



P2 Guide for Permanent Residents of Canada

All Permanent Residents applying for P2 work permits must go through an additional screening process conducted at a U.S. embassy or consulate. Before physically crossing the border, each PR is required to meet with a consulate officer to obtain non-immigrant work status. That officer will issue an I-94 Departure of Record, facilitating entry into the U.S.

IMPORTANT: Before a non-citizen can make appointment with a U.S. consulate, USCIS needs to have issued a receipt number. If you apply for a visa under Regular Processing, the AFM will typically have this number in 2 to 3 weeks. If you apply for a visa under Premium Processing, the AFM will typically have a receipt number within a week.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I schedule my interview?

USVisaApplications.com can be used to schedule a US Visa interview at any US Consulate in Canada. You can schedule a US Visa interview appointment in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver, Halifax, or Quebec City.

[CLICK HERE for a full list of the U.S. Embassy and Consulates, including their addresses.](#)

2. How will this impact my P2 processing time?

Your P2 application and petition will be processed normally by the AFM/CFM and USCIS and are subject to the usual risk of delays.

Our current recommendation for Canadian citizens is that the P2 application be delivered to the CFM office at least 90 days before the requested date of entry. However, a permanent resident will only be able to enter the U.S. as a worker once they have had their visa activated at the U.S. Consulate. For that reason, [Visa Appointment Wait Times](#) should be taken into consideration when you are preparing your application.

3. How long does it take to get an appointment?

[Visa Appointment Wait Times](#) can vary greatly between consulates. It is crucial that you verify the current wait times at the consulates nearest you and plan accordingly when preparing your P2 application.

4. What if I have a history of P2 visas? Is it possible to have the in-person interview waived?

Effective January 1, 2024 (and subject to annual review), Consular officers have the authority and discretion to waive the in-person interview for non-immigrant visa applicants applying for any non-immigrant visa classification who meet all of the following criteria:

- Were previously issued a non-immigrant visa in any classification, unless the only prior issued visa was a B visa.
- Are applying within 48 months of their most recent non-immigrant visa's expiration date.
- Apply in their country of nationality or residence.
- Have never been refused a visa (unless such refusal was overcome or waived).
- Have no apparent or potential ineligibility.

Consular officers may still require in-person interviews on a case-by-case basis or because of local conditions. Applicants are encouraged to check embassy and consulate websites for more detailed information.

5. Can I expedite my appointment?

Consular sections may be able to expedite your interview date if there is an urgent, unforeseen situation. The process to request an expedited non-immigrant visa interview varies by location. You should refer to the instructions on the website of the Embassy or Consulate Visa Section where you will interview, or on their online appointment scheduling site. You will need to provide proof of the need for an earlier appointment.

In all cases: You must first submit the online visa application form (DS-160), pay the application fee, and schedule the first available interview appointment. Only at this point will a consular section consider your request for an expedited appointment.

Circumstances that may be considered for expedited appointments include urgent travel that will have significant economic bearing on a U.S. venue. When requesting an expedited appointment, you must show that the Permanent Resident's inability to work in the U.S. will have a significant financial impact on a U.S. entity. We recommend you contact the U.S. entity (the promoter or the venue) to ask whether they can provide a summary of their losses should the Permanent Resident be unable to perform.

6. Who do I contact if I still have questions about the P2 process for permanent residents?

CFM Arist Immigration: (416) 391-5161 / immigration@afm.org

Helpful Links: [U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Canada](#)
[Visa Appointment Wait Times](#)
[Nonimmigrant Visa - Instructions Page \(state.gov\)](#)
[Official U.S. Department of State Visa Appointment Service | Canada | English \(usvisa-info.com\)](#)