

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT VISAS

Immigrant visas for Russians, including K fiancé visas and Diversity Visas, will be processed at U.S. Embassy Warsaw.

Why was Warsaw chosen for immigrant visas?

In determining an alternate location to process Russian immigrant visa cases, we weighed a variety of factors, including proximity to Russia, space to accommodate additional applicants and personnel, cost and convenience to applicants, the prevalence of Russian speakers among the personnel, and sufficient staffing to adjudicate cases.

What if my case takes a long time to process? Will I need to stay in Poland the entire time?

Visa processing is often completed and the visa ready for pick up within two to three days of the visa interview, but sometimes the process can take longer. If additional administrative processing is required, applicants may return to Russia while their case is pending. Please note an individual's immigration status in Poland is ultimately up to the Government of Poland. Applicants will receive from consular staff additional instructions about the processing of their case and may address case-specific questions during their interview at U.S. Embassy Warsaw. In all cases, applicants should not make travel plans until they have a scheduled immigrant visa interview appointment.

What if I would prefer to process my immigrant visa case at another U.S. embassy or consulate? Am I required to process my case in Warsaw?

While NVC will automatically schedule immigrant visa applications designated for processing in Moscow at U.S. Embassy Warsaw, immigrant visa applicants may request that NVC schedule their application at another immigrant visa processing U.S. embassy or consulate by contacting the [Ask NVC](#) online contact form. If the U.S. embassy or consulate agrees to accept the case, and the case is qualified for scheduling, NVC will transfer the case to the requested U.S. embassy or consulate. If the case file has already been transferred to U.S. Embassy Warsaw, applicants may submit a transfer request directly to the Immigrant Visa Unit at the chosen alternate U.S. embassy or consulate. That embassy or consulate will confirm availability of appointments and will advise on the steps necessary to begin the case transfer.

What are the requirements for Russian nationals to enter Poland?

Russian nationals traveling to Poland for an immigrant visa appointment at U.S. Embassy Warsaw will need a Schengen visa. The Government of Poland makes determinations regarding the entry of foreign nationals into that country. We refer you to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest Polish embassy or consulate with specific questions.

How much time will I have between receiving notification of my immigrant visa interview and my appointment date at U.S. Embassy Warsaw?

You will usually receive notice of your interview one or two months prior to the appointment.

What if some of my documents are no longer valid by the time my visa interview is scheduled?

You should make every effort to ensure all of your documents are valid when you travel to Warsaw for your immigrant visa interview, as certain expired documents will

delay the processing and approval of your visa application. Please follow closely the detailed instructions on your appointment letter. For more information on what documents are required, please visit <https://pl.usembassy.gov/visas/immigrant-visas/>.

Where will medical exams be conducted?

*Russian applicants will have the option of conducting their medical exams in **Warsaw**, **Minsk**, or **Moscow**.*

Can I travel straight from Poland to the United States, or do I need to return to Russia and travel to the United States from there?

With an approved visa and all the other necessary documentation including a valid passport, you may travel directly to the United States from Poland.

Given that Poland is a Polish-speaking country, how will U.S. Embassy Warsaw handle immigrant visa cases for Russian-speaking applicants?

Embassy Warsaw has Russian-speaking staff.

Why are you no longer issuing visas in Moscow?

The Russian government's decision to prohibit the United States from retaining, hiring, or contracting Russian or third-country staff severely impacts our ability to provide consular services. The extremely limited number of consular staff in Russia does not allow us to provide routine visa or U.S. citizen services.

How are you communicating with applicants?

We will continue to provide updates on the U.S. Embassy Moscow and U.S. Embassy Warsaw websites. Unless informed otherwise, applicants who had previously scheduled immigrant visa appointments should attend those appointments as scheduled. Those who have not yet had an immigrant visa interview appointment scheduled may contact the National Visa Center for a status update on their case. Please send just one inquiry and be patient. NVC will respond as quickly as possible.

Who do I contact if I have questions about my case?

Please contact Embassy Warsaw (support-poland@ustraveldocs.com) with any questions you have about how Russians can apply for immigrant visas to the United States.