

Visa Fact Sheet

This fact sheet offers information on the visa process for each country on our approved program list. As you're beginning your research, keep in mind the length of stay (**Most** countries: over 90-day visit – need a visa **and** passport, under 90 – just passport).

If a visa is necessary, notice your host country's requirements. Some common documents you will need for Visa application purposes are your passport, confirmation of enrollment in the host country, biometrics/background check, and proof of sufficient finances to support you during your length of study. Securing your visa might mean an in-person visit to a consulate, embassy, or *VFS Services* site in the US, submitting your documents by mail or electronically, and/or applying for the correct documentation after you enter the country.

If your home state is Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, your in-person appointment (if necessary) is in Chicago, unless Chicago does not provide Visa Services for your country and then it might be in New York or Washington D.C. (unlikely). Provider programs and host institutions can assist you after acceptance. We hope this helps you as you begin your application process. Let us know if you have any questions!

Please remember that the responsibility in obtaining the proper Visa falls on each student. The guidelines in this document are subject to change. Consult with program advisors or the Study Abroad office if you have questions.

***Note-** Depending on your country, an Embassy, Consulate, or *VFS Services* will issue your visa, and you will need to observe the processing times for visas of each country.

VISAS BY COUNTRY

An example of obtaining a Visa by traveling to Chicago, scroll to Norway or South Korea. This is also an experience with VFS services. To read about an example of only applying online before leaving the country, locate Sweden, but, for Sweden and Norway, there are also instructions on traveling to an immigration office after arriving to get your residence card.

****Note:** Sometimes there are two links provided under each country. One is to speed up your research, and the other is a link to the appropriate visa application. Guidelines and applications are subject to change, so please research on your own to ensure you are following the correct steps.

EUROPE

Many European countries fall within the [Schengen Area](#) (same set of access laws and regulations) and allow Visa Free Travel with a US passport for 90 days within an 180 day period (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland).

For longer than 90 days, you will need to obtain an individual visa for the country where you are staying.

- **Germany** – As a U.S. citizen, in most cases, you can apply for a visa after arriving in Germany at the local [Residence Registrations Office](#) or the [Aliens' Registration Office](#). Make sure to bring all of the necessary documents with you.
 1. <https://abroadamerican.com/2017/04/how-to-student-visa-in-germany/> - Tips
 2. <https://www.germany.info/us-en/service/05-VisaEinreise/residence-visa/922288> - Extra Consulate Website Information
- **Hungary** – You can only apply for a visa at the nearest consulate in the U.S. (New York) after acceptance. Make an appointment in New York with printed application and required documents. Apply for residence permit within your first 15 days in Hungary.
 1. <https://www.educations.com/study-guides/europe/study-in-hungary/student-visa-7855> - Tips

2. <http://konzulizsolgalat.kormany.hu/how-to-apply-for-visa> - Where to Apply
- **Czech Republic** – Apply to the nearest consulate (Chicago) after acceptance. All documents must be translated in Czech and processing time is around 60 days. You do not need to visit Chicago, because you can send the documents by mail, but you are allowed to schedule an appointment.
 1. https://www.mzv.cz/chicago/en/consular_information/long_term_residence_permit/student_visa.html - Where to Apply
 - **Russia** – Not a Schengen Member Country, so must obtain a visa to enter country. After acceptance, apply by making an appointment for an in-person appearance and then bringing all necessary documents. Be very attentive to processing times.
 1. <https://www.expatica.com/ru/moving/visas/applying-for-a-russian-student-visa-requirements-costs-and-processing-time-995118/> - Tips
 2. <https://washington.mid.ru/en/consular-services/consulate/russian-consulates-in-the-us/> - Consulate Jurisdictions
 3. https://newyork.mid.ru/web/newyork_en/how-to-apply - Where to Apply
 - **France** – Less than 90 days not required, over 90 days fill out application forms and book an appointment at Visa application center (begin application within 90 days of departure)
 1. https://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/Education_Abroad/France_Visa_FAQs/ - Tips
 2. https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas - Where to Apply
 - **Portugal** – [Temporary Stay Visa](#) Study and Research Visa for under 1 year. Apply before 90 days of leaving at nearest consulate (Washington D.C.) after acceptance. Fill out all necessary forms. No visa needed for less than 90 days.
 1. <https://www.expatica.com/pt/moving/visas/a-guide-to-portuguese-student-visas-and-requirements-936507/> - Tips
 2. <https://www.vistos.mne.pt/en/national-visas/general-information/type-of-visa#study-and-research> – Where to Apply
 - **Iceland**
 1. <https://en.ru.is/media/alhjudaskrifstofa/skjol/Student-Visa-Handbook-Non-EU.pdf> - Tips and Where to Apply
 - **Greece** – Must identify your nearest Greek Consulate and submit documents in person
 1. https://gpglobalea.gp.psu.edu/customtags/ct_FileRetrieve.cfm?File_ID=05017B764F70000271027605061F72720E781B080378046B730609007A067C770307757D00707175 – Tips
 2. <https://www.mfa.gr/usa/en/services/services-for-non-greeks/> - Where to Apply
 - **Belgium** - apply at nearest embassy or consulate after acceptance
 1. <https://www.expatica.com/be/moving/visas/study-in-belgium-guide-to-student-visas-and-permits-107627/> - Tips
 2. <https://unitedstates.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/visa-belgium/higher-education-students> - Where to Apply. Most WSU students will go to the [Consulate General](#) in New York.
 - **United Kingdom** – no visa needed under 6 months (bring letter of acceptance, information on funds, proof of the intent to leave the UK, and details of where you will stay), over 6 months – apply online (no sooner than 3 months) and have fingerprints & photograph taken at application center
 1. <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas> – To Check if you need a Visa
 - **Italy** - apply at nearest embassy or consulate after acceptance, will need to schedule an interview, apply within 8 days after you arrive in your Italian city for a permit of stay
 1. <http://www.cisabroad.com/files/italy-visa-info.pdf> – Tips and Links to Where to Apply based off Jurisdiction
 - **Denmark** – over 90 days: apply right after acceptance to nearest consulate or embassy, takes 60 days to process; under 90: Consult advisor if you need it. Short-term visa may be required.

1. <https://studyindenmark.dk/live-in-denmark/permits-visas-red-tape/residence-permits-for-non-eu-citizens> – Tips
 2. <https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB> – Where to Apply
 3. <https://www.mastersportal.com/visa-info/82-6/students-from-united-states-to-denmark.html> - Tips
- **Norway** – This is an example of the residence permit process from one of our students who studied in Oslo, Norway.
 1. Complete an online application and make an appointment with the Norwegian VHS Services in Chicago after receiving final acceptance from the program – the program advisor (HECUA) will give you instructions on this but here is probably the link they will give you
<https://www.vfsglobal.com/norway/USA/>
 2. Attend appointment, bringing all the necessary documents, and required application fee – takes about 8 weeks to process
 3. Receive positive decision. Instructions on next steps will be included on the decision email
 4. To get the residence card, you will have to book an appointment with the police district where you will be living in Norway (Oslo) within 7 days after you arrive. HECUA will do this as a group.
 - **Sweden** – This is an example of the residence permit process from one of our students who studied at Kristianstad University. It may be similar to another program that has an online application but no required embassy or consulate visit in the US.
 1. Apply after being admitted to the Swedish university and paying all necessary tuition fees
<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Universities-and-university-college.html> – What you will need:
 - • copies of the pages in your passport which show your personal details, the period of validity and whether you have permission to live in countries other than your country of origin
 - • admission decision or letter of acceptance showing that you have been admitted to study a program or courses full-time
 - • the decision on admission as a doctoral student with information about the time of admission (if you are a doctoral student)
 - • copy of document proving that you have comprehensive medical insurance coverage in Sweden (if you have been admitted to studies that last less than one year). If you are insured through the university or university college, enclose a certificate to prove this
 - • bank statement showing that you have the means to support yourself. This bank statement, which you are to enclose with your application, should be dated in connection with the time of application and be translated into English or,
 - • documents issued in your name, showing that you have received a scholarship or similar (e.g. student aid), including information about the monthly amount and the period during which you will receive such funds or,
 - • documents proving that you have been awarded an educational grant (only applies to doctoral students) or have been employed as a doctoral student, with information regarding the amount and the period during which you will receive such funds.
 2. Complete all information online for the application that is on the [Swedish Migration](#) Agency's website, submit and pay application fee – **make sure you have all the documents ready before starting because you cannot return to the application without having to start over.**
 3. Receive an email after your online application is processed - If it indicates you need to submit more information, you can send it in separately without having to redo the entire application, so do not stress about sending in something wrong when you are doing the application.
 4. Once you are accepted, you will only need to print the acceptance email to prove to immigration at the airport in case requested, and the email will give you further instructions. It will tell you that once you arrive, you will have 3 months to make an appointment at the nearest Swedish Migration Board in

Sweden (Malmo for Kristianstad) to get your fingerprints and picture taken so that you can receive your residence card. You will receive it by mail to your address in Sweden.

- **Poland** – Over 90 days: apply for visa at nearest embassy or consulate after acceptance, this process takes up to 15 days to be reviewed after in person appointment, obtain residence permit once in Poland if you need to extend your stay beyond your visa time; Under 90: Consult advisor to see if you need it. Short-term visa may be required.
 1. <http://go-poland.pl/visa-application> – Tips
 2. https://chicago.msz.gov.pl/en/consular_information/visa_information/visa_information;jsessionid=C4A4FC1EA8E108866ECD5F69C2D132D.cmsap5p – Where to Apply

ASIA

- **India** - apply at nearest embassy or consulate after acceptance
 1. <https://www.in.ckgs.us/visa/student-visa> - Tips
 2. <https://www.in.ckgs.us/visa/howtoapply> – How to Apply
 3. <https://www.in.ckgs.us/visa/student-visa-getstarted> – Where to Apply (Get Started)
- **Japan** – under 90 days: visa exemption with proof of intent to leave; Over 90: most likely have to fill in visa information when you apply to the Japanese university – then receive certificate of enrollment – then apply to nearest embassy in US (bit of a longer process)
 1. https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html – Exemption for Short-Term Stay
 2. <https://www.dreamstudiesabroad.com/articles/student-visa-japan> - Tips
 3. https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/visa.html - Where to Apply
- **South Korea** –
 1. If you are going to be staying less than 90 days, a Visa will not be necessary. Instead, you will receive a landing card on the plane, (or on tables before you go through Customs), and you must indicate that you are a tourist. If asked, “What is your tour” or “what are you here for” after giving customs your card, just say, it is to visit friends in Seoul.
 2. **Required** to get a student visa for all study programs less than a year. The steps can be:
 1. Decide which visa you need. Less than 90 days you can indicate you are just on tour. Above 90, a D type visa that you apply for after being accepted. Most likely this will only allow you to study and not work, but you can apply to work on that student visa after 6 months.
http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-chicago-en/wpge/m_4833/contents.do – Where to Apply
 2. Your University (not WSU) will email you with a visa filing number. This is a number specific to each individual. You will write this number on your visa application (next steps). FYI: YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FILL OUT THE VISA APPLICATION WITHOUT THIS NUMBER.
 3. In person:
 - Apply at the nearest Korean embassy (Chicago is the only one in the Midwest)
 - Go back to the Korean embassy after 2 weeks and pick up your visa (usually takes about 2 weeks after they receive your application, but call ahead just in case it is not ready)
 4. Through the mail:
 - If you do not want to make two separate trips to Chicago and back (it is quite a journey if you are close to the Winona area or further away from Chicago), then you can also mail in your passport. ([Sending Passports through the mail.](#))
 - Print out an application on the Korean Embassy’s website, fill it out (you will have to provide a professionally taken headshot of yourself with the application, more information is provided on the application), and physically mail it WITH YOUR PASSPORT to the following address: NBC Tower Suite 2700, 455 North City Front Plaza Dr. Chicago, IL 60611. Have the post office EXPEDITE the letter so it gets there faster.

- The Korean Embassy will mail your passport back to you with your official visa plastered inside of your passport.
- 5. When entering the country, you will have to fill out a landing card. Again, if less than 90 days, indicate you are a tourist. If you enter with a student visa, indicate you are a student.
 - www.dreamstudiesabroad.com/articles/visa-korea – More tips
- 3. Consult your program advisor with additional questions or requests for advice.
- **Thailand** – apply at Royal Thai Consulate after acceptance – necessary paper work but no in person visit needed – good for 90 days and then reapply in Thailand
 1. Education Abroad Network will assist you – also for Vietnam/Thailand program
 2. <https://studyinthailand.org/study-abroad-thailand-university/student-visa-immigration-thailand.html> – Tips
 3. <http://www.thaiconsulatechicago.org/pages-Visa.html> – Where to Apply
- **Taiwan** – apply at nearest Republic of China (ROC) embassy, consulate or representative agency after acceptance, from 90 days – 180 days: Visitor Visa; over 180 days: resident visa
 1. <https://www.asiaexchange.org/information/visas-and-passports/taiwan-visa/> - Tips
 2. https://www.roc-taiwan.org/uschi_en/cat/8.html – Where to Apply (Should be #13 – Residents Visas for Foreign Students)
 3. https://www.roc-taiwan.org/uschi_en/post/6.html – Jurisdiction for the Chicago ROC
- **Oman** – make arrangements with CIL for student visa

OCEANIA

- **New Zealand** – Over 90 days: Fee-paying student visa is best. But depending on your program/length and tips from your advisor you might be able to do the visitor visa or exchange student visa; Under 90 days: visitor visa
 1. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/full-fee-paying-student-visa> – Fee Paying Student Visa
 2. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/study/explore-student-visas> – Find out what Visa you need
- **Australia** – apply after acceptance online, 4 weeks to process application (prove you have \$15,600 a year for living costs), no visa needed before 90 days
 1. <https://www.studyoptions.com/australian-student-visas> - Tips
 2. <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500> – Where to Apply

SOUTH AMERICA

- **Chile** - apply at nearest embassy or consulate after acceptance, submit materials online and appear for in-person appointment
 1. https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/EC113DA5-BC43-0135-9E8DAE1003FAFFF2/student-visa-2016_fromtheconsulatemay252016.pdf - Where to Apply (Chicago)
- **Peru** – apply for tourist visa at airport immigrations (passport is enough) – then apply for student visa in Peru at a Oficina de Migraciones; however, contact your Peruvian university to see if they want you to instead apply for a student visa while you're still in the US
 1. <https://www.perutelegraph.com/peru-information/peruvian-visa-types/peruvian-student-visa> - Tips
- **Ecuador** –for less than 90 days not required, if more than 90 apply after acceptance
 1. <https://www.visahunter.com/visa/ecuador/how-to-get-a-student-visa-for-ecuador/> - Tips
 2. <http://minneapolis.consulado.gob.ec/servicios-adicionales/> - Minneapolis Consulate
 3. <https://www.consuladovirtual.gob.ec/servicios/184-VisasGuiaIngles.pdf> - Where to Apply
- **Argentina** – Under 90 days: enter as a tourist. Over 90: Apply for Visa at nearest Consulate - check with your program for further instructions.
 1. <http://cnyor.mrecic.gov.ar/en/node/2162> - Tips and what you might need (example of New York's requirements)

2. <https://cchic.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/content/permanent-visa> - Where to Apply

NORTH AMERICA

- **Mexico** – No visa required for under 6 months
- **Dominican Republic** – apply by mailing documents to nearest consulate after acceptance, prepare for it to take 25-35 business days to process. – Check with program if you need one for under 90
 1. <http://dominicanrepublic-consulategeneral-chicago.com/en/11-2/#117- Student Visa - Where to Apply>
- **Costa Rica** – can enter as a tourist for up to 90 days but must have a departure ticket; over 90 days: leave the country for over 72 hours and then come back. However, depending on the recommendations from your program, you may have to go through a more official process to obtain a student visa before leaving or upon entry.
 1. <https://www.vacationscostarica.com/travel-guide/study-abroad-costa-rica/> - Tips
- **Cuba** – subject to change

AFRICA

Check with the University of Minnesota for more information on these Africa programs:

- **Morocco** – no visa needed for 90 days – extend at nearest police precinct in Morocco
- **Kenya** – best bet come to country on Tourist Visa & get “Pupil’s Pass” (Kenya Student Visa) at Dept. of Immigration in Kenya
- **Senegal** – no visa for 90 days, for longer apply directly at Senegalese Embassy in D.C. or Senegalese Consulate in NYC

Other miscellaneous, but good information:

<https://www.studyabroad.com/student-guide-study-abroad-visa> - Applying for student study abroad visa basic guidelines

<http://thestudyabroadblog.com/getting-the-infamous-visa/> - Information about getting a Tier 4 Student Visa for UK (more than 6 months)