



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN U.S. VISA APPLICATION FEES

On March 29, 2012, the U.S. Department of State published an interim final rule in the Federal Register, establishing a new [Schedule of Fees for Consular Services](#). The new schedule includes fee increases for applications under some of the most common nonimmigrant visa categories. The new schedule applies to fees for visa applications, which are filed with U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad; U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) filing fees remain unchanged.

Nonimmigrant Visa Application Fee Changes

Fees for non-petition-based visa applications, such as B-1/B-2 visas, border crossing cards, and TN visas, will increase from \$140 to \$160. Application fees for H, L, O, P, Q, and R visas will increase from \$150 to \$190. Some application fees will be reduced. The E visa application fee will be reduced from \$390 to \$270, and the K visa application fee will be reduced from \$350 to \$240.

Immigrant Visa Application Fee Changes

Applications for immigrant visas under the Immediate Relative and family-based immigrant categories will be reduced from \$330 to \$230, while the employment-based immigrant visa application fee will be reduced from \$720 to \$405. Fees under the diversity, special immigrant, and returning resident categories will experience more modest reductions.

Effective Date

While interested parties may offer comments on the rule until May 29, 2012, as an *interim final rule*, the rule may become effective before the comment period closes. The effective date for the new fee schedule is April 13, 2012. On or after April 13, 2012, applicants should be prepared to pay the new fee. Should a visa interview be scheduled before April 13th for a date after April 13th, it is possible that the U.S. Consulate may require payment of the balance of the application fee during the visa appointment.