ENTERING THE U.S.

As of September 30, 2016

United States Consulate General Vancouver
Entry Requirements

Canadian citizens
U.S. Visa
- Visa Waiver Program
- Electronic System for Travel Authorization
- Personal Appearance Waiver
- Form I-94
Canadian Citizens

- Canadian citizens do not require visas for most temporary travel.
- Certain Canadian citizens do require visas, including:
  - Diplomat/foreign government officials
  - Foreign military personnel stationed in the U.S.
  - Employees of a designated international organization or NATO
  - Treaty traders/treaty investors
  - Fiancé(e)s planning to marry U.S. citizens and live in the U.S.
U.S. Visa

- Who needs a visa?
  - A citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the U.S.

- Nonimmigrant visas
  - Temporary travel to the U.S.
  - More than 20 types

- Immigrant visas
  - Live permanently in the U.S.
U.S. Visa

Visa
- Allows entry to the U.S. Port of Entry
- Requests DHS/CBP’s permission to enter the U.S.

DHS/CBP
- Authorizes or denies admission to the U.S.
- Immigration and customs
VWP – Visa Waiver Program

- 38 VWP designated countries
- Enter U.S. without visas
  - up to 90 days

- Eligibility
  - Citizen of VWP country
  - Permitted travel purpose
  - Approved carrier
  - Previous compliance
  - Correct type of passport
  - ESTA Authorization

Countries:
- Andorra
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Brunei
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Monaco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Portugal
- San Marino
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- United Kingdom
ESTA - Electronic System for Travel Authorization

- DHS/CBP’s automated web-based system
  - Determines eligibility of visitors under the VWP
  - Does not determine admissibility of travelers
  - Submitted prior to travel

- https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/
PAW – Personal Appearance Waiver

- Minors under 14; adults over 79
- All visa classes
  - except for Transit, Treaty, Victims of Human Trafficking, Victims of Criminal Activity, Fiancé(e) visas
- Non-Canadian citizens
  - Those with Canadian student permits, work permits, PR
  - Except for citizens of Iran, Syria, and Sudan
Form I-94: Arrival/Departure Record

- Issued by the CBP to authorize the duration of stay
- Must exit the U.S. before the stamped departure date
- Recently automated to increase efficiency
- https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/

![I-94 Example]

[Image of an I-94 form with a handwritten exit date, an image of a CBP officer with two travelers, and a screenshot of the i94.cbp.dhs.gov website.]
Frequently asked questions

Visa application
Visa interviews
What to expect at the Consulate
What to expect at borders
Studying / working / living in the U.S.
Visa denials
How to Apply

- DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form
  https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/
- Register online: http://ais.usvisa-info.com
- Pay and schedule for the interview online
- Appear in person for the interview
Visa Wizard

- Helps foreign citizens understand which visa category might be appropriate for their travel

http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/visa-wizard.html
What to Bring to a Visa Interview

- DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form
- Passport valid for at least six months beyond period of stay in the U.S.
- Photo taken within the last six months
- Proof of legal status in Canada
- Related forms and documents based on visa type
What to Expect at the Consulate

- Plan to spend two hours at the Consulate (security check, check-in, interview)
- Demonstrate that you have strong ties outside of the U.S. and will use the visa correctly
- If the visa is approved, you will get it in 5 days by mail
- Some visa cases require administrative processing
Who Can I Bring to the Visa Interview?

- Only applicants with scheduled appointments are allowed to enter the consular section
- Only people aged 14 – 79 need to appear in person
- 1 interpreter with gov’t issued ID for non-Chinese languages
- 1 person allowed with disabled/minor applicants
Can my parents apply for visas in Canada?

- Visitors should generally apply for visas in the country of residence.
- Some visitors may have difficulty demonstrating eligibility in Canada.
- Limited appointment availability; however, visitors may apply at any Consulate in Canada.
What to expect at borders

- Beware of prohibited/restricted items
- CBP enforces laws for 40 government agencies
- Prohibited items include those that would injure
  - Community health
  - Public safety
  - American workers, domestic plants, animal life
  - National interests

Immigrating to the U.S.

- Must be sponsored by
  - A U.S. citizen / permanent resident immediate relative(s)
  - Or prospective U.S. employer with approved petition

- Visa types
  - Family-based
  - Employment-based
  - Diversity visa process
  - Inter-country adoption
  - Spouse/Fiancé (e)
Working / living in the U.S.

- Find a job & an employer in the U.S.
- U.S. employer petitions for your employment (DHS)
- Schedule for interview appointment
- Attend visa interview
Working / living in the U.S.

- **Tips**
  - Show qualification for the position (transcripts, degree)
  - Show U.S. employer’s qualification to file a petition
  - Demonstrate that you will be paid as petitioned
- [http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/employment.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/employment.html)
Studying in the U.S.

B visa (nonimmigrant visa)
- Short periods of recreational study
- Not for credit toward a degree/academic certificate

J-1 visa (exchange visitor)
- Work-and-study-based exchange visitor programs
  https://j1visa.state.gov/participants
Studying in the U.S.

**F-1 (student visa)**
- University
- College
- Seminary
- Conservatory
- Another academic institutions, incl. language training program
- May seek on-campus job (<20 hours/week)

**M-1 (student visa)**
- Vocational or other nonacademic institution
- Except for language training program
Studying in the U.S.

- **Tips:**
  - Must be first accepted by a SEVP approved school
  - Explain why you want to study in the U.S.
  - How you plan to financially support yourself
  - What your plans are after graduation

- [http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange.html)
What happens if my application is denied?

- Consular officer finds you ineligible to receive a visa
  - Lack of strong ties to your country of residence
  - Insufficient documentations
  - Criminal /other ineligibility
  - Prior inadmissibility
  - Misrepresentation of facts
  - Fraud issues or trends

VISA DENIED
What happens if my application is denied?

- Application fee is non-refundable
- May reapply in the future
  - Must submit new visa application
  - Must pay application fee again