

Visa Information for Foreign Media and Filming Groups

Visas to foreign newsmen, journalists, and cinema/TV groups are issued only upon prior authorization from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila.

Hence the procedure will take quite some time. The Consulate encourages them to file their visa applications eight (8) weeks before their intended date of travel.

Newsmen and Journalists

Foreign newsmen and journalists visiting the Philippines in pursuit of their profession should file their visa application at the Philippine Embassy or Philippine Consulate General. They must submit the following:

1. Accomplished [Non-Immigrant Visa Application Form](#), with one passport-size photo.
2. One (1) photocopy of the passport data page
3. Curriculum Vitae of the newsman/journalist
4. Short-list of work credits
5. One (1) sample article written by the newsman/journalist
6. For photo-journalists five (5) by-line articles and samples of photos taken within the last two months
7. Background of media organization, including target market/audience, circulation and format
8. Letter of endorsement from the media organization / news agency.
9. Administrative arrangements for work in the Philippines:
 - a. List of members of the reportorial team, their nationalities and passport details
 - b. Planned itinerary and activities, with storyline for any films to be made
 - c. List of equipment to be carried by each team member, with certification from the media organization that said equipment will be re-exported at the end of the trip to the Philippines
 - d. Flight details (arrival and departure)
10. Name and pertinent details of contact person/s in the Philippines.

Visa applications will be forwarded to the DFA, which shall, in turn, consult with the International Press Center (IPC). If the applicant is given favorable endorsement by the IPC, the DFA shall authorize the Embassy to issue a 9(A) temporary visitor's visa with an initial stay of 59 days.

Upon arrival in the Philippines, foreign newsmen/journalists are required to report to the IPC (Address: National Press Club Bldg, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila; Telefax.: +63 2 5367448; Tel.: +63 2 309 1095), for accreditation and for assistance in case they would need to extend their visa.

The IPC will also assist foreign newsmen/journalists and documentary film producers in applying for a Special Work Permit (SWP) with the Bureau of Immigration. At present, the SWP fee is Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty Philippine pesos (Php 6,440.00) per person. Payment thereof is required of all foreign journalists coming into the country, including members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Cinema/TV Groups (including Documentary Filming Groups)

Visa applications from cinema/TV groups should be filed at the Philippine Embassy or Consulate in the country where the cinema/TV group's principal office is located. Applicants must submit the following:

1. Accomplished [Non-Immigrant Visa Application Form](#), with one passport-size photo

Letter request stating intention to shoot a documentary film in the Philippines and requesting for the accreditation of filming crew. The letter should be addressed to:

Ms. Virginia Arcilla-Agtay
Director
News and Information Bureau
Malacanang, Manila

Attention:
Lorina G. Delos Reyes
Head International Press Center
News and Information Bureau

Presidential Communications Operations Office
G/F National Press Club Bldg., Magallanes Drive
Intramuros, Manila 1002
Contact Details
tf: (632) 3366-6095
@:intlpresscenter@gmail.com

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2. Complete list of equipment to be used
3. List of production crew members and their designation, incl. personal particulars (i.e., date and place of birth)
4. Photocopy of the passport data page of each production crew member
5. Itinerary of the filming crew and their flight details (arrival and departure)
6. Synopsis/storyline of the proposed film
7. Name and pertinent details of the contact person/s in the Philippines

Upon verification of the bona fide credentials of the applicant, the visa application shall be forwarded to the DFA for approval. Upon arrival in the Philippines, foreign cinema/TV groups are required to report to the IPC

(Address: National Press Club Bldg, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila; Telefax: +63 2 536 7448; Tel.: +63 2 309 1095), for accreditation and for assistance in facilitating clearance and release of their filming equipment from the Bureau of Customs. For the IPC Press Accreditation Form, please [click here](#).

The IPC can also assist foreign cinema/TV groups in applying for a Special Work Permit (SWP) with the Bureau of Immigration. At present, the SWP fee is Six Thousand Four hundred Forty Philippine pesos (Php 6,440.00) plus P60.00 for the notarization of their application per person.

A filming clearance/permit from the Movie & Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) is no longer required. However, the visa applicant is required to secure an MTRCB Export Permit in order to bring out of the country the film or footages that he/she has shot or produced in the Philippines.

For further inquiries on visas for foreign journalists, please contact:

The Visa Officer
Philippine Consulate General San Francisco
447 Sutter St San Francisco, CA 94108 USA
t: +1 415-433-666
w: www.philippinessanfrancisco.org
@: visa@philippinessanfrancisco.org