



CASTrips

Boston Visa Q&A

Joining the Global Student Conference in Boston? Here are quick and easy answers to your questions about visas.

- 1. Are visas required for entry to the US?** All visitors need to have prior approval, which is obtained through one of two pathways that depend upon what country issued your passport. Neither is difficult to navigate. Let's start!
- 2. How will I know whether I need a visa?** Most citizens or nationals of 38 participating countries can visit the United States without a visa. To see if your country participates, go to this link → [The Visa Waiver Program](#)
 - If your country is not on this list, skip Question 3 and go directly to Question 4 so you can apply for a visa.
- 3. My country participates in the waiver program. What's next?** You must obtain travel approval but you should be able to obtain approval online at this link → [Electronic System for Travel Authorization \(ESTA\)](#). Do not delay this step just in case you are denied. You can still apply for a visa but try this first if your passport is from a waiver country. If you are approved via ESTA, you will be able to visit the USA as long as your ESTA approval is valid.
- 4. I need a visa. What should I do?** The United States has many types of visas. All prospective CAS Trips students and their adult chaperones who need visas should apply only for B-2 tourism visas. Please do not apply for a student visa as those are for longer visits and require a sponsoring school and family in the USA.
- 5. How do I apply for a B-2 visa?** There are two steps to the process. Teachers are encouraged to make Group Applications online as a class exercise. Each Group Application must include individual applications and also requires personal interviews at the local US Consulate or Embassy.



- 6. What will I need for the visa application?** All applicants will need their passport numbers and an individual picture to upload (see link) → [Photograph Requirements](#).
- 7. What's next?** Start with completing the online form found at this link → [Form DS-160](#). After completing the online visa application, applicants must print their confirmation page (with a unique barcode) to bring to the interview, which is Step 2.
- 8. Does the DS-160 form need to be completed in one sitting?** No, the form will generate an ID number that will allow you to complete the form at a later time.
- 9. What is Step 2?** You must schedule an interview at the US Embassy or Consulate in your country. Teachers may wish to schedule interviews as an educational class trip. Appointment availability varies by country and city. This link can help → [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#)
- 10. Are there any final reminders?** Please remember that all visitors to the United States will need either a visa or an ESTA approval. The process is fairly simple (see above) but you should start as soon as you can.