

You have questions, we've got answers.

Visa Application FAQs

1. I would really appreciate extra help with this, how can I do that?
 - a. *This process can be very daunting and at times, frustrating. You have three options in order to get assistance with this process.*
 - i. **Attend a [Visa Webinar](#):** First Monday of every month from 2pm-3pm EST
 - ii. *If you attend and are still confused, only then should you **send an email to Jalan with your question at jalan.gunning@barcelona.sae.***
2. How do I fill out the application?
 - a. *To fill out the application, you can use this [Study Visa Instruction document](#). Please ensure you read the instructions carefully as there is a lot of information that you need to be aware of.*
3. I don't have my housing assignment yet; what should I put for my address in Spain?
 - a. *You **WILL NOT** receive your housing accommodation until a few weeks before your arrival. That said, you should put our office as your Spain address:*
 - i. **Carrer de Casp, 130, 5^a**
 - ii. **08013 Barcelona, Spain**
4. Should addresses be in all caps too?
 - a. *No, you do not have to use capital letters for addresses or emails.*
5. I plan to arrive in Spain BEFORE the program start date, what date should I put on the application?
 - a. *Although it is okay for you to arrive prior to your program start date, **you should put your program start date on your application**. This ensures that you are covered for the duration of your program.*
6. I plan to stay in Europe after my program finishes, what date should I put on the application?
 - a. *Although it is okay for you to stay after your program is over, **you should put your program end date on your application**. Please note, upon the ending of your program, you will be in Spain using the allotted 90 days as a tourist.*
7. I don't have a National Identity Number, what should I put?
 - a. *As noted on the [Student Visa Instructions](#), you should put **N/A**.*

Financial Means Forms FAQs

1. Bank statements? Tell me more!

- a. *The consulate cares to know that you are financially capable to take care of yourself while abroad. This is shown through bank statements from you or your parents. You must provide **THREE CONSECUTIVE** bank statements from the last three months. Each statement **MUST** show a total of \$2100.*

2. Can I provide my bank statements to show that I will be supporting myself?

- a. *Absolutely, as long as all three show **the minimum of \$2100**. If you are providing your bank statements, you **DO NOT** need to provide the notarized proof of financial means.*

3. Do I really need to provide this form?

- a. *This form is **MANDATORY** if your parents are assuming financial responsibility. If they are not assuming this responsibility, you **DO NOT** need to complete it.*

4. Does the Proof of Finances form have to be notarized?

- a. *Yes, this form **MUST** be filled out and notarized **ONLY** if your parents are assuming financial responsibility.*

5. My parents aren't in the same state as me, will a copy of this form work?

- a. *No, your parents must fill out the form, get it notarized in their area, and then **send the original notarized document to you to be submitted to the consulate.***

6. What pages of the bank statements should I provide?

- a. *The consulate only needs to see the amount in the account. This is typically the cover page. You do not need to include the pages that outline transactions and withdrawals.*

7. Where can I go for a notary?

- a. *You can typically find a notary in a post office, UPS, or a bank. A quick google search of "Notaries near me" will show you a full list of where to go for this service.*

8. I do not want my account number showing on my bank statements, can I blur this out?

- a. *Yes, although this step is not required, if you want to mark out your account number with a sharpie or dark marker, that is okay to do.*

9. If I provide the financial means form, does that mean I don't need to provide bank statements?

- a. *No, the financial means form is in addition to the bank statements. One is not preferred over the other.*

Batch Visa Process FAQs

1. **Do I have the option to expedite my visa application if it is submitted with a batch?**
 - a. *No, the visa application process cannot be expedited whether submitted in a batch or individually. The process can take up to 8 weeks.*
2. **Can I pick up my passport/visa if it is submitted with a batch?**
 - a. *No, you cannot pick up your documents when submitted with a batch. The BSAE representative must drop off and pick up the documents.*
3. **Will the visa be separate from my passport?**
 - a. *The visa is printed on a page inside of your passport. In addition to verifying your identity, this is why your passport is taken and kept during the duration of the process.*
4. **How do I know if I have been approved for my visa?**
 - a. *As the process progresses, should any issues arise, the consulate will contact the BSAE representative who will get in touch with individual students. If you do not hear anything, and your passport has been returned, your visa has been approved and is located on a page in your passport.*

General FAQs

1. **I would really appreciate extra help with this, how can I do that?**
 - a. *This process can be very daunting and at times, frustrating. You have three options in order to get assistance with this process.*
 - i. **Attend a [Visa Webinar](#):** First Monday of every month from 2pm-3pm EST
 - ii. **If you attend and are still confused, only then should you send an email to Jalan with your question at jalan.gunning@barcelona.sae.**
2. **How much does a visa cost?**
 - a. *The cost of the visa is **\$160.00 for US citizens** and **\$104.00 for other nationalities**.*
3. **Should I make copies of anything?**
 - a. *Yes! The consulate will list what copies they will need on the website. In addition, you should make color copies for your records of everything you submit to the consulate.*

4. Where should I purchase health insurance from?

- a. *You will receive a letter from Geo Blue that will fully cover you during your time abroad. This will cover medications, emergency room visits, and the cost of a translator.*

5. How long does the visa process take?

- a. *The visa process timeline varies depending on which consulate you go to. The average time takes between 6-8 weeks. The earlier you are able to start this process and make an appointment, the better.*

6. When making an appointment, which option should I choose?

- a. *You should always go for the “Student Visa” appointment option. If this is not available, this means there aren’t anymore of those options available. The next best appointment option is Primetime. Keep in mind, this will be a \$70 charge since you will essentially enter the office before opening hours.*

7. I don’t have my passport yet; what should I do?

- a. *Transparently, not having a passport poses a huge problem. Without it, you cannot make an appointment and BSAE cannot provide you with your visa letters. Please email advising@barcelonasae.com as soon as possible to seek more help regarding this matter.*

8. How can I contact the consulate to see where my passport is in the process?

- a. *Each consulate has their contact information listed on their website. If you cannot find it, check the [student guide](#) where we have listed their contact information for you.*

9. My visa has an entry date that comes after my program start date. Can I still enter on my program start date?

- a. *Yes, you can still enter on your program start date. You will be considered a tourist until your student visa begins.*

10. I received my passport back, but not my visa. What should I do?

- a. *Your visa is printed into your passport. Be sure to check all pages in your passport to determine where your visa is.*

11. I want to stay in Barcelona past the expiration date of my visa. Is this possible?

- a. *Spain is part of what is called the Schengen zone. With a tourist visa, you are allowed to stay in this area for 90 days during a 180 day period, or while your student visa is still valid. This area includes most of Europe, but not Ireland or England, or Morocco. Assuming you did not do any travel prior to the start date of the program, you have 90 days after your visa ends as a tourist.*

- b. You are automatically given an additional 15 days past your program departure date. **This will allow you an extra 15 days to explore.**
- c. To extend your stay beyond that, you must follow a specific procedure. As per the regulations, **leaving the Schengen Area and re-entering is necessary to transition into tourist status.** Upon re-entry, you will receive a stamp indicating your new status as a tourist, marking the beginning of your 90-day tourist visa allowance.

Here are a few more sites that can help explain the visas:

- <http://thesavvybackpacker.com/long-term-travel-europe/>
- <http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/>

12. I am still waiting for my visa to arrive but I need to purchase my flight; what should I do?

- a. You should purchase an open ticket which is also known as a flex flight. This option will allow you to change dates and even make last minute cancellations if necessary. See below for some airlines that offer this option for you.
 - i. [Delta Airlines](#): Valid for **MAIN CABIN** tickets and above, you will not be charged to change your ticket dates.
 - ii. [United Airlines](#): International travel originating in the U.S. has waived change fees. In addition, there is a 24-hour booking policy that allows you to make changes at least 24 hours in advance of your flight.