



Sustaining the Blue Planet: Global Water Education Conference

VISA INFORMATION

The United States has updated its visa policies to increase security, so it may take you three to six months to apply for and receive your visa. For details that apply specifically to your country, please go to your nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy or visit <http://travel.state.gov/visa/>.

Review your visa status now to determine if you need a U.S. visa or visa renewal and to find out how to schedule an interview appointment, pay fees and note other vital instructions. Please see details below if you need a personal letter of invitation to attend the conference.

The Conference Team cannot contact or intervene with any U.S. Embassy or Consulate office abroad on your behalf, so please begin your visa application process as soon as you determine that you want to attend the *Sustaining the Blue Planet: Global Water Education Conference*.

All nationals and citizens of [Visa Waiver Program \(VWP\)](#) countries who plan to travel to the United States are required by law to obtain travel authorization prior to initiating travel to the United States. This authorization can be obtained online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), a free Internet application administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

For additional information about the ESTA please visit <http://www.cbp.gov/esta>. Travelers from countries not in the VWP are still required to obtain a Visa prior to entry into the United States. The site maintained by The National Academies (ESTA) also provides guidance on obtaining the necessary documents.

*Effective 8 September 2010, travelers entering the United States from visa-waiver countries via the newly established Electronic System for Travel Authorization program will be subject to a \$14 USD fee once every two years.

Requests for Letters of Invitation

Letters of invitation will be issued only after you have officially registered for the conference. Requests should be submitted to blueplanet@projectwet.org or by calling +1(406) 585-4118.

When requesting your letter of invitation, please include the following information:

- Name
- Full mailing address, phone number and email address
- Any other details that your country of residence requires for your visa application.

Note: Should issues arise during the processing and receiving of a Visa, you must contact and inform the [Conference Team](#) immediately.

If you are not able to attend the conference because of a visa issue, you may be issued a refund on conference registration less \$100 for processing fees. Refunds involving wire transfer of funds will incur additional fees. In order to receive a refund you must notify the [Conference Team](#) at least two weeks prior to the start of the conference and provide proof of visa denial. The Conference Team cannot facilitate any refunds for travel or lodging.