

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All travelers, including children, leaving the United States and returning to the USA must have a valid passport. For the latest information see <http://travel.state.gov>: select **Passport** or **Visa Information**.

We provide here only an outline of the rules, which may change without notice.

If you have a valid passport, **CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE NOW** to make sure it is *valid for at least 2 weeks 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 <http://travel.state.gov/passport>

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 will need a **visa** to transit (land and change planes) through certain countries (for example, Germany) 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>.
PLEASE 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 first time applicants must appear in person. There are other stipulations. Depending on the location, the rules vary as to how you can pay the application fee. 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). The cost varies if you are greater than or less than 16 years of age. Adult passports are valid for 10 years; 5 years for children.
- Cash, credit or debit cards, and checks may be accepted *depending on location*.
You may buy both a passport book and card (\$165), or just the passport book (\$135). Fees for children are less. 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. All cost information can be found at http://travel.state.gov/passport/fees/fees_837.html This cost information may change and should not be relied upon.
- 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. It could take longer.

AIMS NEEDS:

- Record your passport information on the AIMS Registration web site *as soon as possible* and absolutely NO LATER THAN JUNE 1st. Without this information, we will assume you cannot come to AIMS because time has run out for you to get your passport. There are tuition penalty fees if you cancel.
- Bring extra passport-size pictures with you to Graz.
- Singers and pianists need five (5) pictures for registration and class purposes.
- All others should bring two (2) pictures.
- Bring a copy of the picture page of your passport ready to give to AIMS at check-in. This is required by Austrian law for you to check into your room. Your passport is required for check-in to all hotels in EU countries.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

U.S. Citizens

If you are a citizen of the United States, a Visa is not required to visit Austria, the European Union (EU) 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 and 202-895-6716) or the nearest Austrian consulate (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.

Warning:

Our experience is that obtaining a VISA is frequently slow and complicated. Do not delay. ACT NOW! Every summer several participants run into this problem. AIMS will help, but we must have plenty of time (MONTHS) to do so.

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 and obtaining them after leaving the U.S. is very difficult.

Record your passport AND VISA information on the AIMS Registration web site *as soon as possible* and absolutely NO LATER THAN JUNE 1st.

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 you passport ready to give to AIMS.

AIMS Administration
28 East 69th Street
Kansas City MO 64113
Email: aimsgraz@gmail.com
FAX: 816-268-3658