The visa process can be a tricky experience. This document is meant to be a guide to navigate the visa application process. The information was obtained through embassy websites, but regulations are constantly changing so be sure to check with the embassy or consulate website before applying for a visa.

*Note, visas researched are for individuals studying abroad only, there may be different regulations for students working, interning or volunteering abroad.*

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How to Get a Visa for

Argentina

- If you are studying for 90 days or less, you can enter and remain in Argentina as a “tourist” and will not have to obtain any legal documents.

- If you are staying for more than 90 days, you must obtain a visa but can do this upon your arrival in Argentina:
1) Bring with you to Argentina your **passport** (of course) and **proof of a clear criminal record**

2) When you arrive in Argentina, you will have to pay a tourist entrance fee of $140.

3) Within 30 days of your arrival to Argentina, you will need to submit these documents to the Dirección Nacional de Migraciones:
   a) Valid Passport
   b) Official letter of admission/enrollment from the University in Argentina you are studying at
   c) Student exchange program certified by the organizing Argentine University (if applicable)
   d) A **COMPLETED** application form (can be obtained from embassy website)
   e) An official criminal record certificate from each country/city you have resided in during the last 5 years (must be legalized with the Hague Convention “Apotille”, or Argentine consulate in the United States)
   f) A clear criminal record certificate issued by the Argentine Federal Police Department or “Registro Nacional de Reincidenci,” requested once in Argentina
   g) Immigration Fee (if applicable)

**How to Get a Visa for Australia**

- It is required for all students to receive a visa before arrival in Australia.

- In order to apply for an Australian Student Visa you must first have been accepted by an Australian University and issued an electronic confirmation of enrollment (eCOE).
- Apply for a student visa either by mail or on-line.
  
  - Include the following:
    1. Completed application
    2. Four passport sized photos
    3. eCOE paperwork
    4. Certified copy of your passport
    5. Proof of adequate health insurance
    6. Proof of medical and x-ray examination
    7. Proof of sufficient funds to cover time abroad
    8. Academic Transcript
    9. Self-addressed/stamped Express Mail envelope from the U.S. Postal Service
  - it is possible that you will need to pay the $535 student visa fee. Pay by cashier’s check, money order or credit card.
  - Walk-in or mail to:
    Embassy of Australia
    Department of Immigration and Citizenship
    1601 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.
    Washington D.C. 20036-2273

- Students no longer need to complete a separate application for work rights because student visas include work rights (max. 20 hours per week).

  *Processing a visa can take several weeks; therefore allow yourself enough time to obtain a visa before departure.*

**How to Get a Visa for Austria**

- If you are studying for 90 days or less, you can enter and remain in Austria as a “tourist” and will not have to obtain any legal documents

- If you will be staying for 6 months or less, obtain a student visa by submitting the following to the closet Austrian Embassy in person (call for an appointment):
1) Complete application (obtain from embassy website)
http://www.austria.org/images/stories/content/downloads/consular/visas_ex dex_application.pdf

2) 2 passport size photos

3) Passport, valid for at least 3 months beyond stay

4) Letter of admission into an Austrian University

5) Proof of lodging

6) Proof of medical insurance (letter from insurance company confirming complete coverage during your stay)

7) Proof of sufficient funds for visit (bank statement)

8) Letter of financial responsibility signed by a parent and notarized, unless you are self supporting (you must attach most recent bank or income statement)

9) Copy of itinerary or a round trip ticket

11) Pay the $133 student visa fee per money order (payable to Embassy of Austria) or in cash (exact change)

10) A self-addressed, prepaid return envelope for return of passport

- If you are staying for more than 6 months, obtain a residence permit, more information can be found at the embassy website, noted above.
How to Get a Visa for Bolivia

- In order to study in Bolivia, you need a Student Visa. This visa is valid for 30 days, and is renewable on an express application processed by the National or Regional Immigration of Bolivia (Dirección General de Migración)

- Go to the Consulate General office to get your visa or apply by mail at least 2-3 weeks before departure. You are required to give these documents:

1) Visa Application (on consulate website)

2) Passport with at least 6 months validity

2) One passport sized photograph

4) a $43 visa fee by money order (Payable to the Consulate General of Bolivia) or debit/credit. Personal checks are not permitted.

5) Proof of clear criminal record

6) Medical certificate

6) School transcript

8) Copy of itinerary or travel reservation

9) Proof of financial stability

10) Acceptance letter to a university or academy

11) Pre-paid envelope with return address if applying by mail
How to Get a Visa for
Canada

- If you are studying for less than 6 months, you do not need to obtain a visa

- If you are study for more than 6 months, you must obtain a Study Permit, and satisfy your immigration officer who reviews your application that you plan to leave Canada when you are finished studying, have been accepted at a Canadian University, have enough money to pay for school and return transportation, will be law abiding, have no criminal record and that you are in good health

- The following documents are required:

1) Complete these forms:
   a) Study Permit application
   b) The IMM 5257 - Schedule 1 form
   c) Family Information Form

2) Proof of acceptance to a University (letter of acceptance)

3) Valid Passport

4) 2 recent passport sized photos

5) Proof of financial support ($850ish a month) by bank and credit card statements, as well as any additional supporting documents

5) Letter of Explanation
6) Academic Transcript (original and one photocopy)

7) If studying in Quebec, you also need to submit a Certificate of Acceptance (Certificat d’acceptation du Quebec)

8) Pay the $125 Study Permit processing fee

- Submit the above documents well before you leave for Canada, you will receive a study permit once you arrive in Canada and are approved for entry by the officer who issues you.
How to Get a Visa for Chile

- A student visa is required for studying abroad in Chile, submit the following to the consulate before you leave the U.S.A.:

1) Valid Passport

2) Application forms typed and in all CAPS

3) Health certificate issued by a doctor saying you are in good health with no communicable diseases (obtained in the last 30 days)

4) Results from a HIV/HTLV test issued by the Health Department, Laboratory or Private Doctor

7) Police Record issued by the Federal Authorities stating you have no records nationwide (FBI background check-from last 30 days)

8) One passport photo (2x2 color)

7) Letter or certificate of financial support (scholarship/bank Statement/parents)

8) Letter of acceptance from the Chilean University

9) A visa fee of $160 paid to the consulate. Pay by money order, debit or credit card (MasterCard or Visa)

- Present these documents to the consulate in person, by mail or by email (consulado@embassyofchile.org). However, Applicants must appear in person for the stamping of the visa in their passports and must bring all original documents.
How to Get a Visa for China

- If you are going abroad for less than 6 months, you need to get the Business Visa (F), by gathering the following and presenting it in person at the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. to apply:

1) Completed Visa Application Form

2) Passport (valid for at least another 6 months) and one blank visa page, along with a copy of your information page

3) One recent passport sized photo

4) Acceptance letter from your Chinese University

5) Visa fee of $140

6) If you are doing advanced studies, you will need to complete the Foreign Student Visa Application Form (JW201 or JW202).

-The regular processing time for this visa is 4 business days.

-If you are studying for more than 6 months, you need to get the Student (X) visa. Apply by following steps 1-6 above.

-With the Student (X) visa, within 30 days of arrival in China, you will go through residential formalities in the local public security department.
How to Get a Visa for Costa Rica

- You will need to get a visa after you have been accepted into a Costa Rican University. With the permit, you do not have the right to hold a job. You will fill out and take all the below paper work to your nearest Costa Rican Immigration Department (Washington, D.C.).

1) Passport valid for 6 months beyond intended stay
   - Include a certified copy of all of its pages

2) Request letter from the student (include your name, date of birth, nationality, place of residence, occupation, etc.) Include the name of the University you will be attending and a place to receive correspondence while in Costa Rica (address, phone, fax).

3) A fee of $200.

4) 2 Passport Photos

5) Fingerprints issued by the Ministry of Public Security

6) Affiliation Form completed and signed

7) Birth Certificate

8) Confirmation of enrollment at a Costa Rican University

9) Proof of sufficient funds available to support your time abroad

10) Criminal Record

- You can also apply at the General Office of Migration in Costa Rica.
How to Get a Visa for
Czech Republic

- Students do not need to apply for a visa if they are going for less than 90 days.

- Students wanting to stay for up to 180 days need to apply for a long-term visa. To apply, complete these steps:

  1) Completed application found on the Embassy website. Complete this form with a ballpoint pen or a typewriter in blue or black ink.
  2) 2 recent passport photos
  4) Original passport with minimum 3 months extension past planned stay, along with a photo copy of the data-photo page of your passport.
  5) Document confirming sufficient financial funds
     - Ways to confirm: notarized copy of credit or debit card in your name valid for entire stay, original bank statement or a letter from a host or sponsor confirming support of applicant during stay.
  6) Document confirming the purpose of stay (acceptance into university letter—must be in the Czech language)
  7) Document confirming the accommodation for the duration of your stay (must be in the Czech language)
  8) A criminal background history, your signature must be notarized by a Notary Public or signed in front of them.
  9) Proof of medical and/or health insurance
  10) Fee of $128 (cash or money order only)
  11) Enclose a pre-paid, self-addressed, over-night envelope using a common mail service

- If you are staying for over 6 months, you need to apply for a Temporary Residence Permit. Information about this permit can be found at the Embassy website.

- Send all these documents to: Embassy of the Czech Republic, Consular Section 3900 Spring of Freedom, NW, Washington DC, 20008
How to Get a Visa for Denmark

- All students staying for more than 3 months must obtain a Student Permit. This process will take 2 months.

- Submit your application and supporting documents in person to:
  Danish Consulate General
  885 Second Avenue, 18th Floor (48th Street)
  New York, NY 10017-2201

- You must schedule an appointment first before going to New York. You can also go to the Embassy of Sweden in DC to get your visa, but your biometrics (electronic fingerprints) won’t be made until you go to Denmark.

-Send these documents:

1) A completed application form that is signed.

2) One recent passport sized photos

3) Original passport (valid for 3 months beyond intended stay) and a copy of all pages in the passport

4) Official letter of acceptance from Danish University

5) Proof of financial means (a minimum of $830 per month in student's own name)

7) Processing Fee of $244 to the Consulate General (Can only be paid in cash or money order)

8) Additional fee to the Danish Immigration Service (Documentation is required to show you have paid for it, e.g. bank wire receipts)
How to Get a Visa for Ecuador

- All students staying for 3 – 6 months need to obtain a 12-IX Tourist Visa.
  - Include the following when applying for the visa:
    1) Passport (valid for at least 6 months beyond stay)
    2) Recent color passport photo with white background
    3) Updated police background check
    4) Proof of financial stability
    5) Round trip plane ticket
    6) Fee of $230 in cash or money order

- All students staying for 6 months – 1 year need to obtain a 12-V Student Visa:
  - Include the following when applying for a visa:
    1) #1-4 above
    2) Proof of admission to Ecuadorian school
    3) Certification of legal existence of the educative institution issued by SENESCYT or Ministry of Education
    4) Fee of $130 in cash or money order
How to Get a Visa for

Egypt

- All students need to obtain a tourist visa before leaving to study abroad in Egypt.

- Submit the following to the Egyptian Embassy by walk-in or by mail to:

  Consulate of the Arab Republic of Egypt
  3521 International Court, N.W.
  Washington, D.C. 20008

  1) Completed visa application form found at the Egyptian Embassy website

  2) Two recent passport sized photo

  3) Passport (valid for 6 months after planned departure) with at least one empty page

  4) Official note stating purpose and dates of travel

  5) $15 fee (money order or cash only)

  6) For mailed applications: Stamped self-addressed express envelope for return of passport

- The application process will take around 10 days
How to Get a Visa for
France

- If you are going for less than 90 days, you do not need to obtain a visa.

- If you are going for more than 90 days, you need to obtain a Student Visa.

- Before you leave for France, you will need to register with CampusFrance and then apply for a student visa.
  1) Fill out the CampusFrance application at:
     \[\text{http://www.usa.campusfrance.org/en}\]
     Information about the process:
  3) It will take about 3 weeks for your file to be completed. When it is ready, you will receive a confirmation e-mail (this will be included with your visa application).

- The next step is to make an appointment with your designated French Consulate (Washington, D.C.) and to bring the required documentation and a copy of every document.

Bring these to the French Consulate:
  1) Passport valid for 3 months beyond your last day in France with 2 blank pages, plus a photocopy of the personal data.
  2) Copy of your CampusFrance confirmation email
  3) Receipt of payment issued by CampusFrance
  4) One application form for extended-stay visa
  5) Two Passport Photos
  6) Visa Application and Processing fee
  7) Proof of financial stability ($820 per month). You can use a bank statement, and you need the original as well as a photocopy.
  8) Proof of airline ticket purchase or reservation
  9) Proof of residence (Drivers license or Photo ID)
  10) French immigration (OPI) Form for students wishing to stay in France for over six months (available on the French Consulate website)

- After arrival, you will need to register with the local immigration office in France.
How to Get a Visa for Germany

- No visa is required to study in Germany.

- When you arrive in Germany, you need to apply for a residence permit.

- To apply, you need the following documents:

  1) Two Completed Visa Application forms and a Visa Declaration form (found on embassy website)

  2) Two passport photos (strict details, see website)

  2) A passport valid for 3 months beyond stay, a copy of the data page, and with two blank pages

  4) Letter of acceptance to German University

  5) Proof of sufficient funds

  6) $92 visa fee
How to Get a Visa for Greece

- If you wish to study in Greece, you need specific requirements for the visa.

- The following documents are needed to complete the application process:

  1) A valid passport that is valid for at least 3 months after you plan to leave Greece.

  2) One passport sized photo (this will be glued on the application form)

  3) Acceptance letter from the University you will be studying at in Greece.

  4) Letter from a doctor stating you have no communicable diseases

  5) National criminal record from the F.B.I.

  6) Proof of health insurance for the duration of your stay in Greece

  7) Proof of funds for the duration of your stay in Greece

  8) Parents bank and credit card statements

  9) Parents W2 forms for the last 2 years

  10) Visa fee (They do not accept credit cards, debit cards, or personal checks)
How to Get a Visa for
Hong Kong

-All students must obtain a student visa, if studying for more than 3 months, prior to entering Hong Kong. The amount of time it takes to get the visa processed varies, so make sure you start the process early. It is your responsibility to complete paper work in time!

-In order to apply for a visa, you must have sponsorship at an University in Hong Kong, as you don’t apply directly through the consulate-your university will act as your visa sponsor and submit your application to the Immigration Department of Hong Kong.

-Apply for a student visa by sending the following documents to the university abroad:

1) Completed Visa Application…it can be found at
   - Attach a recent photograph on page 2 of the application

2) Include evidence of your Financial Standings
   -latest bank statement, financial aid, certificate of deposits

2) A clear copy of your passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond the intended stay in Hong Kong

3) $30 Visa fee with a $20 liaison fee (no cash or personal checks)

5) Upon approval, the University will send you the visa label. Attach the label to a blank page in your passport.

-After arrival, present your passport and student visa label to the Immigration Officer upon arrival in Hong Kong, activating your student status.
How to Get a Visa for

India

- All visa processing is now handled through Travisa Outsourcing. You will want to apply for a visa through the mail (recommended method) or in person at the Outsourcing office in your jurisdiction (Washington, D.C.)

- To apply by mail, you will need to send the following:

  1) Completed and printed visa application (obtain from embassy website)
  2) Travisa Order Form (in embassy website) and a photo of the visa application needs to be obtained for this form
  3) Passport and a copy of passport (must be valid for 6 months beyond end of program and have at least 2 blank visa pages)
  4) One passport sized photograph
  5) Proof of Address: submit a photocopy of your driver license or utility bill showing current residence/address
  6) Admission letter from the University you will be studying at in India
  7) Evidence of financial arrangements for stay in India
  8) Pay the $111 student visa fee on money order (personal checks not accepted)

- Everything will be returned via mail.

- If you choose to go in person, you will need all the same documents and will also have to pick up your visa in person from the Outsourcing Center.

- The visa process will take 7-9 business days.
How to Get a Visa for Ireland

- United States passport holders do not need visas to study in Ireland. BUT if you are planning on staying longer than 3 months, you will go to the Garda National Immigration Bureau in the district that you are residing to get permission to stay longer. You will need to submit the following documents to the immigration registrar upon arrival in Ireland:

   1) Possession of a round trip ticket

   2) Evidence of sufficient financial support for time abroad
      - bank statement, credit card, statement of earnings, travelers check

   3) A letter of registration from University in Ireland

- A stamp 2A will be issued to you once you get permission. A 150 Euro visa fee will be required.
How to Get a Visa for Italy

- Students studying in Italy for less than 90 days do not need a visa to enter the country. When entering the country, the border authorities may ask to see documentation, so have your passport with you.

- Students studying in Italy for more than 90 days need to obtain a study visa. In order to do so, you need to book an appointment through the embassy website and have these following documents:

  1) Visa Application Form (from embassy website)
  2) One passport-sized photo
  3) Passport valid for 3 months beyond stay
  4) Proof of financial stability
  5) Declaration of the availability in Italy of appropriate lodgings
  6) There is no visa fee for the study visa

- The embassy will take 7-15 business days to process your visa
How to Get a Visa for Japan

- If you are staying for under 90 days, you do not need a visa to enter Japan.

- If you are staying for more than 90 days, you need a study visa to enter Japan. Submit the following documents in person:

1) Visa Application Form completed and signed
2) Valid passport
3) One photo attached to the application
4) Original Certificate of Eligibility Application from the Ministry of Justice in Japan

If you cannot obtain the Certificate of Eligibility Application, Submit these additional documents:

1) Copy of acceptance letter from your University
2) Proof of financial stability
3) One photocopy of all documents

- There is no fee for this visa
How to Get a Visa for Mexico

- You do not need a visa to enter Mexico if you are staying for less than six months. You will need to obtain a Migration Form, which you can do at the airport.

- If you are studying for more than 6 months, you will need a study visa. You will need to apply in person at the general consulate in Washington D.C.:

  2827 16th St. NW
  Washington, DC 20009

- Give the following documents:

  1) Visa Application

  2) A valid passport with a copy of the pages with your passport information

  3) One passport photo

  4) Visa fee of $36 paid in exact change or by credit card (Visa or MasterCard)

  5) Acceptance letter of your University. It needs to contain your name, grade level, area of study, start and end dates, and the program cost.

  6) Proof of financial stability
How to Get a Visa for
Morocco

- Students do not need a visa if they are staying for 90 days or less.

- Students studying for more than 90 days need a residence permit to extend your stay. This should be done within two weeks of arrival.
  - Obtain this at the local police station at your place of residence
  - You must provide proof of studies in Morocco
  - Alternatively, if you leave Morocco within the 90-day period and come back, your 90-day period of stay is reset to the full 90 days. (e.g. leave Morocco for Spain then return back to Morocco with the original 90 days).
How to Get a Visa for New Zealand

- If you are studying for less than 3 months will not need to obtain a visa. However you are required to show proof of onward travel arrangements and sufficient funds.

- Students studying for more than 3 months will need to get a student visa. Send the following documents to the Embassy in Washington DC:

  Visa Application Centre
  1120 19th Street NW, Suite No. – 415
  Washington, DC. 20036
  UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

  1) Completed and signed application form (found on embassy website)
  2) $225 Visa fee via cash or credit card
  3) Two passport-sized photographs
  4) Valid passport
  5) Confirmation of enrollment at your University
  6) Evidence that your course fees are paid/will be paid
  7) Proof of financial support
  8) Evidence of pre-purchased outward travel or sufficient funds to purchase outward travel
  9) If you are staying between 6 months and a year, you may need to get a chest x-ray done. See the visa requirements for details.
  10) Birth certificate
  11) Include a self-addressed, prepaid courier envelope if you are sending the documents by mail
How to Get a Visa for Peru

- Students do not need to obtain a visa at an embassy or general consulate before going to Peru. Just bring your passport (valid for six months beyond stay) to the airport and you will be able to go to Peru for 90 days.

- Students studying for a semester have the option to get the student visa that is valid for 180 days. This is not required.

  - Give the following documents to the Embassy in D.C.:

    1) Letter of acceptance from your University/program
    2) A letter from your parents (or anyone) stating that your expenses are going to be covered
    3) Round-trip ticket
    4) $15 Visa fee
    5) A valid passport

- There are steps to take after you enter Peru; talk to your program or university about this once you arrive.

- You can also leave the country after 90 days and re-enter to renew your 90-day limit instead of obtaining a student visa.
How to Get a Visa for South Africa

- If you are studying for 3 months or less, you do not need to obtain a visa

- If you are studying for more than 3 months, you need to obtain a student visa. Submit the following documents to the Embassy in Washington DC:

  1) Visa Application form completed and signed (found on embassy website)

  2) Passport valid for no less than 30 days upon completion of studies

  3) Two passport photos

  3) Notarized copy of birth certificate

  5) Proof of medical report (physical test by your physician)

  6) Chest X-ray or TB test

  7) Criminal background check

  8) Health insurance

  9) Round-trip flight itinerary (you need to do a repatriation deposit of $1,500 by money order if you only have a one-way ticket)

  10) Official letter of acceptance to your University

  11) Proof of financial stability

  12) $72 Visa fee by money order
How to Get a Visa for
Spain

- If you are studying for 180 days or less, you will obtain a short-term study visa. If you are studying for longer than 180 days, you will obtain a long-term study visa.

  - You are required to have the following documents and give them to the consulate general in person:

    1) Two completed and signed application forms
    2) Two recent passport photos
    3) A passport that is valid 120 days after your time abroad
    4) An ID card
    5) Letter written in Spanish (unless taking a language course) stating why you are studying in Spain
    6) Acceptance letter from your University
    7) Proof of accommodation
    8) Proof of financial stability
    9) Itinerary or flight reservation
   10) Travel insurance
   11) A visa fee of around $80 paid in cash
   12) Certificate of No Criminal Conviction*
   13) Health Certificate stating that you have no diseases that need quarantine under the International Health Regulation*

    *For the long-term study visa only

- The visa process will take about 3-5 weeks

- If you wish to leave the country, the visa grants a 5-day transit, so you have to arrive in Spain within 5 days
How to Get a Visa for Switzerland

- Students can stay in Switzerland without a visa for a maximum of 90 days within 180 days.

- Students staying longer than 3 months will need a student visa. Give the following documents in person to the Embassy in Washington D.C:

  1) Three Visa Application Forms (Type D) completed and signed, with phone number and email address indicated

  2) Four recent passport photos (very strict requirements, go to embassy website for details)

  3) Two copies of valid passport

  4) Acceptance letter from your program/University

  5) Confirmation of payment for schools tuition fees

  6) Proof of financial stability (with 2 copies)

  7) Two copies of previous diplomas and school certificates

  8) Two copies of written confirmation that the student will leave after he/she completes the course of study

  9) Two copies of a resume

  10) Two copies of a brief essay explaining the students future plans

  11) Visa fee of $79 in cash or by money order

- The visa process will take at least 8-10 weeks

- Once your visa has been authorized, give your original passport (and a self-addressed return envelope with a tracking number if sent by mail) to the Embassy so they can give you your visa.
How to Get a Visa for United Kingdom

*If you are studying for six months or less and do not want a job or internship, you are not required to apply for an entry clearance (visa). You will be admitted as a **Student Visitor**.

“For students that are studying for 6 months or less and are not undertaking an internship will need to request the Student Visitor Visa stamp in their passport…. Students will need to present their official letter of acceptance from us to the UK Immigration officer upon arrival at the airport to prove that they will be a Student Visitor. American students do not need to pre-apply for the Student Visitor Visa.”

- Education Abroad Centre at the University of Westminster

- If you want to travel outside of the UK, make sure you have your acceptance letter because they won't let you return to the UK otherwise.

*If you are studying for 6 months and wish to have an internship or a job, you will need to have an entry clearance (visa). Also if you are studying for more than 6 months, you will need an entry clearance (visa). You will apply as a **Tier 4 (General) Student**, sometimes known as an adult student.

-To apply for a Tier 4 entry clearance visa, follow these steps:

1) Complete the on-line application and Tier 4 (General) Student Self-Assessment Form (Appendix 8)
   - Pay on-line if requested
   - Make an appointment at your nearest Application Support Centre to enroll your biometric data.
2) Attend Biometric Data Collection Appointment
3) Submit application by mail within 2 weeks of your biometric Enrollment---include these documents:
   a) Passport
   b) Proof of Financial stability
   c) One Passport Sized-Photo
   d) Receipt showing biometric enrollment
3) The cost of these applications will be 289 Pounds.
4) This visa can take up to 90 days to process.