

Education Abroad Visa Updates

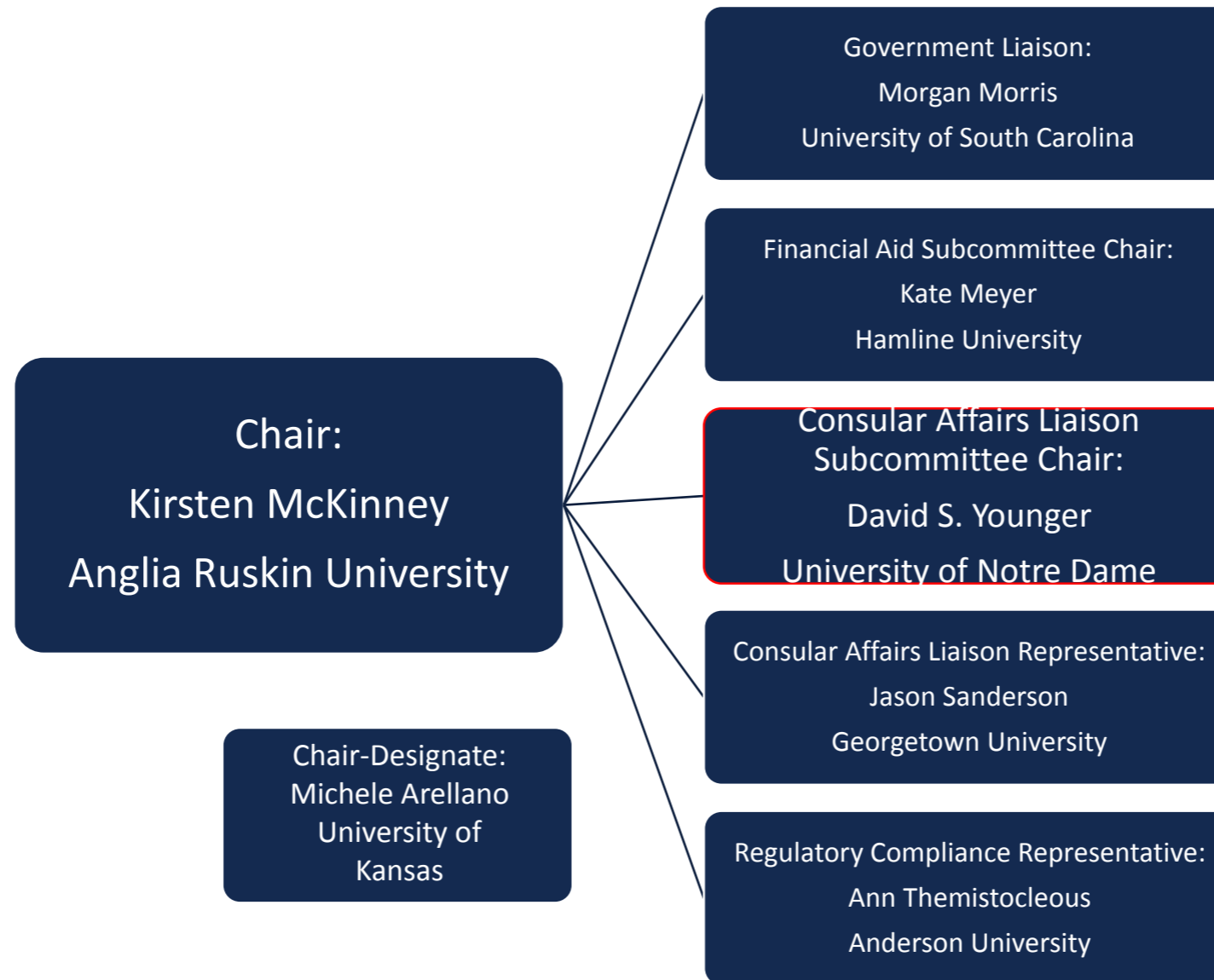
Consular Affairs Liaison (CAL) Subcommittee

Education Abroad Regulatory Practice (EARP) Committee

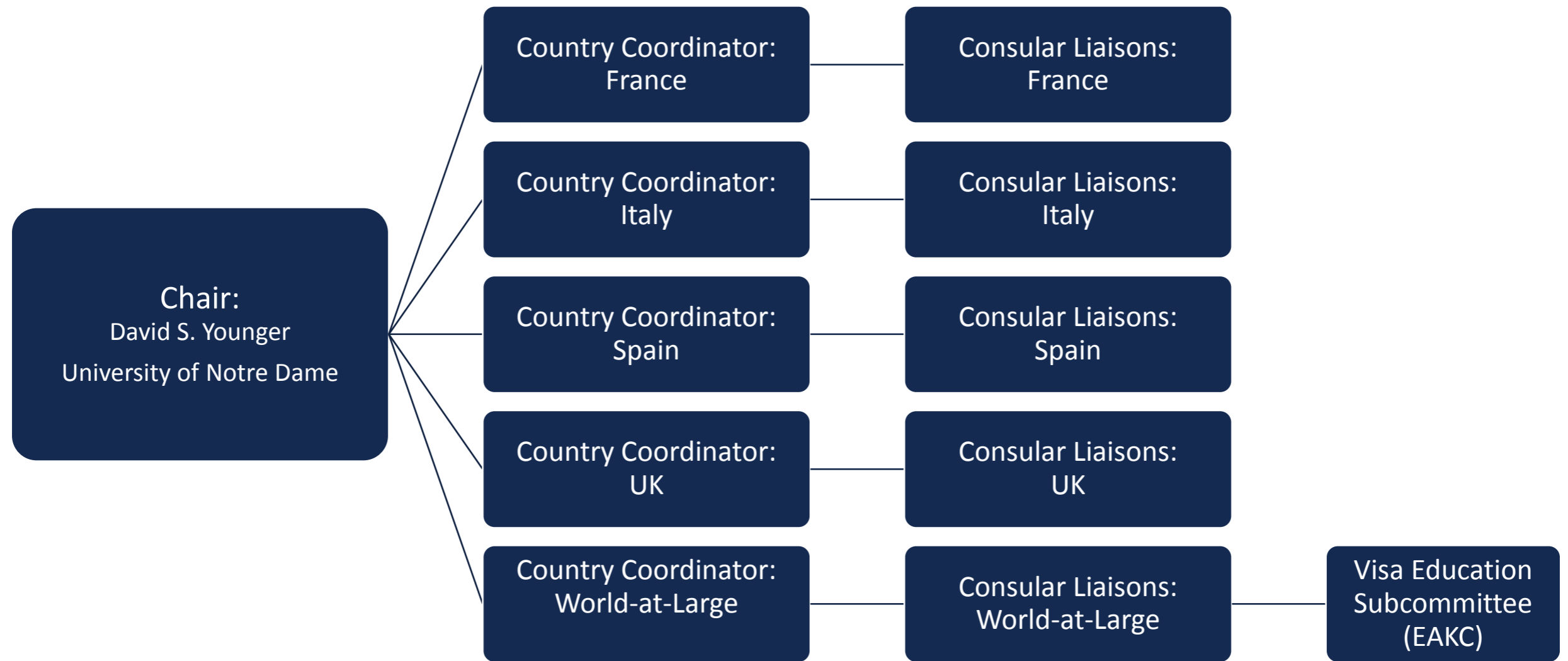


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NAFSA: Education Abroad Regulatory Practice Committee



NAFSA: Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee



NAFSA – www.nafsa.org/eavisas



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Visas For Education Abroad

RECENT EVENTS

- › [Student Visas for the United Kingdom July 13, 2017](#)
- › [Schengen Visa Advising July 19, 2017](#)

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION



Cuba



France



Italy



Spain



United Kingdom



Schengen

Select another Country ▾ [Submit](#) →

GENERAL VISA FAQs

Keep up-to-date on the latest requirements for acquisition of foreign visas for study abroad.

Visa Powerpoint

QUESTIONS

EA professionals: Ask questions of colleagues in the EA KC Network

PUBLICATION

Student Visas: What You Need to Know Before You Go



EA Visa Help Home Page

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Welcome, Julia Benson [Log out](#) | [nafsa.org](#)



NAFSA's IssueNet platform offers international educators two powerful tools to report trends from the field and obtain professional guidance on regulatory issues. All international education professionals are welcome to "Report an Issue" to NAFSA on the emerging obstacles or challenges they are encountering in the field. NAFSA members can "Get Help" on individual cases by connecting with a committee of their peers who liaise with U.S. and foreign government officials.

Education Abroad

Report an Issue

Inform the Education Abroad Regulatory Practice Committee about emerging trends or government obstacles related to students studying abroad.



[Report an Issue](#)

Request Visa Help

Submit a request to the Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee for help with U.S. student visa issues for education abroad programs.



[Get Visa Help](#)

Additional Information:

- [Review the NAFSA Visas For Education Abroad web page](#)

International Students & Scholars

Report an Issue

Inform the International Student and Scholar Regulatory Practice Committee about emerging trends or government obstacles related to international students and scholars.



[Report an Issue](#)

Get Liaison Help

Submit request to the Regulatory Ombudspersons Subcommittee for assistance with specific immigration cases at USCIS Service Centers.



[Get Liaison Help](#)

Additional Information:

- [Look for answers in the NAFSA Adviser's Manual](#)
- [Follow the steps in NAFSA's suggested procedures](#)

Visit: www.nafsa.org/eavisahelp



Input Information (part 1)

EA Visa Help

Adviser information

EdAbroad NAFSA (earp@nafsa.org)
NAFSA: Association of International Educators

1307 New York Avenue NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-4704
United States
T: 202-737-3699 F: 202-737-3657

Required information

This issue relates to

- France
- Italy
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Other

* This field is required

Choose one issue

- Visa application
- Consulate appointment
- Other issue

Additional information

Student information

Student first name

Student last name

Student home institution

Student citizenship

Additional student citizenship(s)

Consular official information (if known)

Consular official first name

Consular official last name

Consular official phone number

Consular official email address

Consular official location

Input Information (part 2)

Visa information

Country issuing passport

Passport # (if known)

Country of study destination

- France
- Italy
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Other

City of consulate processing visa application

Official program start date

Official program end date

Date student departs U.S. (if different than program start date above)

Date student arrives in country of study (if different than program start date above)

Host institution abroad

Does the student also intend to

- Intern
- Work
- Volunteer
- Unknown
- None of the Above

How is this visa application being processed?

Date application was submitted/sent

Additional details for visa issue

What actions, if any, have been taken by the student and/or adviser to resolve this issue?

United Kingdom Updates

Country Coordinator

Christine Menand

Carnegie Mellon University

Regional Liaisons

- Laurence Tuccori
- Max Chappuis
- Jessa Boche
- Mary Rogers



○ Two Student Routes

- **Short Term Student Route (\$141)**
 - Less than 6 months (no work, internships or volunteering permitted)
- **General Student Visa under Tier 4 (\$507)**
 - For courses longer than 6 months, and all courses involving study + work/internship
 - Not required to include proof of funding
- **Current \$ prices:** <https://visa-fees.homeoffice.gov.uk/y/usa/usd/study/all>

○ Submit application to UK consulate **AT LEAST** 6 weeks before program start date

- Average processing time 15 business days
- OR choose Priority Processing (\$309) at time of application mailing. Average processing time 5 business days
- OR use [Premium Application Centre](#) (10) for express processing

○ Tier 4 Biometric Residency Permit

○ Health Insurance surcharge

○ Must use UPS for return shipping

Brexit – a good resource/explanation tool:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>

Italy Updates



Country Coordinator

Aliki Karagiannis

Stonehill College



Regional Liaisons

- *Boston*: Alicia Vinal
- *Chicago*: Danette Bontrager
- *Detroit*: Rebecca Hambleton
- *Houston*: Maria Jose Angel Mex
- *Los Angeles*: Kitty Christen
- *Miami*: Jessica Driemeier
- *New York*: **Vacant (open for applications)**
- *Philadelphia*: Paula Álvarez Tamés
- *San Francisco*: Giulia Welch
- *Washington, DC*: Mia Pezzanite

Visa Requirements (Less than 90 days)

- No visa required – US and Nationals of visa-waiver countries
- Schengen Visa is required for students from non-visa waiver countries (China, India, etc.)

Visa Requirements (90 days or more)

Two step Immigration Process

Step One:

Visa is required for all students (except EU citizens) – students follow instructions for long stay student visa. Students apply in person at consulate (most consulates have online appointment systems) or batch submission through study abroad office, if applicable. Cost of visa is 50 Euro.

Step Two:

Within 8 days of arrival, all students (apart from Schengen citizens) staying 90 days or more must apply for a Permit of Stay (kit is available at Italian Post Offices). Costs vary on length of stay and visa status but will be approximately 155 Euro.

Recent Updates

- Visa Application Fee – 50 Euro. Check consulate website for payment method and current exchange rate. Some consulates will accept one payment for batch instead of individual money orders.
- Visa requirements vary by consulates – check consulate website
- Contact consulate to check if batch processing is possible – some consulates will only accept batches from AACUPI member schools
- No 1 problem – financial documentation. Check consulate website carefully for requirements. Financial Aid letters are no longer accepted by all consulates as proof of financial means – check your consulate requirements for specifics.
- Encourage students to begin the application process early – can't apply more than 90 days before the program start date
- Independent applicants – appointments fill up fast during peak times so appointment should be made well in advance.

Spain Updates



Country Coordinator

Regina Foster

Clemson University



Regional Liaisons

- *Boston*: Alicia Vinal
- *Chicago*: Christiane Bruessard
- *Houston*: Jennibeth Rodriguez
- *LA*: **Vacant (open for applications)**
- *Miami*: Regina Foster
- *NY*: Shannon Peak Bernardo
- *San Francisco*: Elizabeth Daugherty Abbasi
- *Washington DC*: Erin Pendle

Batch processing by study abroad offices/universities

- Allowed at most of the consulates except DC.
- NY requires students to apply through 'batch processing' either with their university or study abroad program provider. In rare circumstances a student may petition for an individual in-person appointment.
- There may be different requirements for individuals than for batch processing.

Appointments vary

- Miami and DC accept walk-in customers and do not accept appointments. All other consulates have an on-line appointment system for students. Most limit students to making one appointment. If duplicate appointments are found, both appointments may be cancelled.
- Batch processing appointments generally are requested via email.
- For all student appointments (not batch processing) the student must appear in person at least once, either to present the application or to pick up their passport.

Non-U.S. citizens

- Most consulates accept Schengen and student visa applications from non-U.S. citizens.

Background checks and Medical Certificates

- Only required for student stays of more than 180 days. May be either State Police issued check WITH Apostille stamp, or FBI Check.
- May need to be translated into Spanish.

Requirement variations

- Most consulates have similar application requirements but there are variations. Examples include: evidence of funds - three consecutive months' of bank statements vs. one month's; acceptance letters – originals vs. copy.
- LA now has requirements for all or portions of bank statements and proof of insurance to be translated into Spanish

France Updates

Country Coordinator

Rebecca James, M.A.

CEA Study Abroad



Regional Liaisons

- *Atlanta*: Gabriela Peschiera
- *Boston*: Tary Coppola
- *Chicago*: Erin Polnaszek Boyd
- *Houston*: Loy Macari
- *LA*: Katerina Georgieva
- *Miami*: **Vacant (open for applications)**
- *NY*: Rebecca James
- *SF*: Danielle Pattee
- *Washington, DC*: Jason Sanderson

📍 Campus France (Etudes en France) Updates

- Individual vs Group options
 - Individual option is (mostly) paperless
 - Pay fee online
 - Email supporting documents
 - Processing Time: 3 weeks
 - Group mailing is (not exactly) paperless
 - Payment options – one check or money order OR students pay online individually
 - Mail OR email supporting documents
 - Email Group Mailing Form
 - Processing time: 5-7 days
- Regular service = \$190; Expedited service = \$340
- Email: applicationfileUSA@campusfrance.org

France Updates

Country Coordinator

Rebecca James, M.A.
CEA Study Abroad



Regional Liaisons

- *Atlanta*: Gabriela Peschiera
- *Boston*: Tary Coppola
- *Chicago*: Erin Polaszek Boyd
- *Houston*: Loy Macari
- *LA*: Katerina Georgieva
- *Miami*: **Vacant (open for applications)**
- *NY*: Rebecca James
- *SF*: Danielle Pattee
- *Washington, DC*: Jason Sanderson

Consulate Updates

- Consulate visa processing will be outsourced to VFS Global and passed on to DC
- VACs opening over course of spring and summer 2018 (DC transitioned in April)
- VFS Global will operate Visa Application Centers (VACs) in same cities as Consulates
- \$33 fee to make visa appointment, but hours of operation 9-5 (more slots available), online payment only
- Visa fee increase does NOT apply to students (auto-populates as 99 Euro)
- Mobile service available at a (significant) additional fee
- Once all VACs open students can apply for visa at any location
- Batch processing no longer available once all VACs open
- Students must visit in person – biometrics mandatory
- Processing time: 1-4 weeks (situation dependent)
- NEW requirement – proof of accommodation for first 3 months

Schengen Updates

Coordinator

Jason Sanderson, PhD
Georgetown University



◊ Schengen and the E.U.

- 6 E.U. member states (*U.K.*, Ireland, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania) are not currently part of Schengen Area
- 4 E.U. non-member states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) are part of the Schengen Area

◊ Biometrics

- Since 2014 all U.S.-based consulates of Schengen countries have been linked to the Visa Information System (VIS). All applicants' biometrics will be taken at their appointment.

◊ Schengen vs. National Visas

- Schengen visas are limited to 90-day stays in the Schengen Area
- U.S. passport holders generally exempt from obtaining a Schengen visa
- 90-day limit out of 180 rolling calendar days strictly enforced
- No central authority to refer cases – each country may interpret treaty differently
- The outsourcing of French visa services to VLS Global will also apply to applicants for Schengen visas.

World-at-Large (WAL) Updates

Country Coordinator

Rochelle Keesler
Lafayette College



World-at-Large Liaisons

- Clementine Hakizimana
- Erin Mikulec
- Jessica Walker
- Kristin Smith

Also from EAKC Visa Ed:

- Peter Maribei
- Helen Newman
- Rikki Brown
- Jolie Roetter
- Sarah Langston

- ◊ WAL Team offers best practices
 - Based on information and visa processing experience of the group members
 - Do not have consulate specific liaisons
- ◊ Reference www.nafsa.org/eavisas for updates on recent visa changes for various countries

FBI Record

- First determine if the consulate does indeed want a record from the FBI. Otherwise, a state police record may suffice and is much faster to obtain. Your consulate website should indicate what they require.
- When authentication of the FBI record is required, send record to the Office of Authentications at the US State Department to request an Apostille stamp.
- Fingerprints from any police station or local law enforcement office will be required. Call ahead for fingerprinting office hours. Request 2-3 sets of prints.
- Processing time is approximately 12 to 14 weeks.
- Students with strict time limits who wish to expedite the Department of State authentication process are encouraged to work with a visa processing service (may be able to get authentication within 24 hours) It is recommended that you work with an FBI approved channeler for this process.
- Nearly 25 percent of requests for records are denied because of missing information, illegible fingerprints, or incorrect payment.
- FBI: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/faqs>

International Student Visas

- ◻ Many countries require visa for non-US students
 - Countries may require entry visas (even if U.S. citizens are not required to obtain a visa)
 - Visa fee may vary based on the country of origin of the applicant
 - Students may have to appear in person
 - Some countries may require transit visas even if that country is not the student's final destination
 - Countries may require a valid US. Visa at the time of application
 - Non-US citizens should check with their advisors to obtain information for reentry to the US prior to travel for study abroad

Visa Process

- ◻ Visa application process:
 - Home institutions takes charge of application process
 - Program sponsor takes charge of application process
 - Student is responsible for application process

- ◻ Consider the possibility of using a visa processing agency for relevant countries to ensure accurate review of visa applications and support

NAFSA Help

◊ Committees

- Education Abroad Regulatory Practice Committee
 - Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee

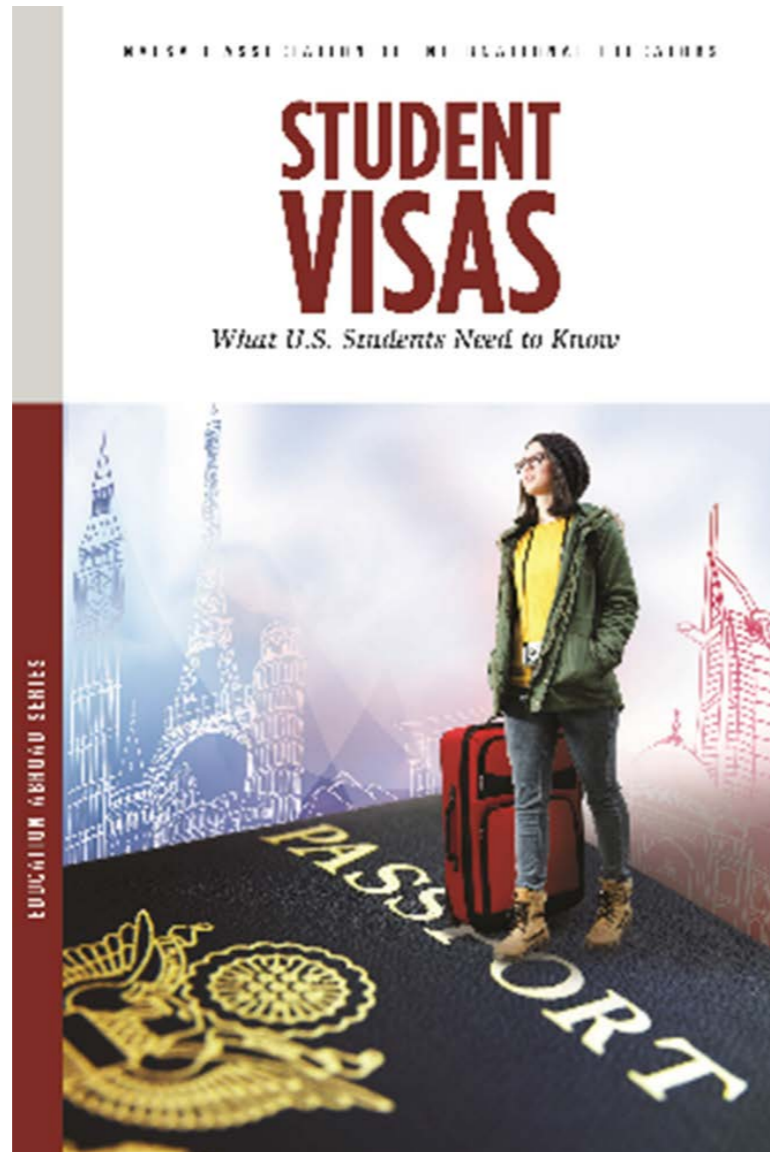
◊ Online

- Visa Updates: www.nafsa.org/eavisas
- Visa Assistance: www.nafsa.org/eavisahelp
 - Note: EA Visa Help is a NAFSA members tool only

◊ Upcoming Collegial Conversations

- France: June 26, 1:00pm EDT
- Spain: July 19, 3:00pm EDT

Publication



◊ Student Visas

- Top 10 do's and don'ts
- FAQs
- Passport information
- Helpful web sites
- Glossary of visa terms
- Purchase online

Join Us!

- ◊ If you are interested in joining our committee, we anticipate the following openings in January 2019:
 - *CAL Subcommittee Chair*
 - *UK*
 - *1 opening*
 - *World at Large (WAL)*
 - *1 opening*
 - *France*
 - *Houston*
 - *Spain*
 - *Los Angeles (open now)*
 - *Italy*
 - *Houston*
 - *New York (open now)*

Thank you for participating in NAFSA 2018

Get involved with CAL:

- Receive visa updates
- Make connections with your consulate(s)
- Help others in the field!

To find out about volunteer opportunities with CAL or the Visa Education Subcommittee, please visit www.nafsa.org/openpositions

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complete
this session
evaluation
NOW!



Or FAVORITE now
and EVALUATE later!

