

Many International Students may wish to travel to the USA during their time at Imperial for a variety of purposes, including tourism, conferences, study programmes and work placements. For this, it is likely that you will need to apply for a 'non-immigrant visa' before you travel.

The International Student Support Team cannot assist with these applications, but we hope that the information listed below will provide all the guidance you need regarding US Visas.

As a starting point, we recommend that you look at the website of the US Embassy in London, which is the best source for up-to-date and useful information about different visas for the USA:
<http://london.usembassy.gov/visas.html>

Who needs a visa to travel to the USA?

Everyone, except:

- ✓ those who come under the **Visa Waiver Programme**

Many British and other nationals travelling on a valid, individual machine readable passport, with a return or onward ticket, and who are staying for less than 90 days, are eligible for the **Visa Waiver Programme**. For more details, and to check if you qualify, please visit:

<https://uk.usembassy.gov/visas/visa-waiver-program/>

- ✓ those who are **exempt from the visa requirement**

Ordinarily, foreign nationals entering the United States must have valid visas unless they qualify for travel under the Visa Waiver Program. However, there are a few very specific exceptions. See <https://uk.usembassy.gov/visas/exempt-from-visa-requirements/>

Note (1): Visa-free travel does not include those who plan to study, work or remain more than 90 days. Such travellers need visas. If immigration official has reason to believe that a visa-free traveller is going to study, work or stay longer than 90 days, the officer will refuse to admit the traveller.

Note (2): Travellers born in the United States and those who hold dual citizenship with the United States must enter and depart the United States on US passports.

Where can I apply for a US Visa?

For students at Imperial, the most convenient place to apply for a visa for travel to the USA is the **US Embassy in London, UK**

The address of the Embassy is:

24 Grosvenor Square
London, W1A 2LQ
United Kingdom

<https://uk.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/embassy/>

How can I apply for a US Visa?

STEP 1: Determine which type of visa is appropriate for your travel to the USA. A list of categories and descriptions is available at: <https://uk.usembassy.gov/visas/visa-directory/>

STEP 2: Check your eligibility.

If you have ever been arrested and/or have a criminal conviction, are considered to be medically ineligible or have ever been denied entry or deported from the USA, then you will need to provide evidence in support of your application. See <https://uk.usembassy.gov/visas/ineligibilities-and-waivers-2/> for further details

STEP 3: Fill in the DS-160 visa application form online at:

<https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

The US Embassy have made available a [YouTube video](#) with tips on applying.

Please be advised that the DS-160 application requires a passport picture to be scanned into the application. Remember to print the application form once you have completed it, and bring it along to your interview.

STEP 4: Visit <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-gb> to create an account, pay the application fee, schedule a visa appointment and arrange for the return of your documents.

Click on "Apply" if you are a first time user or "Continue" if you already have an account.

STEP 5: Attend your scheduled appointment at the US Embassy. Remember to take the correct documents with you. A full list can be found at

<https://uk.usembassy.gov/visas/tourism-visitor/required-documents/>

Please be aware that on the day of your interview, a set of your fingerprints will be electronically scanned. If you have a cut or blister on any of your fingers or thumbs, your application will not be processed. You will be required to reschedule an appointment for a later date.

STEP 6: The average visa processing time for successful applicants is five business days, so you will need to **wait for a short amount of time before you receive your visa.**

Useful sources of Information about US visas

US Embassy in London: <http://london.usembassy.gov/>

US Department of State (Bureau of Consular Affairs) <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>

Guidance on photographs <http://www.slideshare.net/USAinUK/ds160-visa-photo-requirements>