



U.S. Consulate General Amsterdam

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Consul's Corner



Meet The New American Citizens Services Chief



Vice Consuls Chris Degnan (left) and Alfred Boll .

Vice Consul Chris Degnan has departed Amsterdam for an assignment in the Public Affairs Division of the Foreign Service Institute in Washington, DC. Post and the American community will miss Chris, and his colleagues at the Consulate wish him all the best for his onward assignment. The new head of the American Citizen Services Unit in Amsterdam is Vice Consul Alfred ("Fred") Boll, who has been Immigrant Visa Unit Chief since July 2006. Fred came to Amsterdam from the Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, where he was a Political-Economic Officer working on political-military issues. Fred is looking forward to working with the American community in the Netherlands, en spreekt goed Nederlands.

His first official outreach activity will be to represent the Consulate General at the American School of The Hague. This event will take place on September 1, 2007 from 12:00 to 15:00 at the American School located in Rijksweg 200, Wassenaar. Fred will be authorized to accept passport applications, register children for US citizenship (Consular Report of Birth Abroad), and provide notarial services. For details on fees and required forms and documents please go to <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>, "U.S. Citizen Services."

Know Someone Thinking About Studying Business in the U.S.?

The Dutch Ivy Circle Alumni Association invites you to its first Amsterdam Masters in Business Administration (MBA) fair on Sunday September 23, 2007, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It will be held at the Barlaeus Gymnasium in Amsterdam, and will give access to representatives of 10 internationally renowned business schools from the United States (Chicago, Columbia, Harvard, Kellogg, MIT Sloan, Stanford and Wharton) and Europe (IESE, INSEAD, LBS). The event offers a unique opportunity to meet admissions directors and alumni from top global MBA programs and a great platform to share and exchange information on MBA programs. The day is intended to make you much better equipped to conduct your MBA selection and application processes and increase your chances of acceptance at one of these outstanding business schools.

The Consul General will give a brief talk about educational opportunities in the U.S., and Consulate staff will be on hand to answer technical questions about U.S. visas and immigration. Those interested may pre-register at www.amsterdambafair.nl/registration. (Please note that places are limited and will be given on a first come first served basis.)

If you have already applied to Business Schools and/or you have been accepted, this event still presents a wonderful opportunity to meet alumni and learn more about your preferred school(s). For more information, please contact Henriette Hora Siccama, hora_siccama_henriette@bah.com, or call +31 20 504 1936.

You're Not a Tourist!

The fourth annual "I Am Not a Tourist" fair returns to the Beurs van Berlage, October 21, 2007.

Get the information you need from companies and agencies that specialize in expatriate services, including everything from banks, investment firms and insurance companies to schools and tax agencies. You'll find information on house hunting, finding a job, immigration and residence permits, staying long-term and much more. Join a free class on international banking, tax issues, the ideal CV, the Dutch language, raising a family, visas, health care, education, and life overseas in general.

Please note that the Consulate General is closed every last Wednesday of each month. See the CLOSED notice below.



The Consulate General will be closed on September 3rd (Labor Day), September 26 and October 8th (Columbus Day). In emergency cases involving American Citizens, please call 070-310 2209.





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Get Connected!

Are you looking for a place where you can feel at home? Feel like you can contribute to a better society? ANCOR offers you the possibility to meet people, be part of a multicultural world, or work as a volunteer in a non-profit organization. For more information please visit the ANCOR website <http://ancor.fawco.org>, or contact Carolina Barria Marmolejo at:

carolinabarriam@yahoo.co.uk.



Are You Interested in Being a Host For Our Consular Outreach Program?

During the last few months, we have provided Consular Services outside the Consulate in cities such as Wassenaar, Rotterdam and Groningen. These events were made possible due to the support of our hosts. If you are interested in hosting one of these events, please contact us at:

USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov.

For your request to be considered please bear in mind that the venue should be at least 75 miles from Amsterdam. We are expecting about 20 customers, spread over a few hours. We would need sufficient space for meeting with them, a separate waiting area for privacy and access to a copy machine. We look forward to receiving your e-mails!

Internet Grifters: Part II

We wrote in an earlier edition about “too good to be true” financial windfalls. Internet scam artists continue to victimize American citizens, especially those looking for love. Over the last few months we’ve received panicked calls and emails from several people whose stories run something like this:

After having met on line and falling in love, American citizens send money to bring over their fiancée/girlfriend from their native Ghana/Nigeria. The women supposedly arrive at Schiphol and have their visas canceled by Dutch immigration/get arrested/fall sick. They now need more money to continue their travels as they have to pay fines/the hospital bill/the embassy for housing, etc.

Can’t we help, asked the Americans? Isn’t there something we could do?

Sadly, there is nothing we can do. These women in all probability aren’t even in Amsterdam. We can find no record of a U.S. visa being issued in that name. The ticket was probably never bought, or if bought was never used for travel but was cashed in. And in one case the photo he fell in love with was clearly of a model in a studio, not a snapshot. The Amsterdam troubles of these women is just the scam artist continuing their schemes, which are romantic versions of what is generally known as “advance fee fraud” or “419 schemes.” Wikipedia has a nice article on them:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advance_fee_fraud

What do we do we do? We try not to be judgmental. We break the news to them that they’ve been had, and urge them to send no more money. We gently point them towards internet resources that give more information. And we continue to marvel at the very human weakness of most people, no matter how intelligent or educated, whose internal radar can get switched off when the goal—be it lucre or love—shines so brightly. As Shakespeare writes in *The Merchant of Venice*(Act II, Scene 6):

But love is blind and lovers cannot see

The pretty follies that themselves commit

Veni, Vidi, Visa

Relocating to the Netherlands can be a monumental leap. Completing the necessary paperwork to live and work here may require extensive time, energy, effort and money. Unfortunately, we can’t issue residence and/or work permits for the Netherlands, nor can we intervene to assist you in the procedures.

However, we can point you in the right direction. In order to reside in The Netherlands, one must be in possession of a valid residence permit. This must be obtained from the Dutch Immigration authorities, the Immigratie en Naturalisatiedienst, otherwise known as the IND. Please see www.ind.nl for further information.

In order to work in The Netherlands one must be in possession of a valid work permit. This must be obtained from the Center for Work and Income, or “CWI”, in the city of your employment. Please see www.werk.nl for further information on the nearest [CWI office](#) to you.