

Advisory Update: U.S. Processing Delays

The announcement regarding relaxation of the ban on travel to the U.S. from early November will bring relief to many travelers. We do not yet have a specific date on which any changes will take effect, nor do we have details regarding how the relaxations will work. We do know, however, that vaccination and testing will be critical requirements for travel.

In anticipation of the November change, many consulates have stopped processing NIEs unless they are for humanitarian or emergency purposes, while others have adopted a more stringent approach and are quickly denying many cases that would have previously been approved. As we plan for relaxations in travel, we are also anticipating further stress on U.S. consulates around the world, as there is a backlog of individuals waiting to travel.

In many instances, travelers waited to process visas knowing it would be difficult to qualify for an NIE. We are seeing wide swings in appointment availability; in some countries, appointments are available in a matter of weeks, while in others, there are delays well into 2022. These timeframes are directly related to how limited operations were, and/or continue to be, in various countries. We recommend that individuals request appointments well in advance of travel, as we expect appointment delays to continue into next year.

Contact your Newland Chase Client Services Manager to start your application.

