

2017 Annual Meeting Participation and Travel Requirements

Dear SBL Member,

The participation of non-U.S. members in the SBL Annual Meeting has grown considerably. This has created a rich exchange of ideas and relationships—a value to every member and to the Society as a whole. SBL continues to do everything it can to broaden participation and enrich this experience in order for us to foster international biblical scholarship.

We also recognize that non-U.S. citizens traveling to the U.S. are facing changing travel guidelines. As the situation evolves, we urge all attendees to inquire about Visa requirements in relation to their home countries. The following are important links to information on Visa resources and processes:

- U.S. [Visas](#)
- U.S. [Visa Waiver Program](#) (VWP)
- U.S. [Electronic System for Travel Authorization](#) (ESTA)
- SBL [Annual Meeting registration page](#)

Since 2016 there have been changes to the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) as well as potential changes to the Visa Interview Waiver Program. Since these changes may have the cumulative effect of delaying Visa applications, we urge members to apply for a Visa or inquire about the status of a VWP well in advance of the Annual Meeting and as soon as possible.

Please note that SBL will fully refund registration fees with no penalty to SBL members in good standing whose Visa applications are denied or who are otherwise restricted from entering the United States. For full refund, members must provide a copy of the Visa rejection.

Official letters of invitation to the Annual Meeting to support Visa applications are available. Please indicate during registration in the “Letter of Invitation” portion if you would like to request a letter. If you have questions, you may e-mail annualmeeting@sbl-site.org after you have completed registration to obtain more details about the information required.

Sincerely,

John F. Kutsko
Executive Director