

United States Visa Advisory

The United States has updated its visa policy for increased security. As a result, it now takes longer to obtain a visa. Advance planning by travelers is essential to avoid frustration and disappointment.

- Review your visa status to find out if you need a U.S. visa or a visa renewal.
- Plan to submit your visa application well in advance of your intended departure date.
- Contact your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for current time estimates and recommendations.
- Visit the embassy or consular section website to find important information on how to schedule an interview appointment and pay fees. An interview is required as a standard part of processing for most visa applicants.
- Plan on having finger scans as part of the visa application process. Two index-finger scans are normally collected by the consular officer at the visa interview window. However; in some countries, they may be collected prior to the actual visa interview.

Visa Waiver Program (VWP)

Citizens of the following countries can travel to the U.S. without a visa for tourism or business for 90 days or less under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) if they meet other travel requirements. As of June 26, 2005, visa waiver program travelers must have a machine-readable passport to enter the United States without a visa.

Andorra	Australia	Austria
Belgium	Brunei	Denmark
Finland	France	Germany
Iceland	Ireland	Italy
Japan	Liechtenstein	Luxembourg
Monaco	The Netherlands	New Zealand
Norway	Portugal	San Marino
Singapore	Slovenia	Spain
Sweden	Switzerland	United Kingdom

Some citizens of Canada and Bermuda do not need a visa to visit the United States. Contact your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for guidance.

Passports

A passport with a validity date of at least six months beyond the applicant's intended period of stay in the U.S. is required. If more than one person is included in the passport, each person desiring a visa must make a separate application. Temporary Passports will likely merit special scrutiny. Check with your local US consular offices, well ahead of your intended departure dates, to avoid complications.

Visa Letters

A visa support letter can be provided for authors and registered attendees upon request. Contact Dr. Zaher Bardai, at zb@ieee.org, for visa assistance to attend IMS 2008. Please submit your requests for letters of support well in advance of your interview dates to allow sufficient time for processing. Spouses requiring visa assistance must be registered for an IMS Guest Program Event. Check the IMS 2008 website (www.ims2008.org) for Guest Program details.

Disclaimer

This information is provided in good faith but travel regulations do change. The only authoritative sources of information are the U.S. Government websites at www.unitedstatesvisas.gov and http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html.