

## VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP) INFORMATION

[from U.S. State Dept. web site: <http://travel.state.gov/vwp.html>]

### WHAT IS THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM?

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables citizens of participating countries to travel to the U.S. for tourism or business for 90 days or less without obtaining a U.S. visa. The VWP is administered by the Attorney General in consultation with the Secretary of State. The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) was created by an act of Congress as a pilot program in 1986 and implemented in 1988. Congress passed legislation to make the program permanent in October 2000, and the President signed the legislation on October 30, 2000. Currently there are 29 participating countries in the VWP: Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

### HOW CAN TRAVELERS ENTER THE U.S. ON VWP?

To enter the U.S. on VWP, travelers from participating countries must:

- (1) Have a valid passport issued by the participating country and be a citizen (not merely a resident) of that country. As of October 1, 2007, the passport presented at the US port of entry must be a machine readable passport;
- (2) Be seeking entry for 90 days or less as a temporary visitor;
- (3) If entering by air or sea, have a round-trip transportation ticket issued on a carrier that has signed an agreement with the U.S. government to participate in the VWP, and arrive in the United States aboard such a carrier.
- (4) Have proof of financial solvency and hold a completed and signed visa waiver arrival / departure form (I-94W), on which he/she has waived the right to a hearing of exclusion or deportation. These forms are available from participating carriers, from travel agents, and at land-border ports-of-entry. (Travelers should consult carriers to verify which ones are participating before making travel arrangements.)

Entry at a land border crossing point from Canada or Mexico is permitted under the VWP. Travelers who apply for entry at a land border crossing point are not required to present round-trip transportation tickets or arrive at the border entry point aboard a carrier who has signed an agreement with the U.S. to participate in the VWP. All other VWP requirements apply to such travelers.

### HOW LONG MAY TRAVELERS STAY IN THE U.S. ON VWP?

Visitors applying for entry under this program are allowed to remain 90 days. No extensions of stay can be granted, and VWP travelers cannot change their status. Consistent with regulations pertaining to B1/B2 temporary visitor visas, travelers coming under the VWP cannot work or study.

### WOULD A CITIZEN OF A VWP COUNTRY EVER NEED TO APPLY FOR A VISA?

Certain travelers still need to apply for a visa, such as those who plan to work or study in the U.S., stay more than 90 days, or who might otherwise be ineligible for a visa. Travelers previously denied visas, or who have criminal records, or who believe they may be ineligible to enter the U.S. on the VWP, should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate before attempting to travel on the VWP.

**REQUIRED SIGNATURE:** I have read and understood the above information regarding Visa Waiver (VWP) status. I understand that the primary pursuit of study is not an activity defined as appropriate for holders of VWP status. Knowing this, I still wish to apply / register for studies at Philadelphia Biblical University. I understand that I am responsible for obeying any Federal Regulations relating to my status in the United States.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (LAST, First, Middle) \_\_\_\_\_