

# STUDY ABROAD

## How to Apply for a Student Visa or Resident Permit General Resource Guide



### [Introduction](#)

### [General Visa or Residence Permit Information](#)

### [Visa Application Support Letter](#)

### [Resources for Common Study Abroad Destinations](#)

### [Australia](#)

### [France](#)

### [Italy](#)

### [Japan](#)

### [Netherlands](#)

### [United Kingdom](#)

## Introduction

When [studying abroad](#) outside the U.S., many countries will require students who are not citizens of the country to obtain a student visa or residence permit to be permitted to travel and stay in the country as a foreign student. Upon admission to their program, study abroad students receive information from their host schools or study abroad program providers on the specific visa or residence permit requirements necessary for participation in the program.

[The New School's Study Abroad Office](#) has also compiled the resources below to educate New School students going to study abroad on the visa or residence permit process for common study abroad country destinations of New School students. The New School is unfortunately not able to provide specific advising on visa or residence permit applications to countries outside the U.S. but may provide general resource support to students during this process. For questions, contact: [studyabroad@newschool.edu](mailto:studyabroad@newschool.edu).

## General Visa or Residence Permit Information

In most cases where a student is required to obtain a student visa or residence permit to study abroad, students will need to:

1. Submit visa application and required application fee (may average between \$100-\$500) to the embassy or consulate of the country where they will study abroad
2. Schedule and attend an interview appointment at the embassy or consulate of the country where they will study abroad and bring appropriate documentation

Most students will need to schedule and attend an interview appointment at the study abroad country's embassy or consulate in the United States. To find another country's embassy or consulate's location in the U.S. and its website information, please search for the country embassy or consulate on the [U.S. Embassy pages listing](#). Most country's embassies are located in Washington, D.C., however, many countries will also have consulates located in other major U.S. cities such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Miami, among others.

When participating in the interview appointment at the embassy or consulate, the student may be asked questions about their intent to study in the host country, their academic pursuits at The New School, details of their required documents, and intent to return to The New School following their study abroad program participation. Students should always be honest with the consular officials when providing their responses. The officer may not always seem friendly or accommodating, but it is important to be patient and responsive to any instructions that the officer may provide.

Required documents for a visa or resident permit application and interview appointment may vary by embassy or consulate. Students should review their study abroad country's embassy's visa or residence permit application requirements well in advance or any application deadlines or interview appointment dates to best prepare and gather the documents they will need. Some countries may consider students under a certain age as a minor and require additional documentation from a student's parent or guardian to approve travel abroad or other details of a parent/guardian's citizenship and biographical information.

Typical documentation requirements for a visa or residence permit application and interview appointment may include:

- Passport valid at least six months into the future
- Online visa or residence permit application form
- Non-refundable application fee

- Evidence of admission to a program of study in the country abroad
- [Verification of enrollment](#) as a student in the home institution
- Documentation of minimum financial support for the duration of the study abroad
- Proof of housing accommodation for the duration of the study abroad
- [Passport style photo images](#) (image must be recent and not previously have been used on another form of identification)
- Copy of flight tickets or reservation to the country destination
- Certification or evidence of no criminal record
- Proof of medical insurance, health exams, and/or vaccinations
- Visa Application Support Letter from the home institution\*\*\*

## Visa Application Support Letter

\*\*\*Some embassies or consulates may request a visa application support letter from the student's home institution. In such cases, New School students may request this letter from the Study Abroad office. A sample general letter template is shown [here](#) for reference. If requesting this letter, students should inform the Study Abroad office of any specific letter instructions provided by the embassy or consulate for their visa application as well as indicate the specific embassy or consulate address information where their visa application will be processed or where their interview appointment will take place.

## Resources for Common Study Abroad Destinations

### Australia

To study abroad in Australia, it is required to apply for a student visa. The process to obtain a student visa to Australia will generally involve the following:



1. Student receives admission to a study abroad program or host school in Australia
2. Student submits [online visa application](#) with application fee
  - a. It is recommended to [confirm eligibility](#) and apply for the visa at least 6 weeks prior to the start of studies in Australia

Once you apply, depending on your situation, you may be asked to:

- attend a visa interview
- provide evidence that you don't have any criminal records
- provide more information
- take a medical exam

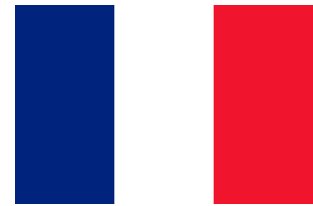
It's likely you'll also have to provide biometrics during the visa application process, but some countries may be exempt. Your biometrics are an extra identification method (e.g. fingerprinting and pictures) that countries use for security purposes.

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NOTE: Students who are citizens of New Zealand are exempted from student visa requirements to study abroad in Australia.

## France

The student visa application to France is a multi-step process. Full instructions and guidelines for each step to apply for a French student visa while in the U.S. can be found on the [CampusFrance USA website](#). Students who are applying for a French student visa outside the U.S. will need to check if there is a CampusFrance organization in the country where they are applying and what specific steps they will need to take to apply.



### Overview of Process:

1. Student submits an online application to CampusFrance through the Etudes en France (EEF) application.
2. Student pays the CampusFrance application fee and receives payment receipt
3. Students submits a visa application to [France-Visas](#)
4. Student schedules and attends a visa interview at a VFS Global Center

Be sure to review the instructions and guidelines on the CampusFrance website in advance of preparing for the visa application process in order to better understand the visa requirements and prepare the necessary documents and requirements to apply.

Among other documents, students must provide evidence of admission into their study abroad program in France, proof of financial support, proof of housing in France for their study period, and other requirements. For students who are not guaranteed housing through their study abroad program, please refer to the [CampusFrance Housing page](#) for resources on how to find housing in France that may be appropriate for a student visa application and meet the students' own housing needs.

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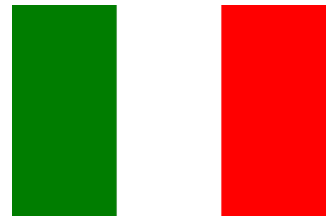
*Students who will study abroad at Parsons Paris will receive French student visa application support, if needed, from the support staff for the Parsons Paris campus. Housing accommodations at the Parsons Paris campus may only be available to students studying at the Parsons Paris campus and not to students studying elsewhere in France.*

NOTE: Students who are citizens of the European Union are exempted from student visa requirements to study abroad in France.

## Italy

To apply for a student visa to Italy:

1. Locate the [nearest Italian embassy or consulate](#) where you will apply.
  - a. If you will apply in New York, see the [Italian Consulate General of New York website](#) for more information.
2. Schedule a visa appointment at the embassy or consulate.
3. Complete the visa application form and prepare payment for the application fee.
4. Gather the required visa application supporting documents as instructed by the embassy or consulate.
5. Attend the in-person visa interview at the embassy or consulate and await the issuance of your student visa.



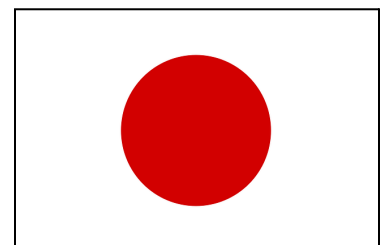
Appointment scheduling and visa processing times may vary by embassy or consulate.

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NOTE: Students who are citizens of the European Union are exempted from student visa requirements to study abroad in Italy.

## Japan

The Japanese Student Visa is a type of long-term visa which is accepted by educational institutions in Japan, such as universities, schools and vocational institutions. It is generally required for anyone who is not a Japanese citizen that wants to



study in a Japanese educational institution. The application process for applying for a Student Visa for Japan is divided into two parts:

1. Obtaining the Certificate of Eligibility
  - a. This is issued by your host school or study abroad program in Japan if you will need to apply for a student visa and may require you to submit supporting documents directly to the host school or program. Students receive instructions from the host school or program regarding these requirements.
2. Submitting the Japan Student Visa application to the local Japanese embassy or consulate
  - a. Students must submit a visa application to the embassy or consulate, and if the embassy or consulate deems it necessary, appear for an in-person interview.

The documents needed for a Japan Student Visa application commonly include:

- Student Visa Application Form from the Japanese embassy or consulate
- Your valid passport along with photocopies of it
- Passport-size photos
- The Certificate of Eligibility
- Letter of Admission into the Japanese educational institution, indicating the duration and details of the course
- Previous academic and/or professional qualifications, as applicable (diploma, transcripts, etc.)
- Proof you can meet the financial requirements for the duration of your stay in Japan.
- If required:
  - Letter of Invitation and Letter of Guarantee issued from your educational institution
  - A Motivational or Cover Letter, written by you stating the reason for your travel

Keep in mind:

- The documents have to be printed on A4 paper
- Consult with the Embassy or Consulate whether you should submit copies of the documents or the originals. In some cases, your documents will not be returned to you.
- This is not an exhaustive list of requirements. The Embassy or Consulate in which you apply can request any additional documents, as per your specific case.

## Netherlands

Depending on the length of stay in The Netherlands, a student must apply for either a short stay visa or an entry visa and a residence permit to study:

- a **short stay visa or a Schengen visa** is required if you plan to study in the Netherlands for **90 days or less**.
- an **entry visa (MVV) and a residence permit (VVR)** are required if you plan to study in the Netherlands for **more than 90 days**. Just like the short stay visa, the MVV is only





valid for 90 days and should be followed by the application for a VVR (typically applied for and supported by the host study abroad program or school in The Netherlands).

Students must be admitted to their study abroad program or host school in The Netherlands to be eligible to apply, and the host program or school will help the student to begin the application process if the student is required to apply. Once the host program or school has started the application for the student, the student may next apply for an entry visa at their local Dutch embassy or consulate. Common required application documents\* at the Dutch embassy or consulate for the Dutch study visa include:

- Completed visa application form
- Valid passport
- Two passport style photographs
- Birth certificate
- Academic transcripts
- Official letter from the academic institution in the Netherlands
- Financial proof for the entire period of study
- Travel and health insurance
- Visa application fee
- Tuberculosis test (required for citizens from some countries)
- Photocopies of all the original documents
- Biometric information

*\*Be sure to check with the embassy or consulate where you will apply for their specific application documentation requirements.*

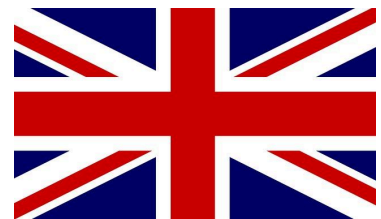
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NOTE: Students who are citizens of the European Union are exempted from resident permit requirements to study abroad in the Netherlands.

## United Kingdom

To be eligible to apply for a student visa to study in the U.K. if you're 16 or over, you must:

- have been offered a place on [a course by a licensed student sponsor](#)
- have enough [money to support yourself and pay for your course](#) - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- be able to [speak, read, write and understand English](#)



The student visa application to the U.K. is mostly completed online. From outside the U.K. the earliest you can apply for a visa is 6 months before you start your study abroad program. Full instructions and guidelines for each step can be found on the [U.K. government website](#). Here is an overview of the process:

1. Student prepares necessary documents to apply for visa
  2. Student submits an online application and visa application fee
  3. Student proves identity by either\*:
    - a. giving your fingerprints and a photograph (biometric information) at a [visa application centre](#) (or)
    - b. using the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document - you'll also create or sign into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- \*You'll be told which method you must follow when you apply.
4. Student receives an application decision in approximately 3 weeks

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