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Global Entry Program Expands

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[Global Entry](#), a program that allows preapproved, low-risk travelers entering the United States to bypass customs agents and be screened at automated kiosks, has expanded to include more international travelers.

Qualified citizens from the United Kingdom, Germany, the Republic of Korea and Qatar are now eligible to apply for Global Entry membership, one of several United States “trusted traveler” programs to expedite security screening.

In addition, some current Global Entry members can now apply for similar streamlined entry programs offered by Korea and Germany.

Created as a pilot program in 2008 to facilitate international travelers as quickly and securely as possible, Global Entry is administered by United States Customs and Border Protection, part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Before the addition of four new countries that formally began Aug. 9, United States citizens, legal permanent residents and some citizens of the Netherlands, Mexico and Canada were eligible to apply or have benefits. Currently, nearly 300 Global Entry kiosks are available at 34 American airports and 10 preclearance locations in Ireland and Canada, serving 98 percent of all incoming air travelers, said Stephanie Malin, a spokeswoman for the agency.

Applicants must fill out an online application, pay a \$100 application fee, undergo a background check and interview and submit fingerprints. Once approved, membership is valid for five years.

“Expanding Global Entry to more travelers from key allied nations will strengthen United States aviation security while improving the efficiency of the U.S. entry process for all travelers,” Roger Dow, president and chief executive of the U.S. Travel Association, a trade group, said in a statement. The move, he said, will also boost the economy and enable the agency “to focus its screening resources on potentially riskier unknown travelers.”

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