USA Passport Card

Annenberg International Programs
Pre-Departure Series

Are You a USA Citizen?

If no...
Please archive this document and refer back to it if needed in the future.

If yes...
Please continue and make sure to read each section carefully.
Are You a USA Citizen?

If yes... consider applying for a USA Passport Card.

• Its primary use is for land/sea travel between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean.
  – It allows you to enter those countries without a passport book.
• It is an official government-issued piece of identification.
• If you never had a USA passport, you can apply for both the passport book and the passport card at the same time.

Why Should I Consider Getting One?

• Certain countries require you to carry a piece of government-issued identification at all times. (For example, the United Kingdom.)
• However, it is not recommended to carry your passport with you every day and when you are not traveling outside of your host country because of theft issues in most overseas countries.
• Your driver’s license and university IDs are not valid overseas for this purpose.
• It allows you to keep your passport in a secure location in your dorm/flat/hotel while carrying an acceptable piece of identification.
Example of a Passport Card

- Size of a credit card
- Your passport photo image is imprinted on the surface of the card.
- Your passport card number is not the same as your passport book number.
- The expiration date for your passport card is not the same as the expiration date for your passport book.

Note: Images not to scale.

How Do I Get a Passport Card?

The U.S. Department of State issues passport cards:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html

If you already have a USA passport (book), you pay the lower “previous passport holder cost” and not the “first time applicant cost.”

Current “Previous Passport Holder Cost”: $30
What Do I Need To Know Before I Apply?

• You need to submit a 2x2” photo with the application
• You need to mail your USA passport along with the passport card application
  – Send in application + passport AT LEAST 2 months before you depart the United States for regular service
  – You may also request expedited processing for an additional fee
  – If you provide an email address, you will receive email notification of when your application is received

Remember Though...

• The passport card CANNOT be used to enter your host country!
• You still need to bring your passport book with you every time you leave the United States and your host country.
• Use the passport card as a valid form of identification in your wallet.