



# US LUO: Visa Issues

- ❑ Living and working abroad can be a Challenge
- ❑ Especially for non-US citizens in the US LHC community who work abroad for significant periods; even if they are US residents
- ❑ Return visas can be long-delayed, and hard to obtain
  - ❑ The delays can depend on geopolitical events, and the level of scrutiny being applied by the US DHS
  - ❑ If delays do occur, it is hard to get feedback
  - ❑ There is evidence that the rate of incidence is on the rise lately
- ❑ What can you do if your visa case has been delayed > 21 days ?
- ❑ Contact the National Academies' International Visitors Office
  - ❑ Before you Email them ([visas@nas.edu](mailto:visas@nas.edu)) visit their website at [www.nationacademies.org/visas](http://www.nationacademies.org/visas) and fill out the Questionnaire
  - ❑ NAS staff review the questionnaires each week and report the visa applications pending for > 21 days to the State Dept.
  - ❑ The State Dept. reports back to the NAS which cases are resolved each week.
  - ❑ The process continues weekly, until each case is resolved



# US LUO: Visa Issues

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/biso/visas/index.htm>



BOARD ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

Policy and Global Affairs

THE NATIONAL  
ACADEMIES

Search

## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS OFFICE (IVO)

The International Visitors Office (IVO), a program operated by BISO, is a resource on visa-related issues for The National Academies, Academy members, and the scientists and students traveling to the United States for professional activities.

### VISA NEWS

#### **PLEASE READ:** [Important Article on Understanding the U.S. Visa System](#)

This article, written by David Donahue, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services at the Department of State, provides answers to questions such as: "When should I apply for a visa?", "Why are visas granted or denied?", "How should I prepare for the visa interview?", and more. [Read the article...](#)

**Visa Waiver Program (VWP): ESTA Required**  
Effective January 20, 2010, the Department of Homeland Security is transitioning to enforced compliance of the Electronic System for Travel

### VISA QUESTIONNAIRE

*Are you a scientist traveling to the U.S.? Has your visa case been delayed more than 21 days? If you're willing to share this information, [please submit a questionnaire](#). Please note: visa processing may take up to 60 days.*

The IVO questionnaire collects information regarding visa-related issues from the scientific community. Data will be used for the purpose of tracking trends and to assist visa applicants whenever possible.

### MEETING ORGANIZER RESOURCES

### Visa Information

- [Questionnaire & Statistics](#)
- [Meeting Organizer Resources](#)
- [Travel To United States](#)
- [Travel From United States](#)
- [U.S. Visa Policy Resources](#)

### Contact Us

International Visitors Office

Tel: +1 202-334-2807

Fax: +1 202-334-2231

Email: [visas@nas.edu](mailto:visas@nas.edu)

**With thanks to Amy Flatten, APS Director of the International Affairs Office**



# US LUO: Visa Issues

- ❑ The process above is systematic and will generally yield results
  - ❑ It may still take a few more weeks
- ❑ What can be done in difficult cases ?
  - ❑ Direct contacts with the State Department: work through knowledgeable people with contacts; such as Amy Flatten
    - ❑ This is for relatively rare cases
  - ❑ Write a letter to the US Ambassador of the country where the US LUO member is a citizen
  - ❑ Your university might be able to help, in some cases.
  - ❑ I am willing to help: to start the process, help make contacts, and if needed - write a letter