

Applying for a United States Visa

For more details, visit: <https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas>

Introduction to U.S. Visa

Having a U.S. Visa allows you to travel to a port of entry, airport or land border crossing and request permission to enter the United States. While having a Visa does not guarantee entry to the U.S., it does indicate that a consular officer at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad has determined you are eligible to seek entry for that specific purpose.

Citizens from participating countries in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) do not need a U.S. Visa for visits that are 90 days or less for business, tourism, visiting, or pleasure. Please make sure you meet all VWP eligibility and have a valid Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) approval before you travel. To learn if your country participates in the VWP and the eligibility criteria, see <https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas>

In limited cases, citizens of participating VWP countries would **NOT** need an ESTA, please refer to: https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/1094/~do-i-need-to-apply-for-esta

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To find out the visa wait times, see <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

- Complete the Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application form DS-160 found here <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv> and print out the confirmation page (include the barcode) for the interview. Have the below documents with you while you complete the application:
 - Passport (make sure it is valid for at least 6 months past your stay in the U.S.)
 - Travel itinerary (if you have already made travel arrangements)
 - Dates of your last 5 visits or trips to the U.S.
 - Resume (you may be asked to provide information on your current and previous education and work history)
- Pay the Nonimmigrant visa application fee. The application fee for the most common nonimmigrant visa types is **\$160**
- Schedule an appointment/interview with U.S. Consulate by contacting U.S. Consulate General-Vancouver (778-807-9660)
- Prepare for the appointment/interview and be punctual. Bring your application confirmation page (includes the barcode) with you to the interview.

Important tips

- Make sure your study permit is valid
- Print a **Confirmation of Enrolment** from your Online-Self Service portal (www.kpu.ca/records/coe)
- Order a Transcript from any Student Enrolment Services. Check here on how to order a transcript <http://www.kpu.ca/records/transcripts>
- Have a picture taken! (Make sure your pictures meet the requirements). Scan and save your picture. <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html>

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This is not a legal document. Although we strive to keep this website as up-to-date as possible, information may have changed since our last update.

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Going to your interview

Each interview is different depending on the student, the interviewer and other variables. The following is only a guideline of things to know and take with you.

Recommended documents to take with you:

Education Related Documents:

- Confirmation of Enrolment (www.kpu.ca/records/coe) and transcript from Kwantlen
- Transcripts (from all institution you attended in Canada and outside)
- From your Online Self-Service portal, print the courses you have registered for a future term (if applicable) and tuition receipts for current semester and future semester (if applicable)

Personal Documents:

- Valid Passport – should be valid for at least 6 months past your intended stay
- Valid Canadian study permit/work permit
- (If applicable) If you are currently employed, bring a letter from your employer
- Family Information
- Specific details of your proposed trip including: Names and relationship of persons travelling with you, US phone numbers and address information (if applicable)
- Other evidence of strong economic and social ties to Canada (examples include bank letter or statements, rental agreements/property title, proof of car ownership, etc.)

Other things to remember

- **Be calm!** Answer the questions clearly and to the best of your ability. If you don't understand a question, ask for clarification and answer honestly
- **Prohibited** inside the US Embassy:
Food and beverages, backpack, luggage, purses, electronic or recording equipment
- **Approved** visas are *generally* ready within 2 business days
- **If refused**, please see the letter or other instructions you received at the interview

TRV exemption to re-enter Canada

If your trip is only to United States and you have valid passport and study permit, you may **re-enter** Canada without a TRV, provided you return to Canada by the end of the authorized period of your study in Canada. It is recommended that you have a current KPU Confirmation of Enrolment letter (www.kpu.ca/records/coe) and a print out of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations, Part 9, Division 5, Section 190 (3) (f) that mentions this TRV exemption: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2002-227/section-190-20110616.html> **Make sure you check and see that this TRV exemption clause is still in effect before you leave Canada.**