

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP)

OVERVIEW

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows citizens of certain countries to enter the U.S. as non-immigrants up to 90 days for business or tourism. VWP travelers are required to have a valid authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to travel, are screened at the port of entry into the U.S., and are enrolled in the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program. VWP visitors also cannot engage in employment in the U.S., enroll in an academic study program, change to another visa status within the U.S., or allowed to extend their stay beyond the ninety day period.

- ♦ **WB status (Visitor for Business):** An international visitor entering in **WB** status holds a permanent residence in a foreign country which he/she has no intention of abandoning and who is visiting the U.S. temporarily for business reasons, such as short-term, non-salaried observation and consultation activities. WB visa holders may be reimbursed for incidental travel expenses and honorarium.
- ♦ **WT status (Visitor for Tourism):** Entering in WT visa status is intended for recreational purposes, including tourism, visits with friends, etc therefore is NOT appropriate status for CSMC-related activities.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

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|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ♦ Andorra | ♦ France | ♦ Liechtenstein | ♦ San Marino |
| ♦ Australia | ♦ Germany | ♦ Lithuania | ♦ Singapore |
| ♦ Austria | ♦ Greece | ♦ Luxembourg | ♦ Slovak Republic |
| ♦ Belgium | ♦ Hungary | ♦ Malta | ♦ Slovenia |
| ♦ Brunei | ♦ Iceland | ♦ Monaco | ♦ South Korea |
| ♦ Czech Republic | ♦ Ireland | ♦ Netherlands | ♦ Spain |
| ♦ Denmark | ♦ Italy | ♦ New Zealand | ♦ Sweden |
| ♦ Estonia | ♦ Japan | ♦ Norway | ♦ Switzerland |
| ♦ Finland | ♦ Latvia | ♦ Portugal | ♦ United Kingdom |

APPLICATION PROCESS

Nationals of the above countries are not required to obtain non-immigrant visas at an American embassy or consulate to visit the U.S. WB status is requested at the port of entry to the U.S.

Document Requirements

The following documents are required to apply for the Visa Waiver Program:

- A valid machine-readable passport
- Evidence of intent to return to home country in 90 days (ex: roundtrip airline ticket)
- Proof of financial support (ex: bank statement)
- Invitation letter from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (Issued by AHR/VISA office)
- Apply for ESTA (see below)

Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)

In January 2009, the Department of Homeland Security implemented the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), an online travel authorization, for citizens or nationals from all Visa Waiver Program countries. A VWP traveler should apply for ESTA when planning a visit to the U.S. at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>

For more details go to http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/about_esta/esta_faq.ctt/esta_faq.pdf.

VWP travelers without an approved ESTA may not be allowed to board a U.S.-bound airplane.

WHERE TO APPLY

You can apply at any port of entry, including Tijuana and the Canadian border. Additional information is available at:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/business_pleasure/vwp/

AFTER VISITOR ARRIVES AT CSMC

- Immediately contact Renata Giron or Hao Nguyen for review of passport. We will make arrangements for a temporary ID badge. If Davis Building access is necessary, please contact Carlos Sandoval at 3-7697.
- Upon completion of program, the visitor will need to return the CSMC ID badge to Personnel Records or Security.