

Business Visits to JLab

B-1 Visas

Visa Waiver Program and ESTA

Business Visits to JLab

Foreign nationals may visit JLab temporarily to engage in meetings, brief research benefitting their home institution or collaboration, signing agreements, attending conferences, workshops, “schools” or other events, and other activities, by entering the U.S. as a “Business Visitor”. This is done *either* by entering with a B-1 visa (obtained from a U.S. Consulate) or using the Visa Waiver Program and entering with a WB visa.

Business visitor status does not permit employment by a U.S. organization (*i.e.* receive a salary).

B-1 Visas

There are two types of B visas: B-1 is for business visitors and B-2 is for tourists. In order to come to JLab in a professional capacity, you **MUST** have a B-1 visa.

Usually, a person will be allowed to remain in the U.S. either (1) for up to 6 months, or (2) (if coming for a conference/workshop/school) for the duration of the event. It might be possible to get a longer admission (to a maximum of 6 months) if *both* the [home institution's letter](#) and JLab's invitation letter clearly justify this.

Extensions of B-1 status during a visit to the U.S. are obtained by filing an application (the filing fee for which is \$290). Alternatively, a person can leave the U.S. and then re-enter with the B-1 visa again (but only if the B visa has not expired).

Visa Waiver Program and ESTA

When a person visits JLab under the Visa Waiver Program, s/he is seeking admission to the U.S. as a Business Visitor, but without a visa stamp. It is not a separate “category” of admission – it is just a different procedure for entry as a Business Visitor.

A person can enter the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program if they are a citizen of one of the following countries: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal,

Republic of Korea, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Visa Waiver travelers no longer may simply get on a plane and arrive in the U.S. without any preparation. They must log into the “Electronic System for Travel Authorization” (ESTA) as far in advance of their travel as possible but it is recommended no less than 72 hours before departure. An ESTA authorization for travel to the U.S. will generally be valid for 2 years or until the applicant’s passport expires, whichever comes first. During this time, a new ESTA authorization is required if the traveler (1) changes his or her name; (2) changes his or her gender; (3) changes country of citizenship; or (4) should change any other answer to ESTA questions.

If a person enters the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program, they may enter for a maximum of only 90 days; they *cannot* extend the stay in the U.S. past 90 days; and *cannot* change to any other status, such as H-1B (for employment) or J-1 (for employment or as a Visiting Scientist).

Questions? Contact the International Services Office at x7687(ewing@jlab.org) or x7598(wilkerso@jlab.org)