

INFORMATION ABOUT VISA PROCUREMENT FOR AAS CONFERENCE 2024

Participants from Africa who wish to attend the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) conference and General Congress in Abuja, Nigeria, from December 8 to 12, 2024, will generally need to obtain a visa to enter the country. Below is the information concerning the visa types and requirements:

1. Visa Types

- **Business Visa:** Suitable for conference participants.
- **Tourist Visa:** This can also be used if the stay is short and primarily for conference purposes.

2. Basic Requirements for Obtaining Visa

- ✓ **Valid Passport:** Must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry into Nigeria.
- ✓ **Visa Application Form:** Completed online via the Nigeria Immigration Service website.
- ✓ **Passport Photographs:** Recent passport-sized photos.
- ✓ **Invitation Letter:** From the AAS conference organizers detailing the nature, duration, and purpose of the visit.
- ✓ **Proof of Accommodation:** Hotel reservations or a letter of accommodation from the host.
- ✓ **Return Ticket:** Proof of a return or onward travel ticket.
- ✓ **Proof of Sufficient Funds:** Bank statements or other proof of financial means.
- ✓ **Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate:** Required for entry into Nigeria.

3. Application Process and Issuance of Visa

The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) website (<https://portal.immigration.gov.ng/>) provides information on visa requirements for different nationalities. The link above is safe to find the relevant Nigerian consulate or embassy in your home country.

However, the following are important guides for the application process,

1. Complete the visa application form online on the Nigeria Immigration Service website.
2. Pay the visa fee online using generated payment links from the designated sites or at designated banks.
3. Book an appointment at the nearest Nigerian Embassy or Consulate.
4. Attend the appointment and submit the required documents.
5. Provide biometric data (fingerprints and photos) if required.
6. Attend an interview if requested by the embassy or consulate.
7. Collect the visa if approved.

4. Processing Time

- Visa processing times can vary, but it is advisable to apply well in advance, typically 4-6 weeks before the travel date.

5. Additional Information

- Participants are advised to start the visa application process early and ensure all documents are in order to avoid any delays.

- **Multiple Entry Visa:** If planning to leave and re-enter Nigeria during the stay, ensure to apply for a multiple-entry visa.
- **Visa on Arrival:** Some nationalities may be eligible for a visa on arrival, but it is crucial to verify this and obtain pre-approval if needed.

Visa on Arrival (VoA)

Participants from African countries may be eligible for a VoA if they meet specific criteria set by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS).

The specific criteria or eligible Categories for Visa on Arrival include:

- ❖ **High Net Worth Investors:** Business persons who have frequently travelled to Nigeria and have business interests in the country.
- ❖ **African Union Countries:** Citizens of African Union member states are eligible for a Visa on Arrival.
- ❖ **Multinational Company Executives:** Executives of multinational companies travelling for business purposes.
- ❖ **Government Delegates:** Members of official government delegations.
- ❖ **Holders of United Nations and African Union Laissez-Passer:** Individuals holding these travel documents can apply for a Visa on Arrival.
- ❖ **Other Recognized International Organizations:** Holders of official travel documents from recognized international organizations may also be eligible.

Here are the steps and requirements:

1. Eligibility

For attendees of the AAS conference and General Congress in Abuja, Nigeria, from December 8 to 12, 2024, Visa on Arrival (VoA) is an option for eligible participants.

2. Requirements

To apply for a VoA, you generally need the following documents:

- ✓ **Valid Passport:** Must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry.
- ✓ **Visa on Arrival Approval Letter:** This must be obtained before travelling. It's an official document issued by the NIS approving the visa-on-arrival application.
- ✓ **Completed VoA Application Form:** This can be filled out online.
- ✓ **Passport Photographs:** Recent passport-sized photos.
- ✓ **Invitation Letter:** From the AAS conference organizers detailing the purpose, duration, and nature of the visit.
- ✓ **Proof of Accommodation:** Hotel booking confirmation or a letter from the host.
- ✓ **Return Ticket:** Proof of a return or onward travel ticket.
- ✓ **Proof of Sufficient Funds:** Bank statements or other evidence of financial capability.
- ✓ **Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate:** Required for entry into Nigeria.

These documents must be submitted to the sub-committee not later than 15th November 2024 for onward processing and submission to the Nigerian immigration service. The timing is of importance so as to get everything on track for the approved VoA.

3. Application Process for VoA

1. Pre-Approval Application:

- ✓ Apply for a visa on arrival approval online at the Nigeria Immigration Service website.

- ✓ Submit the required documents, including the invitation letter from the AAS conference organizers.

2. Payment:

- ✓ Pay the visa fee online. Fees vary depending on the nationality.

3. Receive Approval:

- ✓ Once the application is processed and approved, you will receive a Visa on Arrival Approval Letter via email.

4. Travel to Nigeria:

- ✓ You will have to carry the Visa on Arrival Approval Letter, printed copy of the VoA application form, passport, and other required documents.

5. Arrival in Nigeria:

- ✓ Upon arrival at the airport in Nigeria, proceed to the Visa on Arrival desk.
- ✓ Present the Approval Letter and other documents to the immigration officer.
- ✓ Provide biometric data (fingerprints and photo) if required.
- ✓ Pay any remaining visa fees if not already paid online.

6. Visa Issuance:

- ✓ Once all procedures are completed, your visa will be stamped into your passport, allowing you to enter Nigeria.

Validity: The Visa on Arrival is usually valid for a short stay, typically up to 30 days, but this can vary.

Multiple entry: you plan to leave and re-enter Nigeria, ensure that the VoA allows for multiple entries or apply for a multiple-entry visa.

Visa-Free Entry

Citizens from the following African countries can enter Nigeria without a visa for a conference or other short-term visits:

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Cape Verde
4. Cameroon
5. Chad
6. Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
7. Gambia
8. Ghana
9. Guinea
10. Guinea-Bissau
11. Liberia
12. Mali
13. Niger
14. Senegal
15. Seychelles
16. Sierra Leone
17. Togo

These countries are part of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which has a protocol allowing visa-free travel among member states. Travellers from other African countries generally need a visa to enter Nigeria, including for conferences. It is advisable to check with the Nigerian embassy or consulate for the latest entry requirements.

7. Contact Information

For specific inquiries and updates, contact the nearest Nigerian Embassy or Consulate or visit the Nigeria Immigration Service website (<https://portal.immigration.gov.ng/>).

It's crucial to start the process early to ensure all requirements are met and to allow for any potential delays in processing. Always check with the official Nigerian embassy website or contact them directly for the most accurate and updated visa requirements for your specific nationality and conference participation.