

Upcoming ETIAS Visa Waiver Scheme (Europe) and ETA Visa Waiver Scheme (UK)

BACKGROUND

ETIAS VISA WAIVER SCHEME (Europe)

This visa waiver is not available yet, but will be implemented in 2024.

The ETIAS visa waiver scheme is now set to go into effect in 2024 (exact timeline TBD) and will require visa-exempt non-EU passport holders to obtain an authorization in order to enter most European countries. Here's what you (and your students) need to know:

 The authorization is good for multiple entries over three years, allowing travelers to enter the region for up to 90 days within a 180-day period.

 Who needs one: Travelers from the US and 62 other non-visa-required countries, including passengers transiting through. Anyone who has applied for a separate visa (typically, semester/yearlong study abroad students) will not need one.

 Fast authorization and electronic delivery. Most applications will be approved within an hour, but if flagged they can take up to four days to process. It is advised that American citizens complete their ETIAS application at least 96 hours prior to their departure date

 The application will cost approximately \$8 but will be free to people over 70 and under 18.

 Travelers will be asked to provide biometric information and details of health, education and criminal convictions. Your travel documents, such as a current machine-readable or electronic passport, are required to complete the ETIAS application. The documents will need to be valid for more than 3 months from the intended day of departure from the EU, and be no older than 10 years from the date of issue.

 Currently, an ETIAS waiver will not be required to enter Ireland, as it is not part of the Schengen Region or the ETIAS program.

*May apply on desktop, tablet or mobile

COUNTRIES

The ETIAS system will cover all current **EU Schengen member states**. This list includes Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden plus **future Schengen countries** such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania. The ETIAS system will also cover countries under the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** such as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland and **European microstates** with open borders including Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Vatican City.

RESOURCES

<https://thepointsguy.com/guide/europe-visa/> (This is a good overview and contains information about which countries and proposed process)

<https://etias.com/etias-requirements/etias-for-american-citizens>

ETA VISA WAIVER SCHEME (UK)

This visa waiver is not available yet, but will be implemented in 2024.

Americans can travel to the United Kingdom without a visa for up to 6 months. This will not change with the introduction of the ETA for US citizens.

The ETA is not a visa, it is a travel authorisation for visa-exempt visitors.

With the ETA, Americans can travel to the US for:

- Tourism
- Visiting relatives or friends
- Business
- Short-term study
- Medical treatment.

Visitors from the United States who plan on taking employment or studying or staying for longer than 6 months in the UK need a specific visa. To check the different requirements, they may contact their closest British embassy.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Valid US biometric passport
2. Active email address to receive the approved ETA
3. Credit or Debit Card (or Apply Pay or Google Pay) to pay the ETA Processing Fee

 The authorization is good for multiple entries over two years, allowing travelers to enter the region for up to 6 months (above conditions).

 Who needs one: Travelers from the US and 62 other non-visa-required countries, including passengers transiting through. Anyone who has applied for a separate visa (typically, Tier 4/yearlong study abroad students) will not need one.

 Fast authorization and electronic delivery. Most applications will be approved within 72 hours.

 The application will cost approximately £10

 Travelers will be asked to provide biometric information and details of health, education and criminal convictions. Your travel documents, such as a current machine-readable or electronic passport, are required to complete the ETA application.

RESOURCE:

<https://www.etauk.uk/requirements/us-citizens/>

POLICY – FACILITATED STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Due to the short duration of faculty-led programs, most programs don't require a visa. However, it is the students' responsibility to research what is needed, and obtain any required visa(s) for travel abroad. For all Travel Study Programs, the program leader will provide group support to apply for any necessary visas or visa waiver programs. Visa/Visa Waiver applications will be done as a group as part of pre-departure meetings on a timeline established by the program leaders.

Core Value - Support | MC Scots Abroad programs offer wrap-around support that includes individual advising, a pre-departure course to help you prepare, local coordinators/directors onsite, and re-entry programs to help you unpack your experience.

Current Language in Acceptance Materials

I understand that I am responsible for securing a valid passport for the time of travel and I will provide Maryville College with a copy of my passport at that time. I am responsible for all costs and processes associated with securing a valid passport and any immunizations that might be recommended or required. If I am required to have a visa for travel to the host location, I am required to secure the visa and I am responsible for the cost of the visa. Please note that depending on the host country process and policies, it may take up to 10-12 weeks to obtain such documentation.

I will review all travel documents for accuracy, validity, and completeness. Students should carefully review their passport, visa (if required), airfare dates and conditions, immunization records, credit card expiration, etc. for confirmation of validity and accuracy.