

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION to International Visitors
to TESOL 2009 who are in the Visa Waiver Program**

All Visa Waiver travelers to the United State must use the Electronic System for Travel Authorization beginning January 12, 2009.

The following countries are currently in the US Visa Waiver Program:

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

The old, green I-94 forms will no longer be in use. The old I-94 system for entry into the USA is decades old and an important reason behind the changeover is to bring the program into the 21st century, automate the procedure and get rid of the paper. Currently there is no fee involved. There are also other obvious benefits for visitors. As of January 12, 2009 Visa Waiver Travelers will no longer have to fill in an I-94 form every time they enter the US. It also means that travelers will know before they leave their country of origin / arrival in the US, that they should be OK for entry (but not guaranteed). Leaving the green departure record accidentally on departure in the traveler's passport also becomes a problem of the past.

Once your details are entered into ESTA, you will then be given an application number, even if you have not provided address and flight information, although basic outline address information must be entered even if you have to update it later. Once approved and, if preferred, this can then be printed out but you must make note of the approval number for future reference (to update information for further visits, for instance). However it is not mandatory to print the approval to show to the Customs

Border Protection (CBP) officer upon entry into the USA. Each family member travelling is required to complete an ESTA application.

ESTA applications can be made at any time ahead of travel but should be made at least 72 hours before departure. If ESTA approval is not given, then travel to the USA will not be permitted and therefore it is highly advisable, wherever possible, you submit applications and get ESTA approval outside the 72 hour deadline, to avoid such refusals.

International travelers who are seeking to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program are now subject to enhanced security requirements. All eligible travelers who wish to travel under the Visa Waiver Program must apply for authorization as outlined in the following web site: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/