

VISA INFORMATION

Every international visitor should check with his or her local consulate regarding visa and entry regulations for United States.

If you need a travel visa, begin the visa application process now! Wait times for a visa interview can be several weeks or more in many countries, especially during peak travel periods. With this in mind, we strongly urge you to place your request for a letter of invitation to attend SEMICON West as soon as possible. See links below for more information about Visa and passport requirements for travel to the United States.

VISA ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITORS

Visitors to the U.S. from visa-waiver countries will be required to register online and to be screened and authorized for entry. The new Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) was ordered by the Department of Homeland Security to identify visitors who might be a threat. Authorization is good for two years or until one's current passport expires. For more information, please visit our Hotel and Travel page or contact your local consulate regarding visa and entry regulations for United States.

VISA INTERVIEW TIPS

Request your letter of invitation and make your appointment for a visa interview early! Wait times for a visa interview can be several weeks or more in many countries, especially during peak travel periods. With this in mind, we strongly urge you to place your request for a letter of invitation to attend SEMICON West as soon as possible. These helpful tips may make your visa interview process easier:

Request a letter of invitation

During registration, the form asks if you would like to request a Visa Letter of Invitation. Select "Yes" and then complete the additional page with travel information included.

Complete all the information requested by SEMI to process your letter of invitation

Once SEMI receives the completed information, we will process the letter within 5 business days and send a PDF letter via email.

Schedule an appointment with your embassy as soon as you receive your visa letter

Make your appointment early, as wait times can be long in some countries. Please request your letter of invitation before making your appointment and make sure you have the letter available for your interview.

Travel with an official embassy delegation

Traveling with a delegation organized by your local embassy can improve your chances of receiving visa approval. Many embassies organize official delegations through their commercial sections. If you are interested in joining a delegation, contact your local embassy and ask if the commercial trade specialist is organizing a delegation. Locate your nearest embassy or consulate at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.

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Be sure to complete all official documents

Answer all questions completely. Do not use 'n/a', 'not applicable', on your forms. If the answer is in the negative, use 'no', 'nil', or 'none.'

Show proof of 'strong ties' that bind you to your country of residence

The Consular Officers conducting interviews look for proof that you will return to your country. Evidence of 'strong ties' includes proof of business ownership or employment, social and family relationships.

If you have traveled to the U.S. previously, provide documentation demonstrating you returned to your country on time (airline boarding pass for example)

Show proof that you returned within the timeframe you stated. For example, use an airline ticket stub/boarding pass that shows your return flight or meeting materials that show you attended a business conference.

With your application, include any materials SEMICON West may have sent you

With your application, include any printed conference materials, official booth confirmation letter, etc. you receive from Show Management to prove the show is a legitimate business event. As part of the visa interview, quick inkless fingerprint scans should be expected.

Some visa applications require additional administrative processing, which requires some additional time. Applicants are advised when they apply.

Getting a visa is easy if you are prepared. Interviews typically last no more than 5 minutes, and the questions are related to confirming your travel plans and ties to your home country. But remember, wait times can be long for visa processing. Register for SEMICON West, get your letter, and make your appointment as soon as possible.