

Resources for International Travelers to the United States

Before Entering the United States

Supporting Documentation

To facilitate entry, you may need the following documents:

- **Formal Letter indicating reason for travel:** If applicable, an official letter confirming the purpose of your visit, which you can carry with you during your travel.
- **Hotel Booking:** Proof of your accommodation during your stay in the US
- **Proof of Ties to Your Home Country:** Documents such as:
 - Employment verification expressing date of expected return (in the form of a letter from your home institution)
 - Return flight ticket
 - Financial statements

Emergency Contact List

Consider compiling a list of emergency contacts for easy reference. This list can include a personal contact in the U.S., emergency, consulate contact info in Washington DC, or other helpful contacts.

At the U.S. Point of Entry

- **CBP Inspection Process:**
 - https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cbp_inspection_process_2.pdf
 - <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/applying-admission-united-states>
- **Electronic Devices & Privacy:**
 - <https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/can-border-agents-search-your-electronic>
 - <https://www.wired.com/2017/02/guide-getting-past-customs-digital-privacy-intact/>
- **Know Your Rights:**
 - <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-when-encountering-law-enforcement-airports-and-other-ports-entry-us#do-i-have-to-provide-my-laptop-passwords-or-unlock-my-mobile-phone-for-law-enforcement-officers-at-the-border>

Legal and Support Resources

- **Nonprofit Legal Resources:** <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>
- **Private Attorneys:** <https://www.ailalawyer.com/>

Disclaimer: This document is not intended to serve as legal advice. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent attorney should be sought.