



Embassy of the United States of America
Visa Branch, 5 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W1A 2JB

Date: _____

Ref: _____

Dear Visa Applicant:

We regret to inform you that you have been found ineligible for a nonimmigrant visa under Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Under U.S. immigration law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas are presumed to be intending immigrants. In order to be approved for a visa, applicants must satisfy the interviewing officer that they are entitled to the type of visa for which they are applying and that they will depart the United States at the end of their authorized temporary stay. This means that before a visa can be issued, applicants must demonstrate strong social, economic and/or familial ties outside the United States.

Unfortunately, because you either did not demonstrate strong ties outside the United States today or were not able to demonstrate that your intended activities in the U.S. would be consistent with the visa status, you are ineligible for a nonimmigrant visa.

Today's decision cannot be appealed. However, you may reapply. If you have additional evidence to demonstrate compelling reasons to depart the United States that you did not present today, you may wish to bring that with you. Otherwise, you should consider reapplying after there has been a significant change in your current situation.

If you do decide to reapply, you must submit a new application form and photo and pay the visa application fee again. There can be no guarantee that you will receive a different decision. Only a new interview can determine that.

Sincerely,

Consular Officer
Nonimmigrant Visa Section
Embassy of the United States

“What if I sent in more documents – would I receive a visa then?”

Applying for a nonimmigrant visa is not primarily a document-based process. The main issue in determining whether an applicant qualifies for a visa is intent, and documents alone cannot establish intentions. In some cases, documents can help establish an applicant's intent to return to the United Kingdom by showing that the applicant is well established here. In other cases, the circumstances are clear enough that documents are unnecessary. We appreciate the effort you made to gather any documents you submitted. However, if your visa application was refused it is highly unlikely that the consular officer's decision would be altered by the submission of additional documents.

“I am a citizen/ legal resident of the United Kingdom. Why don't I qualify?”

Many recent immigrants to the United Kingdom cannot demonstrate sufficiently strong ties here to qualify for a nonimmigrant visa to the United States. There is no magic formula that will work in each case. In general, you must be able to show that you have settled in the United Kingdom and that this is, and will remain, your permanent home. In reviewing your application, the consular officer considered many aspects such as: How long have you been at your current address? How long have you been at your current job? Are you, or are your children enrolled in school? What commitments do you have here that would compel you to return to the United Kingdom? What social ties do you have in the United Kingdom? Often it is a question of time, and the best way to qualify for a visa is to reside in the United Kingdom for a longer period of time and to build further social and economic ties here.

“Why didn't they tell me when I called that I would not get a visa?”

Each visa application is thoroughly examined and evaluated on its own merits. Since it is impossible to obtain all relevant facts until you have completed the application process, including an interview if required, we are unable to tell you by phone whether you will or will not receive a visa. Our telephone information system, as well as information distributed on the Internet and through travel agents, is designed to give general information regarding the visa application process and suggest types of documents that might help demonstrate eligibility for a U.S. visa. However, in no circumstances is someone able to guarantee in advance that you will receive a U.S. visa.

“I'm already in the United Kingdom, why can't you issue me a visa here?”

The consular officer who evaluated your application is accredited in the United Kingdom and is only able to assess your ties to the United Kingdom. It is not possible for consular officers here to be experts about all other countries, or to understand any social or economic ties you may have to another country. Nevertheless, even though your application has been refused in the United Kingdom, if you are here temporarily you may be able to qualify for a visa if you applied at home. Consular officers in your home country are better able to assess your situation there.

“Why can't I get my money back?”

The fee that you paid is an application fee. Everyone who applies for a U.S. visa anywhere in the world must pay this fee, which covers the cost of adjudicating your application. As the application form states, this fee is non-refundable regardless of whether you are issued a visa or not. If you choose to reapply for a visa, whether at this Embassy or elsewhere, you will have to pay the application fee again.

“Will this refusal prevent me from getting a visa in the future?”

Having your visa application refused here in the United Kingdom does not make you ineligible to receive a visa in the future. U.S. consular officers will understand that your application here was evaluated and refused based on your current circumstances in the United Kingdom. If you choose to apply anywhere else, your application will be evaluated based upon your situation in that country, and on the merits of that application alone.