

No. 4794

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
FINLAND**

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to non-immigrant visas. Helsinki, 7 July, 26 August and 14 December 1955

Exchange of notes (with enclosed schedule) constituting an agreement amending the above-mentioned Agreement. Helsinki, 15 and 20 February 1956

Official text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 23 June 1959.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
FINLANDE**

Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux visas de passeport de non-immigrants. Helsinki, 7 juillet, 26 août et 14 décembre 1955

Échange de notes (avec tableau joint) constituant un accord modifiant l'Accord susmentionné. Helsinki, 15 et 20 février 1956

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 23 juin 1959.

No. 4794. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND FINLAND RELATING TO NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS. HELSINKI, 7 JULY, 26 AUGUST AND 14 DECEMBER 1955

I

The American Embassy to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 7

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to inform the Ministry that, in implementation of a directive of the President of the United States designed to encourage and facilitate international travel, the Department of State on June 30, 1955 published various changes affecting the issuance of nonimmigrant (temporary visitor) visas, as follows :

1. On a basis of reciprocity, a nonimmigrant visa may be issued for a maximum validity of four years for any number of entries and with no fees, provided the applicant's passport is valid.

2. On a basis of reciprocity, a nonimmigrant visa may be revalidated without formal application any number of times not exceeding four years from the date of original issue, provided the applicant's passport is valid.

3. Such visa may be revalidated if it is about to expire or expires less than twelve months prior to application for revalidation.

4. Where a visa valid for a single entry is required on a basis of reciprocity, there may nevertheless be issued a nonimmigrant visa valid for two entries, provided two fees are collected, if fees are required.

5. Where no fees are required, or fees are equal, a combination " B-1 and 2 " visa may be issued. Where fees differ, a combination " B-1 and 2 " visa

¹ Came into force on 14 December 1955 by the exchange of the said notes.

may be issued if the applicant pays the higher fee. (" B-1 " and " B-2 " are symbols for visas for temporary visits to the United States for business and for pleasure, respectively.)

6. For countries which feel it necessary to charge a fee for each entry, the Department of State would, on a basis of reciprocity, issue a visa valid for as many entries as the applicant desires if the fee is multiplied by the number of intended entries.

The Embassy has been requested to express to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs the desire of the Department of State to reach a reciprocity agreement with the Government of Finland on this subject within the limits described herein.

American Embassy

Helsinki, July 7, 1955

II

The American Embassy to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 39

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and with reference to its note No. 7 of July 7, 1955, has the honor to inform the Ministry that, effective immediately, the following classes of nonimmigrant visas will be issued without fees for periods of maximum validity indicated below :

- B-1. Multiple applications for entry within 48 months.
- B-2. Multiple applications for entry within 48 months.
- C-1. Multiple applications for entry within 48 months.
- D. Multiple applications for entry within 48 months.
- E-1. Multiple applications for entry within 48 months.
- F. Multiple applications for entry within 48 months.
- I. Multiple applications for entry within 48 months.
- H-1. Valid for period of employment approved in petition and for multiple applications for entry.
- H-2. Same as H-1.
- H-3. Same as H-1.

The Ministry is further informed that all of the above-mentioned classes of visas will be issued for a validity period of 48 months regardless of the period of validity of the passport. However, the holder of a valid nonimmigrant visa must have in his possession at the time of application for admission at a port of entry of the United States, a passport valid for a minimum period of six months from the date of his admission or contemplated period of stay in the United States. Such passport may be either the passport in which the visa stamp is placed or a new passport. Thus, a nonimmigrant can fulfil the visa and passport requirements by presenting two documents, one of which fulfills the visa requirement and the other the passport requirement. It is to be noted, however, that the new passport must show that the alien is possessed of the same nationality as he had when the visa was issued to him. The officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service will continue to determine the length of stay authorized at the time of each application for admission at a port of entry of the United States, and will grant the right to apply for extension of this period of stay in the United States.

The Embassy requests the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for a reply as to whether the Government of Finland will grant citizens of the United States visas of similar classes valid for a similar period on a reciprocal basis.

The Embassy of the United States of America
Helsinki, August 26, 1955

III

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Embassy

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

No. 38026

With a note of August 26 last, No. 39, the Embassy of the United States of America have informed the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the decision of the Department of State to issue free of charge to Finnish citizens certain classes of nonimmigrant visas under certain conditions for a period of maximum validity of four years for any number of entries, and asked if the Government of Finland will grant the United States similar facilities on the basis of reciprocity.

In reply the Ministry for Foreign Affairs have the honour to state that the Government of Finland will grant citizens of the United States the maximum facilities allowed by Finnish law, i.e. the visas free of charge and for multiple

entries can be issued for a period of validity of two years and revalidated, when necessary, again for the same period. Other formalities affecting the issuance of visas will be kept as before.

For practical reasons the above-mentioned facility will be granted to United States citizens from the 1st of January 1956.

Helsinki, December 14th, 1955

[SEAL] (*Initialled*) [illegible]

To the United States Embassy
Helsinki

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
FINLAND AMENDING THE AGREEMENT OF 7 JULY,
26 AUGUST AND 14 DECEMBER 1955² RELATING TO
NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS. HELSINKI, 15 AND 20 FEB-
RUARY 1956

I

The American Embassy to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 151

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to its notes No. 7 and 39 of July 7 and August 26, 1955, respectively, and the Ministry's reply No. 38026 of December 14, 1955,³ has the honor to inform the Ministry that the Department of State published February 1, 1956 an announcement that the maximum validity of nonimmigrant (temporary visitor) visas for Finnish citizens is twenty-four months. According to the announcement, visas of the type known as B-1, B-2, C-1, E-1, F and I could be issued for multiple applications for entry within a period not to exceed twenty-four months.

Visas issued in the above cited classes have, until the February 1 announcement, been issued with a maximum validity of forty-eight months. The Ministry stated in its note No. 38026 that the Government of Finland would, from January 1, 1956, issue to American citizens gratis nonimmigrant visas with an initial validity of twenty-four months, which is the maximum allowed by Finnish law. In the circumstances, the reciprocity provisions of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act require that nonimmigrant visas issued to eligible Finnish citizens be limited to a period of validity not exceeding twenty-four months.

The Embassy takes this opportunity to provide the Ministry with a current schedule⁴ of types of United States nonimmigrant visas for which nationals of Finland may qualify with indicated maximum period of validity in each class. In connection with the validity of A and G visas, which are normally limited to a maximum validity of twelve months, the Embassy would appreciate learning

¹ Came into force on 20 February 1956 by the exchange of the said notes.

² See p. 264 of this volume.

³ See pp. 264, 266 and 268 of this volume.

⁴ See p. 274 of this volume.

whether the Government of Finland perceives any value in having such visas issued to its accredited officials classified A-1, A-2, G-1, G-2, or G-3 valid for more than twelve months.

The United States Government is gratified that the Government of Finland is now issuing all types of nonimmigrant visas to American citizens valid originally for a period of twenty-four months for multiple applications for admission, since this type of documentation is necessarily more convenient than the re-entry permit which previously had to be obtained after entry.

Enclosure :

Schedule of Nonimmigrant Visas

American Embassy

Helsinki, February 15, 1956

FINLAND

SCHEDULE OF NONIMMIGRANT VISAS

<i>Class</i>	<i>Visa symbol</i>	<i>Validity of visa</i>	<i>Number of times visa may be used</i>
Ambassador, public minister, career diplomatic or consular officer, and members of immediate family.	A-1	1 year	Multiple
Other foreign-government official or employee, and members of immediate family.	A-2	1 year	Multiple
Attendant, servant, or personal employee of A-1 and A-2 classes, and members of immediate family.	A-3	1 year	Multiple
Temporary visitor for business.	B-1	2 years	Multiple
Temporary visitor for pleasure.	B-2	2 years	Multiple
Alien in transit.	C-1	2 years	Multiple
Alien in transit to United Nations Headquarters District under § 11 (3), (4), or (5) of the Headquarters Agreement. ¹	C-2	3 months	Single
Foreign-government official, members of immediate family, attendant, servant, or personal employee, in transit.	C-3	3 months	Single
Crewman (Seaman or airman).	D	4 years	Multiple
Treaty merchant, spouse and children.	E-1	2 years	Multiple
Exchange Visitor.	EX	3 months	Single
Student.	F	2 years	Multiple
Principal resident representative of recognized foreign member government to international organization, his staff, and members of immediate family.	G-1	1 year	Multiple

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 11, p. 11.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Visa symbol</i>	<i>Validity of visa</i>	<i>Number of times visa may be used</i>
Other representative of recognized foreign member government to intl. organization and members of immediate family.	G-2	1 year	Multiple
Representative of nonrecognized or non-member foreign government to international organization, and members of immediate family.	G-3	3 months	Single
International organization officer or employee, and members of immediate family.	G-4	1 year	Multiple
Attendant, servant, or personal employee of G-1, G-2, G-3, and G-4 classes, and members of immediate family.	G-5	1 year	Multiple
Temporary worker of distinguished merit and ability.	H-1	Valid for period of employment approved in petition and for multiple applications for entry	
Other temporary worker, skilled or unskilled.	H-2		
Industrial trainee.	H-3		
Representative of foreign information media, spouse and children.	I	2 years	Multiple

II

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Embassy

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

No. 23261

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note from the United States Embassy of February 15, 1956, No. 151, with detailed information of the different types of nonimmigrant visas to be issued to Finnish citizens on the basis of reciprocity.

In this connection the Ministry would like to point out that the visas for all kind of passports of United States citizens, diplomatic passports included, will be issued for a period of two years together with multiple entries. The residence permit for diplomatic officials appointed to Finland and the members of their family will be granted "for the period of the validity of the passport" together with an unlimited number of entries to this country.

Helsinki, February 20, 1956

[SEAL] (*Initialled*) [illegible]

To the United States Embassy
Helsinki