



CLIENT ALERT
**THE UNITED STATES REVISES
VISA POLICY FOR NIGERIANS**

INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, 8th July 2025, the United States (“U.S.”) Department of State announced significant updates to its Reciprocal Non-immigrant Visa Policy (the “Policy¹”). This Policy, which is effective immediately, sets new parameters for how Nigerians can obtain non-immigrant visas for travel to the United States.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW POLICY



Under the Policy, non-immigrant and non-diplomatic visas issued to Nigerian citizens will now be single-entry visas with a three-month validity period. Notably, any U.S. non-immigrant visas issued before 8th July 2025 will retain their original status and validity. This Policy adjustment marks a notable shift from previous visa terms, which often allowed for longer validity periods and multiple entries. The U.S.

Department of State emphasises that this is part of a global, continuous review process of visa reciprocity, which can be adjusted at any time to increase or decrease permitted entries and duration of validity.

The rationale behind these changes, as stated by the U.S. Mission, is to protect the integrity of U.S. immigration systems. These standards are underpinned by global technical and security benchmarks, including ensuring countries issue secure travel documents with verified traveller identities, implementing measures to limit overstays by travellers on U.S. visas, and sharing relevant security and/or criminal record information to protect public safety.

NEXT STEPS FOR STAKEHOLDERS

While the U.S. government continues to engage with the Nigerian government on any challenges arising from this Policy, Nigerian travellers are encouraged to respect and adhere to the terms of their visas and ensure their travel documents are authentic, accurate, and up to date.

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¹ Revised Visa Reciprocity Policy for Nigeria: <https://ng.usembassy.gov/reviced-visa-reciprocity-policy-for-nigeria/#:~:text=U.S.%20Embassy%20and%20Consulate,in%20Nigeria&text=Effective%20immediately%2C%20most%20non%2Dimmigrant,retain%20their%20status%20and%20validity.>