

ICAO Global Aviation Security Symposium 2018 (AVSEC2018)
Visa Application Process
Provided by the Government of Canada

Submission of Applications

Canada does not have a visa office in every country so it is important that delegates visit the website of the Canadian [visa office](#) responsible for processing their visa application. Information is available on the website on how to submit a visa application and the documentation required.

[Processing times for visa applications](#) vary depending on the visa office and the time of the year. Participants are encouraged to apply approximately **12 weeks** in advance of their departure date to ensure they receive the visa in time.

Electronic Applications (e-Apps) .	Submission at a Visa Application Centre (VAC) (<i>In person or by mail</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This system allows clients to submit applications online. • Delegates that choose to apply on-line will not have to submit their passport until requested to do so by a visa officer. • The visa office will send the applicant instructions on how and where to send their passports to finalize the visa process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACs are commercial service providers authorized by Canada to provide specific services to applicants. • VACs provide a number of services to clients, including help applicants fill out forms, answer questions and ensure that applications are complete. • Reduces unnecessary delays or refusals due to incomplete applications. • VACs serve as a collection point for applicants required to provide a biometric. • VACs send applications to visa offices and transmit decisions to applicants in a secure and confidential manner. • VACs do not process visa applications and have no decision-making authority.

NEW – Biometrics (Global Expansion)

Depending on your nationality, you may be required to give your biometrics as soon as this summer 2018:

- Starting July 31, 2018 the biometric requirement becomes mandatory for nationals of Europe, Middle East and Africa, and
- Starting December 31, 2018 the biometric requirement becomes mandatory for nationals of Asia, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

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

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

As of November 10, 2016, visa-exempt foreign nationals are expected to 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.

Special Events Unit- NHQ
 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada