Education Abroad Visa Updates

Consular Affairs Liaison (CAL) Subcommittee
Education Abroad Regulatory Practice (EARP) Committee
NAFSA: Education Abroad Regulatory Practice Committee

Chair:
Kirsten McKinney
Anglia Ruskin University

Chair-Designate:
Michele Arellano
University of Kansas

Government Liaison:
Morgan Morris
University of South Carolina

Financial Aid Subcommittee Chair:
Kate Meyer
Hamline University

Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee Chair:
David S. Younger
University of Notre Dame

Consular Affairs Liaison Representative:
Jason Sanderson
Georgetown University

Regulatory Compliance Representative:
Ann Themistocleous
Anderson University
NAFSA: Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee

Chair: David S. Younger
University of Notre Dame

Country Coordinator: France
Consular Liaisons: France

Country Coordinator: Italy
Consular Liaisons: Italy

Country Coordinator: Spain
Consular Liaisons: Spain

Country Coordinator: UK
Consular Liaisons: UK

Country Coordinator: World-at-Large
Consular Liaisons: World-at-Large

Visa Education Subcommittee (EAKC)
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

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

**Additional Information:**
- Review the NAFSA Visas For Education Abroad web page

[Get Visa Help](#)

**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.

**Additional Information:**
- Look for answers in the NAFSA Adviser’s Manual
- Follow the steps in NAFSA’s suggested procedures

[Get Liaison Help](#)
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

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
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:
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

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

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
France Updates

Country Coordinator
Rebecca James, M.A.
CEA Study Abroad

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

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
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 Maribeii
• 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](http://www.nafsa.org/eavisas) for updates on recent visa changes for various countries
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
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
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
Please complete this session evaluation NOW!

Or FAVORITE now and EVALUATE later!