



Sister Cities International 2009 Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Important Visa Information for the United Kingdom

For clarification, the United Kingdom includes Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. For this reason, UK laws and visa requirements also apply to Northern Ireland.

Visitors from the United States and European Union countries are not required to have a visa to enter the UK. However, for US and EU travelers to the UK should merely be prepared to show proof of return to their home country within 90 days of entrance to the UK. This proof could be as simple as the return ticket or travel itinerary from the airline.

Countries not requiring a Visa to the UK:

Through the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), the US and the following waiver countries are allowed entry without a travel visa for the duration of 90 days or less. VWP eligible travelers may apply for a visa, if they prefer to do so. Eligible VWP countries are listed below.

Andorra	Iceland	Norway
Australia	Ireland	Portugal
Austria	Italy	San Marino
Belgium	Japan	Singapore
Brunei	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Denmark	Luxembourg	Spain
Finland	Monaco	Sweden
France	the Netherlands	Switzerland
Germany	New Zealand	United Kingdom

US Travelers:

As mentioned above, UK visa/entry clearance is not required for tourist or business visits to the United Kingdom of less than three months in duration for VWP countries. The United Kingdom has very specific definitions of tourism and business and interns, students, prospective students, fiancés/partners, those coming to the United Kingdom to work unpaid or paid, those coming to the United Kingdom to marry, and all dependents in the preceding categories may require a visa/entry clearance prior to travel, irrespective of duration of stay. Attending the Sister Cities International conference would fall under the tourist category so a visa for US citizens is not needed.

For more information please visit the British Embassy's website at <http://ukinusa.fco.gov.uk/en>. Those seeking current UK visa/entry clearance information may also contact UK consular offices in the United States via their premium rate telephone service at 1-900-656-5000 (cost \$3/minute) or 1-212-796-5773 (\$12 flat fee).

EU Travelers

Visitors coming to the UK from a country within the European Union are not required to have a visitor visa.

Austria	Greece	Netherlands
Belgium	Hungary	Poland
Czech Republic	Ireland	Portugal
Cyprus	Italy	Slovakia
Denmark	Latvia	Slovenia
Estonia	Lithuania	Spain
Finland	Luxembourg	Sweden
France	Malta	UK
Germany		

Countries required to get a Visa to the UK

Visa nationals are those who require a visa for every entry to the UK. The countries considered Visa nationals are listed below:

Afghanistan	Gambia	Nigeria
Albania	Georgia	Oman
Algeria	Ghana	Pakistan
Angola	Guinea	Peru
Armenia	Guinea Bissau	Palestinian Authority
Azerbaijan	Guyana	Philippines
Bahrain	Haiti	Qatar
Bangladesh	India	Russia
Belarus	Indonesia	Rwanda

Benin	Iran	Sao Tome & Principe
Bhutan	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Ivory Coast	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Jamaica	Serbia
Burma (Myanmar)	Jordan	Sierra Leone
Burundi	Kazakhstan	Somalia
Cambodia	Kenya	Sri Lanka
Cameroon	Korea (Dem. People's Rep)	Sudan
Cape Verde	Kosovo	Surinam
Central African Republic	Kuwait	Syria
Chad	Kyrgyzstan	Taiwan
China, People's Rep.of	Laos	Tajikistan
Colombia	Lebanon	Tanzania
Comoros	Liberia	Thailand
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Libya	Togo
Congo, Republic of	Macedonia	Tunisia
Cuba	Madagascar	Turkey
Cyprus, northern part of	Malawi	Turkmenistan
Djibouti	Mali	Uganda
Dominican Republic	Mauritania	Ukraine
Ecuador	Moldova	United Arab Emirates
Egypt	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Equatorial Guinea	Montenegro	Vatican City (service & emergency passports only)
Eritrea	Morocco	Vietnam
Ethiopia	Mozambique	Yemen
Fiji	Nepal	Zambia
Gabon	Niger	Zimbabwe

If you reside in one of these countries, it is necessary for you to apply for a visa to visit the UK.

To check the UK embassy in your country and get the latest information on applying for a visa to the UK, visit [Visa4UK](http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/CountrySupport.aspx), the official British Government website for online visa applications. Many countries are allowed to pay for visas online. It is most likely that a visit to the UK embassy in your country will be necessary in order to receive your visitor visa. To find the embassy in your country, please visit <http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/CountrySupport.aspx>. This site will also give you information on the UK embassy address and hours of operation and the visa application procedure.

Sister Cities International will also be more than happy to write a letter of invitation for any conference participant who is applying for a UK visa. Please contact Emmy Estrada, Conference Manager, at eestrada@sister-cities.org to request a letter.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact:
 Jennelle Root in our Visa Resources Department
 by phone at 202-347-8630 x 4003 or by email at jroot@sister-cities.org.