



VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

(<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/visa-waiver-program.html>)

Important Notice: Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015

Under the *Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015*, travelers in the following categories are no longer eligible to travel or be admitted to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP):

- Nationals of VWP countries who have traveled to or been present in Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria on or after March 1, 2011 (with limited exceptions for travel for diplomatic or military purposes in the service of a VWP country).
- Nationals of VWP countries who are also nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria.

These individuals will still be able to apply for a visa using the regular appointment process at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. For those who require a U.S. visa for urgent business, medical, or humanitarian travel to the United States, U.S. Embassies and Consulates stand ready to handle applications on an expedited basis.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection strongly recommends that any traveler to the United States check his or her ESTA status at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> prior to making any travel reservations or travelling to the United States. More information is available at www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program.

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows citizens of participating countries* to travel to the United States without a visa for stays of 90 days or less, when they meet all requirements explained below. Travelers must be eligible to use the VWP and have a valid Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) approval prior to travel.

If you are eligible to travel on the VWP, but prefer to have a visa in your passport, you may still apply for a visitor (B) visa.

The following are examples of business activities permitted while in the United States on the Visa Waiver Program:

Business:

- consult with business associates
- attend a scientific, educational, professional, or business convention or conference
- attend short-term training (you may not be paid by any source in the United States with the exception of expenses incidental to your stay)
- negotiate a contract

Travel Purposes Not Permitted on Visa Waiver Program:

- study, for credit
- employment
- work as foreign press, radio, film, journalists, or other information media
- permanent residence in the United States

Each Traveler Must have authorization under ESTA

In order to travel without a visa on the VWP, you must have authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to boarding a U.S. bound air or sea carrier. ESTA is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) automated web-based system to determine eligibility to travel without a visa to the United States for tourism or business. Visit the [ESTA webpage](#) on the CBP website for more detailed information, to apply for ESTA, and pay the fee.

Travel Must be on an Approved Carrier

If arriving by air or sea, you must be arriving on an [approved air or sea carrier](#). You must also have a round trip ticket indicating return passage to a country* outside the United States.

Previous Compliance and No Prior Visa Ineligibilities

If you have had a U.S. visa before or previously traveled to the United States under the VWP or another status, you must have complied with the conditions of previous admissions to the United States, and you must not have previously been found ineligible for a U.S. visa.

Travelers should be aware that by requesting admission under the Visa Waiver Program, they are generally waiving their right to review or appeal a CBP officer's decision as to their application for admission at the port of entry. See the [CBP website](#) for additional details.

Have the Correct Type of Passport

You must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after your planned departure from the United States (unless exempted by [country-specific agreements](#)). For families, each member of your family, including infants and children, must have his/her own passport.

Extending Your Stay

Persons admitted under the Visa Waiver Program are not permitted to extend their stays in the United States. See [Extend Your Stay](#) on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website. You must depart the United States on or before the date on your admission stamp when you entered the United States.

Change of Status

Persons admitted under the Visa Waiver Program are not permitted to change status in the United States. See [Change My Nonimmigrant Status](#) on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN ESTA APPLICATION](#)

<http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/esta>

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS:

If you will be requesting reimbursement of your travel expenses and you are a B-1 or W-B visa holder, Bard College will need a copy of your [I-94 card](#), visa, and valid passport.