

## **U.S./Canada border crossing Requirements Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Background**

To cross by plane you need a U.S. Passport.

To cross by car requires a passport, passport card, or an enhanced driver's license from New York, Vermont, Michigan, Minnesota or Washington state.

For non-U.S. citizens in the U.S. to enter Canada, in general a Canadian visa is required. More information for non-U.S. students may be found here:

<https://www.buffalo.edu/international-student-services/immigration-visa/travel/outside-the-us.html>

The application requirements for a U.S. passport and passport card are generally the same, however the fees are different. A first-time passport is \$165 and a passport card is \$65. Both are valid for a period of ten years. If the only travel you are anticipating is driving to Canada or Mexico then the passport card will save \$100, however if in the future you anticipate flying to those or any other countries then the passport is probably the better choice. Processing time is typically 6-8 weeks. Expedited processing in 2-3 weeks is also available, but the fee is an extra \$60, so don't wait!

### **What you need to apply**

- A 2"x2" color photo of the head and shoulders taken within the last six months.
- Proof of citizenship. For those born in the U.S. this is an original U.S. birth certificate, not a photocopy. Those born outside the U.S. must provide a certificate of naturalization or citizenship, or a consular report of birth abroad or certification of birth.
- A completed, but not signed, Form DS-11, application for U.S. passport. The form may be filled out online and then printed, or printed as a PDF and filled out by hand. The DS-11 may be found here:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/forms.html>

- A check or money order for the appropriate fee.

### **Where to apply**

First time passport or passport card applications must be made in person at one of over 7,000 locations in the U.S., most of which are post offices. The facility closest to you may be found here:

<https://iafdb.travel.state.gov/>

### **Bottom line**

Applying for a passport or passport card is very straightforward, however specific requirements must be followed. Be sure to have an original birth certificate. If you or your parents can't find yours then apply for a duplicate from the appropriate office in your state in plenty of time to get your passport or passport card.

This document is just a summary, to see all details and begin your application start here:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>