

United States Visitor Visa (B1/B2)

Who needs a United States visitor visa to enter the United States?

International students travelling to the United States to visit family/friends, for a vacation, or for other reasons (such as attending a conference) will need a United States Visitor's Visa - generally speaking you will want to apply for a B-1/B-2 visa (Visa category B). *You are NOT a student in the United States so you will NOT apply for a Student visa (F-1 visa).*

Citizens from participating countries in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) do not need a United States Visitor's Visa for visits of 90 days or less; however, nationals of VWP countries must meet eligibility requirements. VWP travelers are required to have a valid authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to travel and an appropriate type of valid passport.

A list of participating countries in the VWP and full details on eligibility requirements may be found at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html

What are my chances of getting a United States visitor visa?

In the United States there is a presumption in the law "that every visitor visa applicant is an intending immigrant." Therefore, applicants for visitor visas must overcome this presumption by demonstrating that the purpose of their trip is to enter the United States for a specific and limited time for the purpose of business or pleasure.

United States Immigration officials will base their decision on an individual case basis since each student's situation varies widely. The student with the best chance of getting a United States Visa would be the one who demonstrates the strongest social and economic ties to Canada at the time of his/her application. For this reason, we recommend that students should not apply for a United States Visa during the first year of studies in Canada or if they are very close to graduating.

How do I apply for a United States visitor visa?

1. Fill out the DS-160 form at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>.
 - As part of the electronic submission of your application, you will be asked to provide an electronic copy of your photo. The photo must meet requirements for photo submission and can be found at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html
 - After completing the DS-160, you will electronically submit the application and will be provided with a confirmation page that includes a bar code. You must take this confirmation page with you to the interview.
2. Pay \$140 USD nonimmigrant visa application processing fee at [Scotiabank](#) or online (credit

card or PayPal). This fee is due at the time of scheduling your appointment and is nonrefundable and nontransferable regardless of whether a visa is issued.

Click here for a complete list of payment options: http://www.usvisa-info.com/en-CA/selfservice/us_fee_payment_options

3. Make an appointment with the United States General Consulate in Calgary online at <http://www.usvisa-info.com/en-CA/selfservice/login>, or by calling (403) 800-1194 from Calgary, or (877) 341-2441 elsewhere in Alberta.
4. What you need to bring to the interview:
 - Your appointment letter.
 - Passport or travel document valid for 6 months beyond your United States stay.
 - Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, DS-160 confirmation sheet (barcode) number for each applicant.
 - Confirmation of Enrollment letter and transcripts (from the Registrar's Office; request documentation for a United States Visa)
 - Do not write or mark on the Enrollment Letter in any way
 - Confirmation that you have paid your tuition (this will be noted on the documentation provided by the Registrar's Office).
 - Bring a recent front view 2"x2" passport photo.
 - Original (no photocopies) proof of current visa/immigration status in Canada (Canadian study permit).
 - Other evidence that demonstrates strong economic and social ties to Canada (examples include bank letters or statements, rental agreements/property title, proof of car ownership, etc.).
 - Details of your proposed trip (intended destinations, dates of travel, etc).
 - For any scientific or high-technology related travel: a letter explaining what you do outside of the United States, your intentions in the United States, your current resume and list of your publications. These applications may require up to two extra months processing time. Apply early!
 - If you were previously in the United States, any documents attesting to your status.
 - Criminal/court records pertaining to any arrest or conviction, even if later pardoned.
 - Translation into English of any non-English document.

How long will it take to get my United States visa processed?

Typical United States visa processing and wait times for interview appointments can be found at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4788.html?post=Calgary&x=101&y=13.

If your visa is approved you may be required to pay an additional fee for visa issuance, known as a reciprocity fee. This fee may be paid in cash or by credit card at the United States Consulate. You may confirm this prior to your interview at: http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html.

This is not a legal document and information may change without notice. Always refer to the Consulate General of the United States Calgary website for updated information: <http://calgary.usconsulate.gov/visas/visas.html> for the most current information. This document was last updated in October 2011.

Consulate Calgary does not issue visas for pick-up on the same day as the appointment. All passports with visas will be returned to the applicant via courier. The courier service is provided through DHL, at no additional cost to the applicant when the passport is picked-up by the applicant at the DHL location of their choosing. [Learn more about passport pick-up and the options for home delivery.](#) Additionally, depending on the applicable processes and requirements for the visa type, the applicant may need to submit additional documents to the consular section, and this can also add to the time required to return the passport and approved visa.

After you submit your application, if more than a month goes by without receiving your passport back, you can send a message to this email: trtniv@state.gov

Are there any prohibited items that I need to be aware of for my appointment to the United States Consulate in Calgary?

Come to your appointment on time and fully prepared. There is no opportunity to complete documents, take photos, pay visa fees, purchase pre-paid courier envelopes, etc., at the Consulate.

All applicants must undergo **strict security screening prior to entry. DO NOT BRING:**

- Electronic or battery powered equipment, cameras, cell phones, food, liquids or dangerous articles of any kind. There are no storage facilities at the consulate.
- Further security clearance information is available at: <http://canada.usembassy.gov/consulates/security.html>

What is an I-94?

When you enter the United States with a Visitor Visa, a U.S. immigration inspector will examine your passport and visa and then give you a Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record). This record will tell you the date before which you must leave the United States. You can prove you did not violate United States laws by turning in your Form I-94 to the proper authorities when you leave the country.

If no one takes your I-94 Form upon departure from the United States or you forget to return it, send it, along with any documentation that proves you left the United States to:

DHS – CBP ACS INC.
1084 South Laurel Road
London, KY
40744

Further information on Form I-94 is available at: <http://canada.usembassy.gov/visas/forms-and-programs/usa-arrival-departure-record.html>

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