

# **U.S. Immigration Application Prep Guide (2025 Edition)**

From Ita's Immigration Corner Itascorner.com

## **1. Before you File**

- Download the latest USCIS form directly from [uscis.gov/forms](https://uscis.gov/forms).
- Check current filing fees, fees change frequently. Use the USCIS Fee Calculator.
- Confirm you're sending your form to the correct address (Lockbox or Service Center).
- Gather passport-style photos (per USCIS requirements).

## **2. Essential Documents Checklist**

- Valid passport (biographic page + any visas).
- Birth certificate (translated if not in English).
- Marriage certificate or divorce decrees (if applying through marriage).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or green card of petitioner/sponsor.
- Police certificates (if required by your case).
- I-94 record (if applying inside the U.S.).

## **3. Financial Sponsorship**

- Most family cases require Form I-864 Affidavit of Support.
- Gather tax return & W-2/1099, pay stubs (last 3–6 months), employment verification letter.
- Optional: Bank statements as additional evidence.
- If income is not enough → line up a joint sponsor early.

## **4. Application Accuracy Tips**

- Answer every question, if it doesn't apply, write "N/A" or "None."
- Double-check dates & spellings (must match passports, visas, marriage records).

- Use black ink if filling by hand.
- Sign and date every form (missing signatures = automatic rejection)

## **5. New 2025 USCIS Rules to Watch**

- USCIS can deny without sending an RFE/NOID if documents are missing.
- Good Moral Character” rules expanded → even minor infractions may cause delays.
- Social media/online activity may be reviewed (avoid “anti-American” content).
- Derogatory information must be disclosed to you, but you must respond quickly.

## **6. After You File**

- Track your case online with your Receipt Number.
- Save a digital and paper copy of your entire application.
- Sign up for Case Status Alerts on [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov).
- Expect biometrics, interview, or RFE notices, respond within deadlines

## **7. Final Encouragement**

- Immigration is stressful, but preparation reduces anxiety. Stay calm, organized, and proactive. You are not alone.

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Visit [Itascorner.com](https://itascorner.com) for more tools like the Interview Tracker and Starter Kit.