

## Questions About Application Procedures and Refusals

You have questions about application procedures and visa refusals—and we have answers for you. For detailed information on how to apply for visas to the United States, please see our website (in both English and Georgian) at:  
<http://georgia.usembassy.gov/visasstudent.htm>

1. I recently applied for a visa and my application was refused. The consular officer did not stamp my passport. What does this mean?

As of January 2007, we no longer stamp passports “application received.” There are two outcomes when you apply for a visa—you will either be issued or refused. There is no other possible outcome. We keep electronic records of all visa issuances and refusals worldwide, so there is no longer any reason to stamp passports. Please keep in mind that neglecting to mention a prior refusal on your application, whether or not your passport was stamped, may adversely affect your current visa application. You should be as honest as possible about your application history for the best possible chance at qualifying for a visa.

2. My child has a medical condition that cannot be treated in Georgia and we are seeking medical treatment in the United States. How do I apply for a visa for medical treatment for my child and for myself so that I can accompany him?

All applicants for medical treatment must apply for a B1/B2 visa. However, we do require additional documentation for medical cases. In addition to the standard application, you will need to bring the following documents: a letter from your local doctor stating what your medical treatment is and what treatment is necessary; a letter from a doctor/clinic in the United States stating their awareness of the medical condition and willingness to treat it, including the entire cost of all treatment; evidence of your ability to finance all of the medical treatment and the sources of that financing; and any other supporting documentation that you feel will help your case. Please keep in mind that even with this documentation, there is no guarantee that you will qualify for a visa.

3. Do I have to come back to the consular section to pick up my passport or can I have it delivered to me?

We encourage all applicants who qualify for visas to have their passports returned via DHL. The service costs 8 lari and is payable to the DHL delivery person at the time the package is received. We will begin to require all passports with visas to be returned to applicants via the DHL service beginning May 1, 2007. You may specify the address to which you would like your package delivered.

4. What documents do I need to bring to qualify for a tourist or business visa?

Generally speaking, documents are not required at all for a tourist or business visa and a consular officer is under no obligation to review them. In fact, at many of our Embassies

and Consulates, applicants for tourist and business visas are not allowed to bring documents to their interview. In Tbilisi, we allow you and encourage you to bring them, but we do not normally want to view every document in every case. The officer who conducts your visa interview may ask you for certain documents during the course of your conversation, so please do have any documentation you bring with you organized and easily accessible. We may ask for information about your employment or financial situation. Please note that invitation letters and affidavits of support from family and friends in the United States are not required and we do not normally review these.

5. My immigrant visa application was recently refused for “administrative processing.” Should I apply for a tourist visa to make the process go faster?

No. In order to qualify for a tourist or other non-immigrant visa, you must first establish that you are *not* an intending immigrant. If you have an immigrant visa pending, it will be very difficult to qualify for a non-immigrant visa. Please wait until your immigrant visa case is resolved for the fastest processing possible in your case.

6. I am traveling to the United States with some colleagues for a business conference. Should we apply for visas at the same time or can I apply separately?

For groups traveling together, we recommend that you try to apply at the same time, but we recognize that this is not always possible. Ultimately, the decision on when and with whom to apply is up to you, but please do list your colleagues on your application in the section where you are asked to name your traveling companions in order to facilitate faster processing of your case.

7. Are there any preferences for returning students during the visa interview?

No. Everyone is treated equally when applying for visas, regardless of whether they have received a visa before. You will need to schedule your appointment at TBC Bank and go through the interview process with everyone else. Make sure to plan ahead when making your summer plans to allow time for visa processing. We do anticipate a high demand for visa appointments this spring and summer and the wait time to get an appointment will likely increase for the next few months.

8. I have some questions about a local company that facilitates J-1 summer work and travel programs. Is it true that they can guarantee visa issuance?

While I cannot provide information on the reliability of a local company, I can tell you that there is NEVER a guarantee that a visa will be issued and anyone who tells you otherwise is not being truthful. Please do your homework when researching these organizations before you sign up to participate—if you hear rumors about a group having problems, there is likely some truth to the rumors.