

## **DOS: Interview Waiver Pilot Program in China**

Wed, 02/15/2012

- [Department of State](#)

The United States Ambassador to China, Gary Locke, [announced](#) that the U.S. Mission to China will launch a pilot program to streamline visa processing. The U.S. consular officers will be able to waive visa interviews for some qualified nonimmigrant applicants who are renewing their visas within 48 months of the expiration of their previously held visa, and within the same classification. Under the Interview Waiver Pilot Program previous holders of B (visitors for business/pleasure), C1 (transit), D (crewmembers), F (students), J (exchange visitors), M (nonacademic students), and O (visitors with extraordinary ability) can renew their visas at U.S. consular posts in China if their visas have been expired less than 48 months. Ambassador Locke also announced that the Department of State is adding 50 new consular officers to China in 2012 and that an additional visa processing location will be opening in Beijing which will increase visa interview capacity by 50%.

## **DHS: Final Rule on the Global Entry Program**

Mon, 02/06/2012

- [Customs and Border Protection](#)

On February 6, 2012, DHS published a [final rule](#) in the Federal Register on the Global Entry Program. The final rule establishes Global Entry as a permanent program that allows U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to expedite clearance of preapproved, low-risk air travelers arriving in the U.S. Global Entry is currently available at 20 international airports and allows for a streamlined, automated alternative to regular passport processing lines. It allows Global Entry members to enter the U.S. by inserting their passports or lawful permanent resident cards into a digital reader at electronic kiosks, provide digital fingerprints, answer customs declaration, and then present a transaction receipt to CBP officers before leaving the inspection area. To find out more information on Global Entry and how to become a member, please follow this [link](#).

## **DOS: Final Rule on Fees for Consular Services**

Thu, 02/02/2012

- [Department of State](#)

On February 2, 2012, DOS published in the Federal Register a [final rule](#) on schedule of fees for consular services. This rule adopts as final the interim final rule published on June 28, 2010.

Among others, the final rule implements the following processing fees:

- Immigrant Visa Application for Employment-Based Applications: from \$355 to \$720
- Immigrant Visa Application for Other Visa Classes: from \$355 to \$305
- Diversity Visa Program Fee: from \$375 to \$440
- Immigrant Visa Security Surcharge: from \$45 to \$74