

Requirement to Apply for an electronic-Travel Authorization (“eTA”) for Most Visa-Exempt Foreign Nationals

University Students, Researchers, Staff, their accompanying family members, and private visitors should be aware that as of early Fall 2016 most foreign nationals who are exempt from the requirement to obtain a Temporary Resident Visa (“TRV”) to enter Canada will be required to obtain an electronic Travel Authorization (“eTA”) before they travel to Canada by air.

A list of countries and territories whose citizens will need an eTA to travel to Canada can be found on the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (formerly, Citizenship and Immigration Canada) [website](#). Note that American citizens are specifically exempted from the requirement to obtain an eTA. Please see the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada [website](#) to see if you and your family member qualifies for an exemption.

As such, it will no longer be the case that passport-holders from these countries can simply purchase tickets and board planes to travel to Canada. Rather, an individual will be unable to board a commercial airline to Canada unless the airline first confirms that the individual possesses an eTA through the Canada Border Services Agency’s new Interactive Advance Passenger Information System.

The eTA is made in an online application on the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada website. Applicants will need to provide their passport details, personal details, contact information, and answer background questions regarding their health, criminal history, and travel history. Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada anticipates that it will automatically process most eTA applications within minutes. When an eTA application cannot be automatically approved, it will be referred to an Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada officer for a manual review.

Officers can request additional documents, and, where required, further the application to a Canadian visa office abroad for further processing, including a possible interview.

This requirement will not affect those who made an application for a study permit overseas or a new work permit application after August 1, 2015. For visa-exempt individuals who make new overseas Canadian study permit applications or new Canadian work permit applications after August 1, 2015, an eTA will automatically be issued along with their new permits at no additional cost. Those individuals will not need to apply for an eTA, unless they wish to enter Canada prior to their permits being approved.

The eTA will be valid for five years or until the applicant’s passport expires, whichever occurs sooner. The cost to apply is \$7.00. There is no fee nor need to apply for an eTA if you are making a study or work permit application as discussed above.

Please note that immigration information on this website was prepared and provided by Larlee Rosenberg, Barristers & Solicitors. It is posted here to provide information only, and should not be construed as legal advice or representation.

To apply for an eTA visit Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada's [website](#).

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