

**Second High-level Conference on Aviation Security (HLCAS/2)**  
**Visa Application Process**  
**Provided by the Government of Canada**

**Submission of Applications**

Canada does not have a visa office in every country so it is important that delegates visit the website of the Canadian [visa office](#) responsible for processing their visa application. Information is available on the website on how to submit a visa application and the documentation required.

[Processing times for visa applications](#) vary depending on the visa office and the time of the year. Participants are encouraged to apply approximately **12 weeks** in advance of their departure date to ensure they receive the visa in time.

<a href="#">Electronic Applications (e-Apps)</a> .	<b>Submission at a <a href="#">Visa Application Centre</a> (VAC) (<i>In person or by mail</i>)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This system allows clients to submit applications online.</li> <li>• Delegates that choose to apply on-line will not have to submit their passport until requested to do so by a visa officer.</li> <li>• The visa office will send the applicant instructions on how and where to send their passports to finalize the visa process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VACs are commercial service providers authorized by Canada to provide specific services to applicants.</li> <li>• VACs provide a number of services to clients, including help applicants fill out forms, answer questions and ensure that applications are complete.</li> <li>• Reduces unnecessary delays or refusals due to incomplete applications.</li> <li>• VACs serve as a collection point for applicants required to provide a <a href="#">biometric</a>.</li> <li>• VACs send applications to visa offices and transmit decisions to applicants in a secure and confidential manner.</li> <li>• VACs do not process visa applications and have no decision-making authority.</li> </ul>

**NEW – Biometrics (Global Expansion)**

Depending on your nationality, you may be required to give your biometrics as soon as this summer 2018:

- Starting July 31, 2018 the biometric requirement becomes mandatory for nationals of Europe, Middle East and Africa, and
- Starting December 31, 2018 the biometric requirement becomes mandatory for nationals of Asia, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

For additional information on whether or not you require a biometric, please refer to our [fast facts about Biometrics](#).

**Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)**

As of November 10, 2016, visa-exempt foreign nationals are expected to have an [Electronic Travel Authorization](#) (eTA) to fly to or transit through Canada. [Exceptions](#) include U.S. citizens, and travelers with a valid Canadian visa. Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents are not eligible to apply for an eTA.

Special Events Unit- NHQ  
 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada