

This information is provided **only** to East-West Center participants who are eligible to use the Visa Waiver Program.

Visa Office
EAST-WEST CENTER
1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96848
1-808-944-7706

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

A foreign national who is classifiable as a B-1 (business) or B-2 (tourist) visitor can be admitted to the United States without a visa as a **WB** (Waiver-Business) or **WT** (Waiver-Tourist), as long as the following criteria are met under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program. East-West Center conference and workshop participants who are not required to use the J-1 visa to participate in USG-funded exchange programs and who are citizens of the following countries may be eligible to enter the United States without visas **if they register through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)** <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>.

Andorra	Hungary	New Zealand
Australia	Iceland	Norway
Austria	Ireland	Portugal*
Belgium	Italy	Republic of Korea
Brunei	Japan	San Marino
Czech Republic	Latvia	Singapore
Denmark	Liechtenstein	Slovakia
Estonia	Lithuania	Slovenia
Finland	Luxembourg	Spain
France	Monaco	Sweden
Germany	Netherlands	Switzerland
Greece	United Kingdom*	Taiwan

**does not apply to residents of Hong Kong holding British National Overseas Passports nor to Macau residents who holding Portuguese Aliens Passports (Passaporte para Estrangeiros) who will continue to require a visa.*

Waiver-Business (WB) Eligibility:

- Persons participating in scientific, educational, professional, or business conventions or conferences.
- Persons undertaking independent research.
- Persons who will undertake training in the U.S. at the request of their foreign employer and who will continue to receive their salary from their foreign employer.
- Persons who will engage in commercial transactions that do not involve gainful employment.

WB Restrictions

- ADMISSION FOR MAXIMUM STAY OF 90 DAYS
- CHANGE OF STATUS OR EXTENSION OF STAY NOT PERMITTED
- Cannot accept full-time or part-time teaching or research positions or other employment for which you are paid by a U.S. institution.
- Can accept only reimbursement for travel expenses and subsistence/living allowance (i.e., per diem, housing, meals, reimbursement for incidental expenses).
- Cannot accept honoraria as compensation for services performed in the U.S.* Honoraria can only be paid for work done abroad and is considered to be reimbursement for expenses.

Waiver-Tourist (WT) Eligibility

- Visitors for pleasure including tourism, social visits to friends or relatives, recreational activities, or participating in amateur musical, sports, or similar events with no remuneration.
- Persons seeking medical treatment.
- Persons accompanying a B-1 business visitor, such as spouses and dependents, relatives of a J-1 exchange visitor, or non-spouse partners.
- Language students in a short course of study under 18 hours per week.

WT Restrictions

- ADMISSION FOR MAXIMUM STAY OF 90 DAYS
- CHANGE OF STATUS OR EXTENSION OF STAY NOT PERMITTED
- Cannot engage in business activities, training programs, or study (except as noted above).
- Cannot accept employment or compensation for services.
- **Cannot receive remuneration or reimbursement for travel, incidental expenses, living costs, or honoraria.***

Admission Procedures

Upon arrival at the U.S. port of entry, you must present to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer your valid passport including ESTA confirmation. You will go through inspection prior to getting your luggage, so be sure that your passport, EWC letter of invitation or participation agreement, return airticket, and other documentation of the purpose of your visit are in your possession (and not in your luggage).

You will go through the new USVISIT biometric screening (fingerprints and photo) and, if admitted, the immigration stamp in your passport will show your nonimmigrant (WB or WT) status and the expiration date of your authorized stay. **IMPORTANT:** If you are a participant in an EWC program/activity, especially if you are receiving provisions from the EWC, please clearly inform the inspector that the purpose of this visit is for business (for example, participation in an EWC workshop or conference). Please check your admission stamp to be sure you have been admitted in the proper visa category. **If you are incorrectly admitted as a Waiver-Tourist (WT) when you should be a Waiver-Business (WB), you will not be able to receive any remuneration from a U.S. source.*** To verify your admission status, go to www.cbp.gov/I94 to ascertain your admission number and status. You may print a copy of your Form-I94 (Department of Homeland Security Arrival/Departure Record) from the site.

WB and WT visitors are generally admitted for the duration of time that is "fair and reasonable for the completion of the purpose of the visit" not to exceed six months. When Inspectors cannot determine a fair and reasonable period of admission, CBP will grant a 30-day period of admission.

If you have any questions, please contact your EWC Program Officer or the EWC Visa Officer, c/o Award Services, East-West Center, 1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96848, USA, telephone: (808) 944-7706, fax (808) 944-7730, email: wongv@eastwestcenter.org

*Exceptions to this rule are allowed if visitor is participating in activity *not exceeding nine days* and is *not receiving honoraria or reimbursements from more than five U.S. institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations affiliated with institutions of higher education, or nonprofit or governmental research organizations within a six-month period.* [Note: To receive an honoraria payment, visitor must have or applied for a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).]