

# Before you leave home



# Before you leave home

## Join the Kings community before you arrive

As soon as you we have confirmed your place and you have paid your fees we will send you your student ID number.

You can also find Kings Colleges on Facebook and Twitter. You'll be able to see the kind of events happening at all the colleges, and start chatting with current and future students just like you. There are also staff members available to answer your questions and give you a warm welcome in advance.

Visit the [Kings Colleges Facebook page](#), and from there you can find links to your individual college page.

## Visas and Immigration Issues

Depending on your nationality, you will require certain documents before you are able to enter the USA. This will also depend on how you choose to enter, whether as a student, a tourist, or some other way. How you enter will also affect the courses you are eligible to attend at Kings Colleges USA.

Below are some of the most common visa types and ways to enter the USA:

### 1. Visitor Visa (B-1/B-2)

The visitor visa is a type of nonimmigrant visa for persons desiring to enter the United States temporarily for business (B-1) or for pleasure, tourism or medical treatment (B-2).

This visa is recommended for short periods of study, or study which is recreational, and not vocational, and incidental to the trip, is permitted on a visitor visa. The determining factor is the traveler's primary purpose in coming to the U.S. Any kind of study that would earn credit or certification is not permitted on a visitor visa. As an example, if you are taking a vacation to the U.S., and during this vacation you would like to take less than 18 hours/week of English classes, and there is no credit earned, then this would be permitted on a visitor visa.

### 2. Visa Waiver Program

Travelers coming to the U.S. for tourism or business for 90 days or less from qualified countries may be eligible to visit the U.S. without a visa if they meet the visa waiver program requirements. This visa is also recommended for short periods of study and your course of study must be less than 18 hours/week. Currently, 36 countries participate in the Visa Waiver Program, please see [this website](#) for more information.

### 3. Student Visa (F-1)

An F-1 visa is the appropriate category for academic students attending a university, college, high school, private elementary school, seminary, conservatory or other academic institutions, including a language training program where your course of study is 18 hours or more a week.

F-1 visas are only issued in U.S. Embassies and consulates outside the United States. Prospective F-1 students must apply at the schools and receive a form I-20 in order to apply for an F-1 visa. F-1 students must show that they are able to support themselves during their stay in the U.S.

The waiting time for an interview appointment for applicants can vary, so early visa application is strongly encouraged.

For the most up to date information and guidance on visa and immigration issues, we suggest you visit [this website](#).

## Working in the USA

Except for on-campus employment of 20 hours a week or less, F-1 students are generally not permitted to work in the U.S. without prior authorization from Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). For further questions, please consult with your Admissions Advisor.

## Checklist before you leave

Ask yourself and answer these important questions before you leave for the USA.

- Is my passport valid?
- Have I got the visas I need?
- Do I need a single visa or multiple visas?
- If required, have I got a letter of parental consent or details of guardian?
- Have I arranged somewhere to stay?
- Do I have enough money for my time in the USA?
- Can I prove to the U.S. authorities that I have enough money for my stay?
- Do I have addresses and telephone numbers for both my college and host family in the USA?
- Do I have the telephone number of my country's Embassy in the US?
- Do I know how to get to the college when I arrive in the US?
- Do I have enough money to get to the college or host family when I arrive?
- Have I told my host family and the college about my travel arrangements and arrival times?

If you have ticked every box, you are ready to travel!

