



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Expanded Interview Waiver Program in Argentina

1. What is the expanded visa interview waiver program (IWP) and when will it be launched in Argentina?

As a result of strengthened U.S.-Argentine bilateral relations, President Obama announced an initiative to facilitate travel for Argentines visiting the United States. The expanded IWP program seeks to reduce barriers for travelers by implementing the visa interview waiver program for certain groups. The expanded program will allow some Argentine citizens (applicants must have an Argentine passport) seeking a new visa to have their applications reviewed and adjudicated without having to appear before a consular officer for a visa interview. Certain applicants renewing a visa may also be eligible for a waiver of their interview, please see question 5 below on the renewal process.

The expanded program will be launched in Argentina on **May 16, 2016**.

2. Who is eligible for the IWP expanded program?

If an applicant is a citizen of Argentina, their visa interview may be waived* under the expanded IWP program as long as they meet the following criteria:

- An Argentine child who has not yet reached his/her 16th birthday
-OR-
- An Argentine 66 years of age or older
-AND-
- Have no prior arrests or criminal convictions
- Have no prior violations of U.S. immigration laws or regulations

*Please note that the consular section reserves the right to require an applicant to appear before a consular officer for an interview as necessary.

3. I was not born in Argentina. Will I qualify for the interview waiver under this program?

Only Argentine nationals are eligible under the expanded interview waiver program (you must have an Argentine passport). If you are a national or resident of Argentina without an Argentine passport, you may be eligible for interview waiver under the regular IWP program that waives interviews for applicants who are under age 14 and over age 79 or who are renewing a recently expired visa (within 48 months).

If you are not a resident of Argentina, you are not eligible for interview waiver and must interview in person before a consular officer. Non-Argentines must include a copy of their Argentine national ID card (DNI) along with their application in order to prove residency.

4. What visa categories will be covered under the expanded IWP program?

The expanded IWP program will only apply to first time applicants for a B1/B2 Travel and Tourism/Business visa. In most cases an applicant will receive a 10 year multiple entry visa.

If you are renewing a U.S. visa, please see question number 5 for additional information.

5. I need to renew my U.S. visa...am I also eligible for interview waiver?

If you are renewing a U.S. visa, you may be eligible for an interview waiver if you meet the following criteria:

- The applicant's visa has expired within the last 48 months or will expire soon.
- The previously issued visa was in the **SAME** visa category, and NOT in the E, H, L, P, or R category.
- For B1/B2 visa applicants, the previous visa must have had a validity of five years or more.
- Have complied with U.S. immigration laws and regulations.

Please note:

- Some restrictions apply for F and J visa renewals, for additional information please visit our Embassy website.
- Third country nationals residing in Argentina may renew their visas via mail with a copy of their DNI if they meet all four criteria above.

6. Is the IWP program the same as the Visa Waiver Program? Do I still need a visa to travel to the U.S.?

The expanded interview waiver program for Argentina is **NOT** the same as the Visa Waiver Program. Argentina is currently not a member of the Visa Waiver Program. All Argentines traveling to the United States **MUST** have a valid U.S. visa.

The expanded IWP program only exempts the requirement to attend an interview and only applies to an Argentine child who has not yet reached his/her 16th birthday or an Argentine 66 years of age or older.

7. Will I ever need to go in-person to the U.S. Embassy for an interview?

The goal of the IWP program is to minimize the need for in-person interviews for applicants who are eligible for the interview waiver. It is important to note that consular officers reserve the right to require an applicant to appear in person for an interview as necessary.

8. I just turned 16 and my grandmother just turned 65, do we qualify for an interview waiver?

No. In order to qualify for the expanded interview waiver program, first time B1/B2 visa applicants must be under 16 years of age, meaning they have not yet completed their 16th birthday. For applicants over 65 years of age, this means that only applicants who have completed their 66th birthday and above are eligible for the program.

For those applicants under the age of 16, we must receive your documents at least two weeks prior to the 16th birthday to process your application in time.

9. Where do I send my documents and passport and will I still need to visit the Customer Service Center (CAS)?

Residents of CABA and greater Buenos Aires (GBA) must schedule an appointment to visit the CAS to submit their application in person. Non-residents of CABA and GBA may submit their application by mail. All applicants must submit their DS-160 confirmation page, passport, proof of payment, and one 5 x 5 picture to the CAS at:

**Centro de Atención al Solicitante
Avenida Santa Fe 4569
Palermo, CABA
Argentina, C1425GMN**

If you choose to mail-in your documents and passport, please note that **ONLY** the following DHL offices will mail the package at **NO COST**:

- **Mar del Plata: Avenida Independencia 1952**
- **Córdoba: Ayacucho 23**
- **Rosario: Avenida Pellegrini 1075**
- **Mendoza: San Martin 93**

If your Province does not have a DHL branch or you choose to send via a different courier, a cost will apply. **DO NOT** send your documents and passports directly to the U.S. Embassy. All submissions should be addressed to the CAS.

10. Do we still need to visit the CAS for fingerprinting?

If you are eligible for the IWP program, you will not be required to be present at the CAS for fingerprints. Your fingerprints will be taken by a Customs and Border Protection Officer at the time of your entry to the United States.

11. Where do I pick up my passport?

Once processing is finalized, your passport will be mailed at **NO COST** to the DHL location you selected during your application process or to the CAS for those applicants who selected to pick up the passport at the CAS location.

If you want to receive the passport at home you can choose the DHL Premium shipping option and pay an additional fee for home delivery. For more information about mail services please visit: <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/es-ar/niv/information/courier>.

If you do not live near a DHL branch, you must pay the Premium shipping service or otherwise must travel to the nearest DHL branch to pick-up the passport.

12. I represent a Travel Agency and I have a large group of applicants that qualify for the expanded IWP program, how do I process them together?

Travel agencies processing large groups, such as the “Quinceaneras to Disney”, who qualify for the expanded IWP program, will continue to use the Groups process method and should email BuenosAiresGroups@state.gov for additional guidance.

For all large Quinceañera groups, you must still make an appointment at our CAS to mail **or** deliver your group’s documents in person. If you are from outside of Buenos Aires you will not need to actually attend the appointment and may submit the documents by courier. These appointments ensure that we only accept the amount of applications that we can process in a given day. If you are from Buenos Aires province and you are processing a large group, you will need to make an appointment at our CAS to drop off the passports and documentation as specified in question number 9.

The Embassy encourages that Travel Agencies space-out their passport mailings of large groups and mail in the documents 2 or more weeks in advance of proposed travel date.

13. Where can I find more information about the interview waiver program?

For more information about the Argentine expanded interview waiver program, please visit our website at <https://ar.usembassy.gov/visas/>.