

Documents Generally Required by Consulates for your Visa

**Press Control + Click (or right click then select "Open Hyperlink") on the blue words that are underlined for additional information on that subject.*

1. UNITED STATES PASSPORT

- There must be at least two blank pages for the visa in your passport. The visa is a stamp which the Consulate will affix to one of the free pages in your passport.
- Your passport must be signed in the space provided (Signature of Bearer) and valid for at least six months beyond your stay.

2. PASSPORT PHOTOS

- The exact number of passport photos varies between consulates. Be sure to verify the number of photos required. You may need anywhere between 2 and 6 photos.
- Please review the [Passport Photo Requirements](#).

3. APOSTILLED FBI BACKGROUND CHECK

Please confirm with your consulate whether you will need an FBI background check. This requirement is usually only needed for participants who are **16 and older** and are staying in Argentina for **6 months or more**.

PART A: Request an Apostille-Ready FBI Background Check

Although your consulate may not require this document, it is important that you consider obtaining one regardless. It is very common for consulates to change their requirements with or without notice. You will not have enough time to obtain an Apostilled FBI background check should this requirement be changed at the time that you apply for your visa.

- As of 2026, you must apply directly through the FBI. Channelers can no longer be used.
- You must have your fingerprints taken at your nearest USPS. You can find more information on how to complete this step [HERE](#).
- Be sure to receive an Apostille-ready Identity History Check.

PART B: Once you receive your Background Check, send it to the U.S. Department of State to receive a FEDERAL Apostille

- The FBI Background Check is a *federal* document. Therefore, the US Department of State administers the Apostille for this document. Visit the [U.S. Department of State website](#) for further instructions.
- Use a trackable USPS express envelope to mail your Apostille request to the US Department of State. The Department of State ONLY Accepts USPS.
- Remember to include a self-addressed return envelope, so the document can be mailed back to you. The US Department of State does not accept FedEx as return mail. All express mail air bill labels sent to the Office of Authentications for the use of returning documents must reflect the customer's mailing address as both the sender and recipient.

PART C: Once you receive your Background Check with an Apostille, the document must be translated into Spanish

- Your translation will need to have a Certificate of Translation Accuracy attached with the translator's signature notarized by a Notary Public.
- Many consulates may require that the translated Background Check with the attached "Certificate of Accuracy" then be authenticated with an Apostille from the Secretary of State's office in the state where the translated document was [notarized](#).
- ***Note:** This is consulate-dependent. Not all consulates will require the translation to receive an apostille.

5. DECLARACION JURADA / Affidavit of Non-Criminal Record

- Your consulate may have a form that you will be required to sign. It is simply your sworn statement attesting that you do not have a criminal record in Argentina or anywhere else overseas.
- This form will be provided by the consulate

6. TRAVEL ITINERARY

- Your travel itinerary will be emailed to you by the AFS Travel department. Please print a copy of this email for your Consulate.

7. PROOF OF SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL MEANS

- Proof of sufficient financial means for a duration of your stay and studies. The consular

authority may require bank account statements, summary of credit cards or other. Confirm with your consulate what documents are acceptable.

8. VISA FEE

- Confirm the amount of the visa fee with your consulate.
- Confirm the method of payment for your visa fee with your consulate.

9. SPANISH PROFICIENCY

- Some consular requirements may state that you must have an interview in Spanish at the Consulate and/or prove sufficient knowledge of Spanish in order to receive the visa. **In general, this has not been required of AFS students.**
- If your consulate does require proof of Spanish proficiency, find out what type of documentation you need. Usually an official school transcript showing you have taken Spanish classes will work.

10. APOSTILLED TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

- This is usually requested for minors. See [“Additional Required Documents You Need to Collect”](#) below for instructions regarding parental authorization.

11. COVER LETTER

- When you submit your documents to the consulate, please enclose a cover letter detailing all of the above materials and indicating that you are an AFS student applying for a visa for either 6 or 11 months, according to your program.
- In the letter, please include your expected date of departure from home. Let them know you are applying for a TRANSITORY VISA for Cultural Exchange and provide contact information (phone number and email) where you or your parents can be reached.
- Politely remind them that **they must return the original apostilled “Venia de Viaje” and “Delegación Parental” forms** because you will need to bring them to Argentina with you (more information on these documents below).

12. RETURN ENVELOPE - Pre-paid, self-addressed

- If you are mailing in your application, include this envelope in your package.

- If you are applying in person, your visa may be issued on the same day as your appointment, but due to the high volume of applicants, the consulate may need to ship your passport to your home.
- Please use FedEx.
- Consulates DO NOT accept pre-paid, return envelopes from any mail services that do not use tracking numbers.
- Fill out the return envelope with your return address in both the "From" and "To" sections.

Additional Required Documents You Need to Collect

You will need to collect the following documents regardless of whether they are requested by the Embassy and Consulates of Argentina webpage. These are required by the Argentine Government for entering and exiting the country during your stay in Argentina as well as for AFS Argentina and your host family to act on your parents' behalf in the rare case that there is a medical emergency. However, as previously noted, it is likely that the consulate may request these documents as well.

1. APOSTILLED PARENTAL & TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (Venia de Viaje & Delegación Parental)

- Click to download and print the [Parental and Travel Authorization form](#) and have both parents/guardians sign it. Follow the guidance of this [sample form](#) to help fill out the authorization form.
- If only one parent can sign the form, please review the "Who Needs to Sign" section of the [Visa FAQ](#).
 - If your parents are divorced or separated, it is necessary that they attach the legal document that says that one of them is your legal guardian.
 - If one of your parents is deceased, it is necessary that you include their Death Certificate.
 - If either situation applies to you, your documents must be:
 - Attached to your Parental Consent Form then submitted to be apostilled.
 - If this situation applies to you, please contact the Visa Department for guidance before you have the documents apostilled.
- **Have the form notarized and authenticated with an [Apostille!](#)**
- This Parental and Travel Authorization form is necessary for your visa application and **must be carried with you to Argentina.**
- Some consulates provide their own parental consent form. If the consulate requires you to complete their parental consent form, **please complete both forms as the above form must be the one taken with you to Argentina.**
 - **IF YOUR CONSULATE HAS ITS OWN PARENTAL CONSENT FORM:**
Please put the following people as your legal guardians:
 - Luis Ignacio Larrarte Salazar (DNI 29.768.846)

- Mr. Juan Daniel Medici, DNI (National Identity Number) 23.143.619,
National Director of AFS Programas Interculturales Argentina
 - Address for both Luis and Juan: 328 Tte. Juan D. Peron – 3rd floor,
CP1038, Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ****IMPORTANT:** Please make a photocopy of the IDs (passport preferred, driver's license or other government-issued ID usually accepted) of each parent/guardian who has signed the Parental Consent Form.
 - Staple the photocopies to the Parental and Travel Authorization Form.

2. APOSTILLED TRANSLATED COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE

- **Step 1:** Order a Certified Copy of your Birth Certificate
 - To receive a certified copy of your birth certificate, you must contact the local government in the state where your birth certificate was originally filed. [Click here to view the requirements](#) for the state in which you were born.
 - Birth Certificate must include both parents' full names (including mother's maiden name).
- **Step 2:** Send your birth certificate to the Secretary of State in which you were born for an Apostille
 - An Apostille is a type of certification that will allow your document to be recognized by the Argentinian authority.

****NOTE: Consult your consulate for additional details about this requirement. Some consulates may require your birth certificate to be translated to Spanish, Notarized, and Apostilled. If this applies to you, please see these additional steps:**

- **Step 3:** Translate Certificate into Spanish
 - A high school Spanish teacher, friend, or family member can translate your birth certificate if they as they are competent to translate from English to Spanish. You may also choose to pay for a translation service.
- **Step 4:** Have the Translated Certificate Notarized
 - Your translation will need to have a Certificate of Translation Accuracy attached. The Certificate of Accuracy should have the translator's signature notarized by a Notary Public. You may choose to Google one online or type a certificate yourself that includes your state's standard notarial block.
- **Step 5:** Have your translated birth certificate [Apostilled](#).