



PASSPORTS AND VISAS

PASSPORTS

What is a passport?

A passport is a document issued to citizens by a country's government to verify the identity and nationality of an individual for the purpose of international travel. You will need a passport to participate in an international education travel abroad program. Visit the U.S. Department of State Passport Services for more information on how to apply for or renew a passport.

Information to know

Apply Early

It can take anywhere from 4 to 12 weeks, or more, to receive your passport when applying for the first or renewing. You can pay to expedite the process, but even that service can take 4 to 6 weeks depending on various factors impacting processing times. This process is out of both your hands and ours, so save any chance of frustration and apply or renew as soon as you can!

Passport Photos

You must provide a photo with your application or renewal and there are specific regulations that apply to passport photos. You can get passport photos taken professionally at many drugstores, post offices, and at SUNY Oswego in the ID and Meal Plan Services office in 503 Culkin Hall.

Passport Book vs. Passport Card

A passport book will be required when traveling internationally by air. There are some countries, including Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda, that allow U.S. citizens to use a passport card when entering by land or sea. For study abroad, you should apply for a passport book but you may want to consider also getting a passport card. A passport card can be convenient to carry with you while abroad, serving as your official identification while keeping your passport book safe at your hotel or residence hall.

Non-U.S. Citizens

If you are not a U.S. citizen, passport information for your nationality may vary. Your program coordinator can help with your specific situation.

Passport Services

You can review all passport services by visiting the [U.S. Department of State](#).

NOTE: The Department of State has indicated that passport processing time:

- **Routine: 4–6 weeks**
- **Expedited: 2–3 weeks, plus an extra \$60 fee**
- **Urgent: Requires an appointment and international travel within 14 days**

Apply or renew ASAP to avoid any delays or disruptions to your international travel plans.

VISAS

Wondering if you need a VISA to travel abroad? The below information gives a brief summary per country of what's required:

- **Argentina**

US citizens don't require a visa to enter Argentina. Upon arrival to Argentina you will be provided with a tourist visa for up to 90 days. Once in-country and in your program, you will be provided with instructions on obtaining your Transitory Resident Permit.

- **Australia**

All participants in this program are required to apply for and obtain a student visa. More details and instructions on obtaining the Australian student visa are provided upon acceptance. Note: Non-US passport holders may require different procedures. Please contact the program coordinator for more details.

- **Chile**

US citizens can enter Chile with a [Transitory Permit](#) that allows them to remain in the country for 90 days and that can be extended for another 90 days. Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso will provide further instructions once the student has completed PUC-Valparaiso documentation.

- **China**

All participants in this program are required to apply for and obtain a student visa. More details and instructions on obtaining the Chinese visa are provided upon acceptance. Note: Non-US passport holders may require different procedures. Please contact the program specialist for more details. You may visit the following site to start reading about the student visa process: [Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America](#)

- **England**

Students traveling to England will need to apply for an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization). The ETA will allow students to stay in the UK for up to 6 months. To apply, students need to [download the app UK ETA](#). Once a student receives the ETA, it will last for 2 years, enabling you to visit the UK as often as you like during that time. View more information by visiting the official [ETA website](#).

Non-US citizens and all students intending to do an internship while in London or planning to stay in the UK for more than 6 months are required to have a Tier 4 Student Visa. Please contact the program coordinator for more details.

- **France**

All participants in this program are required to apply for and obtain a long stay student visa. More details and instructions on obtaining the French visa are provided upon acceptance. Note: Non-US passport holders (or dual European Union citizens) may require different procedures. Please contact the program coordinator for more details. For summer programs, students do not need student visas (as long as the program is less than 90 days).

- **Germany**

Except for people from EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Lichtenstein, all other foreign nationals need a residence permit to stay in Germany for more than 90 days. A German residence permit allows you to stay in Germany for a more extended period than only 90 days. During that time, you can study, work, or engage in other activities in the country. For US students, you will enter Germany without a visa during those first 90 days and apply for a residence permit from inside the country.

- **Ireland**

All students must register with the national police upon their arrival in Ireland and pay a €300 fee. This fee is for the IRP (Irish Residence Permit) appointment. US Nationals will not need to obtain a visa prior to arrival in the Republic of Ireland.

Non-U.S. citizens should check the following website for their immigration requirements, as it will depend on their home country and immigration status in the U.S.:

<https://www.irishimmigration.ie/>

- **Japan**

All participants in the Japan semester programs are required to apply for and obtain a student visa at the Consulate General of Japan in New York City prior to departure for Japan, as semester programs are over 90 days. This can be done in person or via mail. Instructions on obtaining the student visa will be provided upon acceptance to the

program. Note: Non-US passport holders may require different procedures. A student will not be able to apply for the student visa until he/she receives the official letter of acceptance from AIU, the Certificate of Eligibility is a letter issued by the immigration office in Japan. For further details on the student visa process you may begin reading at: [Consulate General of Japan long term student visa](#)

- **Mexico**

US citizens can enter Mexico with a passport book and remain in Mexico for a total of 180 days. US Permanent Residents have to have both a valid and unexpired Resident Card and Passport of their nationality.

- **New Zealand**

All participants in this program are required to apply for and obtain a student visa. More details and instructions on obtaining the New Zealand student visa are provided upon acceptance. Note: Non-US passport holders may require different procedures. Please contact the program coordinator for more details.

- **Puerto Rico**

US citizens and Permanent Residents don't need a passport or visa to enter Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico has been a territory of the United States since 1917. Students can travel to Puerto Rico with a US identification or license.

- **Spain**

Students will be required to obtain a student visa to study for a semester or longer in most countries. SUNY Oswego will send you instructions on how to obtain your student visa and make this information available in your student portal. It will be your responsibility to follow these instructions and gather all documentation required by the country's Consulate assigned to your home jurisdiction. For summer programs, students do not need student visas (as long as the program is less than 90 days).

- **South Korea**

All participants in the South Korea semester programs are required to apply for and obtain a student visa at the Korean Consulate in New York City prior to departure for Japan, as semester programs are over 90 days. This can be done in person or via mail. Students will not be able to apply for the student visa until they have received an official letter of acceptance from the school. More details and instructions on obtaining the Korean student visa are provided upon acceptance. Note: Non-US passport holder may require different procedures. Please contact the program specialist for more details. You may visit the following site to start reading about the student visa process: [Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York](#)

- **Taiwan**

Resident visa will have to be maintained after acceptance to the program per [The Bureau of Consular Affairs for the Republic of China \(Taiwan\)](#)

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