

Teaching about the Holocaust

Documentation Required for Immigration Visas to Enter the United States

In the years immediately preceding U.S. entry into World War II, potential immigrants were required to file the following documents to obtain a U.S. visa.

- Visa application (Form BC)—Five copies
- Birth certificate—Two copies (country of birth determined applicable quotas)
- Quota number, which established the person's place on the waiting list to enter the United States
- Two sponsors (close relatives of prospective immigrant were preferred). The sponsors had to be American citizens or have permanent resident status, and they had to fill out and provide the following:
 - Affidavit of Support and Sponsorship (Form C)—Six copies, notarized
 - Certified copy of most recent federal tax return
 - Affidavit from a bank about accounts
 - Affidavit from any other responsible person regarding other assets (affidavit from the sponsor's employer or statement of commercial rating)
- Certificate of Good Conduct from German police authorities, including two copies of each of the following:
 - Police dossier prison record
 - Military record
 - Other government records about the individual
- Affidavits of Good Conduct (after September 1940)
- Evidence of passing a physical examination at a U.S. consulate
- Proof of permission to leave Germany (imposed September 30, 1939)
- Proof the prospective immigrant had booked passage to the Western hemisphere (imposed September 1939)