

Visa Interview Tips Making Your Interview Successful

Download your letter of invitation, and make your appointment for a visa interview early! Wait times for a visa interview can be several weeks or more in many countries, especially during peak travel periods. With this in mind, we strongly urge you to download/complete a letter of invitation to attend HITEC 2016 as soon as possible. These helpful tips may make your visa interview process easier.

- **Download a letter of invitation from HFTP, producers of HITEC, beginning January 2016 by visiting www.HFTP.org/HITEC.** The sooner you download your letter of invitation the better. With recent changes in the immigration laws, it may take longer to apply for a visitor visa.
- **Complete all information requested within the Letter of Invitation to utilize this for your visa interview.**
- **Schedule an appointment with your embassy as soon as you have completed your visa letter.** Make your appointment early as wait times can be long in some countries. Please complete your letter of invitation before making your appointment and make sure you have your letter available for your interview.
- **Travel with an official embassy delegation.** Traveling with a delegation organized by your local embassy can improve your chances of receiving visa approval. Many embassies organize official delegations through their commercial sections. If you are interested in joining a delegation, contact your local embassy and ask if the commercial trade specialist is organizing a delegation.
- **Verify fees and requirements.** Go to <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html> to find out about visa fees and the methods of payment accepted by the embassy or consulate. The website also contains information on other requirements such as photographs.
- **Be sure to complete all official documents.** Answer all questions completely. Do not use "n.a.", "Not applicable" in your forms. If the answer is in the negative, use "no", "nil", or "none."
- **Show proof of "strong ties" that bind you to your country of residence.** The Consular Officers conducting visa interviews look for proof that you will return to your country. Evidence of "strong ties" includes proof of business ownership or employment, social and family relationships.
- **If you have traveled to the U.S. previously, provide documentation demonstrating you returned to your country on time (airline boarding pass for example).** Show proof that you returned within the timeframe you stated. For example, use an airline ticket stub/boarding pass that shows your return flight or meeting materials that show you attended a business conference.
- **With your application, include any materials HFTP, producers of HITEC, may have sent you.** Include with your application any printed conference materials you receive from HITEC to prove the show is a legitimate business event. Getting a visa is easy if you are prepared. Interviews typically last no more than five minutes, and the questions are related to confirming your travel plans and ties to your home country. But remember, wait times can be long for visa processing. Register for HITEC, download/complete your letter of invitation and make your appointment as soon as possible.

Helpful Resources

For up-to-date information on HITEC 2016: www.hftp.org/hitec

Need more information on getting a temporary visa?
<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>

Locate your nearest embassy or consulate: www.usembassy.gov

Important Dates

HITEC 2016
June 20–23, 2016

Attendee Registration Discount
Deadline
May 13, 2016

Exhibitor Registration Opens
April 2016

Hotel Reservation Deadline
May 26, 2016