

# PASSPORTS AND VISAS

**All travelers, including children, leaving the United States and planning to return to the USA must have a valid passport. Please check government web site for latest information. We provide here only an outline of what is necessary. Also rules change without notice.**

<http://travel.state.gov/passport>

**If you have a valid passport, CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE NOW to make sure it is *valid for longer than the duration* of your travel outside the United States.**

**If you do not have a valid passport, apply immediately!** Yesterday would not have been too soon! See government web site for time new applications and renewals can take (weeks to months). **APPLY NOW** even though you are not completely sure you will attend AIMS in Graz.

**If you are not traveling with a U.S. passport**, you may need a **visa** to transit certain countries (land and change planes) and to enter Austria. If you do not have the proper documents, you will not be allowed to change planes and will be detained by the police in jail.

## PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

### U.S. Citizens

For detailed official information on passport application, visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport>.

This web site has much more information than can be included here. **READ THIS WEB SITE!**

The U.S. Passport Office in your city is usually located in Post Offices or the Courthouse. There are 9,000 passport offices in the U.S. ALL persons applying for the first time must appear in person.

There are other stipulations. Depending on the location, the rules vary as to how you can pay. Please see the web site to avoid inconvenience.

You will need:

- Certified copy of your birth certificate, your old passport or naturalization papers
- Two photographs, size 2 x 2 inches, black & white (non-gloss, matte finish), or color photos with light background (less than six months old), check or money order made payable to the Passport Office) or \$40.00 for children ages 16 and under. Adult passports are valid for 10 years; 5 years for children.

• \$75 or \$97.00 (cash, credit or debit cards, and checks accepted *depending on location*) plus \$25 execution fee.

You may buy both a passport book and card (\$97), or just the passport book (\$75). Fees for children are less. See the passport web site. Check prices on web site to avoid inconvenience! Verify with the location what forms of payment they will accept. Expedited service is an additional \$60 plus overnight delivery charges.

- Valid Driver License, any state
- Certified proof of any name change
- See other types of identification accepted on passport web site.

U.S. Citizens: Allow a minimum of 3 weeks to obtain your passport.

Record your passport information on the AIMS Registration web site *as soon as possible* and absolutely **NO LATER THAN JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Bring extra passport-size pictures with you to Graz. Singers and pianists need five (5) pictures for registration and class purposes. Others should bring two (2) pictures.

At check-in please have a photocopy of the picture page of your passport ready to give to AIMS.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

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### U.S. Citizens

If you are a citizen of the United States, a Visa is not required to visit Austria, other European Union countries and most other European countries.

### NON-U.S. Citizens

If your passport **WAS NOT** issued by the United States, you **MUST** contact the Austrian Embassy in Washington, DC ([www.austria.org](http://www.austria.org) and 202-895-6716) or the nearest Austrian consulate ([www.austria.org](http://www.austria.org)) about a VISA to enter Austria. If an Austrian VISA is required for citizens of **your** country, you **MUST APPLY** and **OBTAIN** the VISA **BEFORE** you travel. If requested by the Austrian consulate, AIMS will supply a letter certifying your status as an invited AIMS In Graz participant. First, show the officials your acceptance letter/email. If a letter is needed, email or fax your request to the AIMS Administrative Office.

Obtaining a VISA is frequently slow and complicated. **ACT NOW!** Every summer several participants run into this problem. AIMS will help but we must have plenty of time to do so.

### Warning:

**It is essential for you to determine that your papers are in order for your RE-ENTRY into the United States, if you are returning to the U.S., investigate what is required now!**  
**AIMS cannot help you if you do not have the proper documents.**

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Bring extra passport-size pictures with you to Graz. Singers and pianists need five (5) pictures for registration and class purposes. Others should bring two (2) pictures.

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