
Travel Visa Information

With the conference quickly approaching, some of you may need to apply for visa travel permits. Visa invitation letters are now available for download from your Conftool account. This letter will help the visa officers assess the purpose of your trip and ensure that you meet the requirements for the duration of your stay in Canada. It also contains the special event code (**22COBE**) provided by the Special Events Unit of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

In order to help you with this process, here is some information you may find helpful:

Submission of Visa Applications

Please refer to [IRCC website](#) to learn about a temporary resident visa (visitor visa) and the process to apply for one.

Please note that visa applications are considered on a case-by-case basis based on the information presented by the applicant. The onus is on the applicant to show that they meet the requirements for a temporary resident visa. Applicants must meet all the [eligibility](#) criteria in order to receive a visa.

[Processing times for visa applications](#) vary depending on the visa office and the time of the year. You are encouraged to check the processing times calculator for guidance, but generally it is recommended to apply approximately 12 weeks in advance of your departure date to ensure that you receive the visa in time for the start of the event.

Biometrics Expansion

Since the summer of 2018, when you apply for a visitor visa, study or work permit (except U.S. nationals), or permanent residence you need to give your fingerprints and a photo. To facilitate repeat travel to Canada, applicants for a visitor visa, study or work permit will only need to give their biometrics once every 10 years.

For additional information on whether or not you require a biometric, please refer to these [fast facts about Biometrics](#).

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

Since November 10, 2016, visa-exempt foreign nationals must have an [Electronic Travel Authorization](#) (eTA) to fly to or transit through Canada. [Exceptions](#) include U.S. citizens, and travelers with a valid Canadian visa. Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents are not eligible to apply for an eTA.

COVID-19 updates

Please note that given the current travel restrictions, we will continue to monitor [IRCC's website for COVID-19 updates](#). In addition, we will also be keeping an eye on the [Public Health Agency of Canada website](#) for updates on large group events (mass gatherings). We will be in touch should we need to inform you of any updates to the delivery of our event.

As always, if you need any further information, don't hesitate to send us an email at cobee2022@concordia.ca.