the section for nonimmigrant visas. Then select the category for business (B-1). This visa category is for attending business meetings and conferences.
- Follow the instructions to complete [Form DS-160](#) and schedule your visa interview appointment.

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## Interview Tips

- Be prepared with the right documents. Different countries may have different requirements, so review the Consulate's website thoroughly to be sure you have everything they will ask to see.
- Know why you are coming to the U.S. and ensure your planned activities align with [what is permitted by the visa category](#).
- Be able to demonstrate strong ties to your home country.
- Keep your answers short and to the point, while maintaining a positive attitude. Most interviews will be less than two minutes!
- If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of the country in which you apply for the visa, you may be asked why you are applying in that location and not your home country.



What kind of documents would demonstrate proof of strong ties to the home country?

- An employer's letter describing the employee's position, annual salary, company permission for the trip, and the expected return date to employment
- Evidence of substantial property and investments in the home country
- Records of other trips abroad and return

[NAFSA's 10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa](#) – While this is focused on student visas, it has many tips that also apply to visitor visa interviews.

*Disclaimer: The materials in this handout have been prepared for general informational purposes only. They do not constitute legal advice or serve as a substitute for legal counsel.*