

Visa Updates

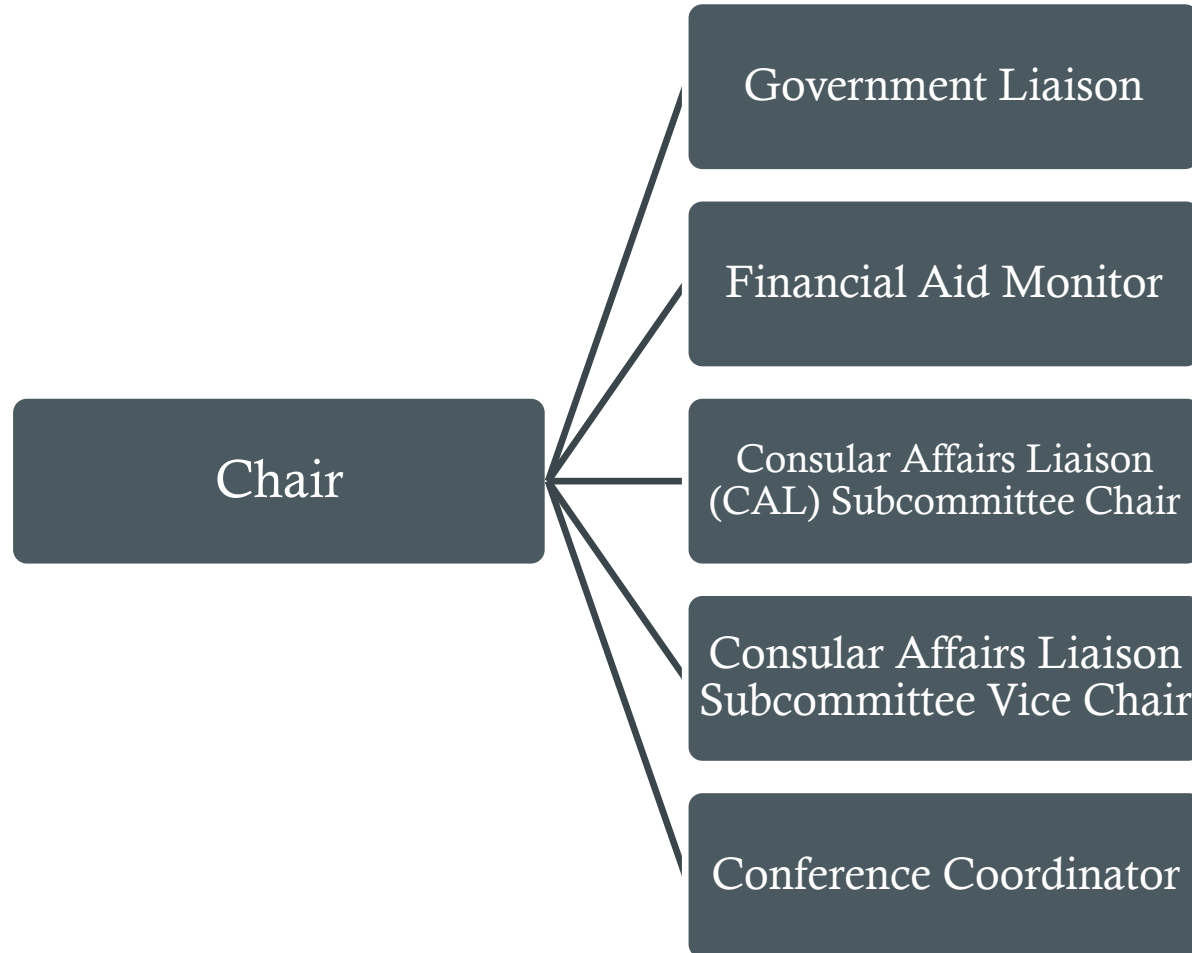
NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Regulatory Practice Committee &
Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee

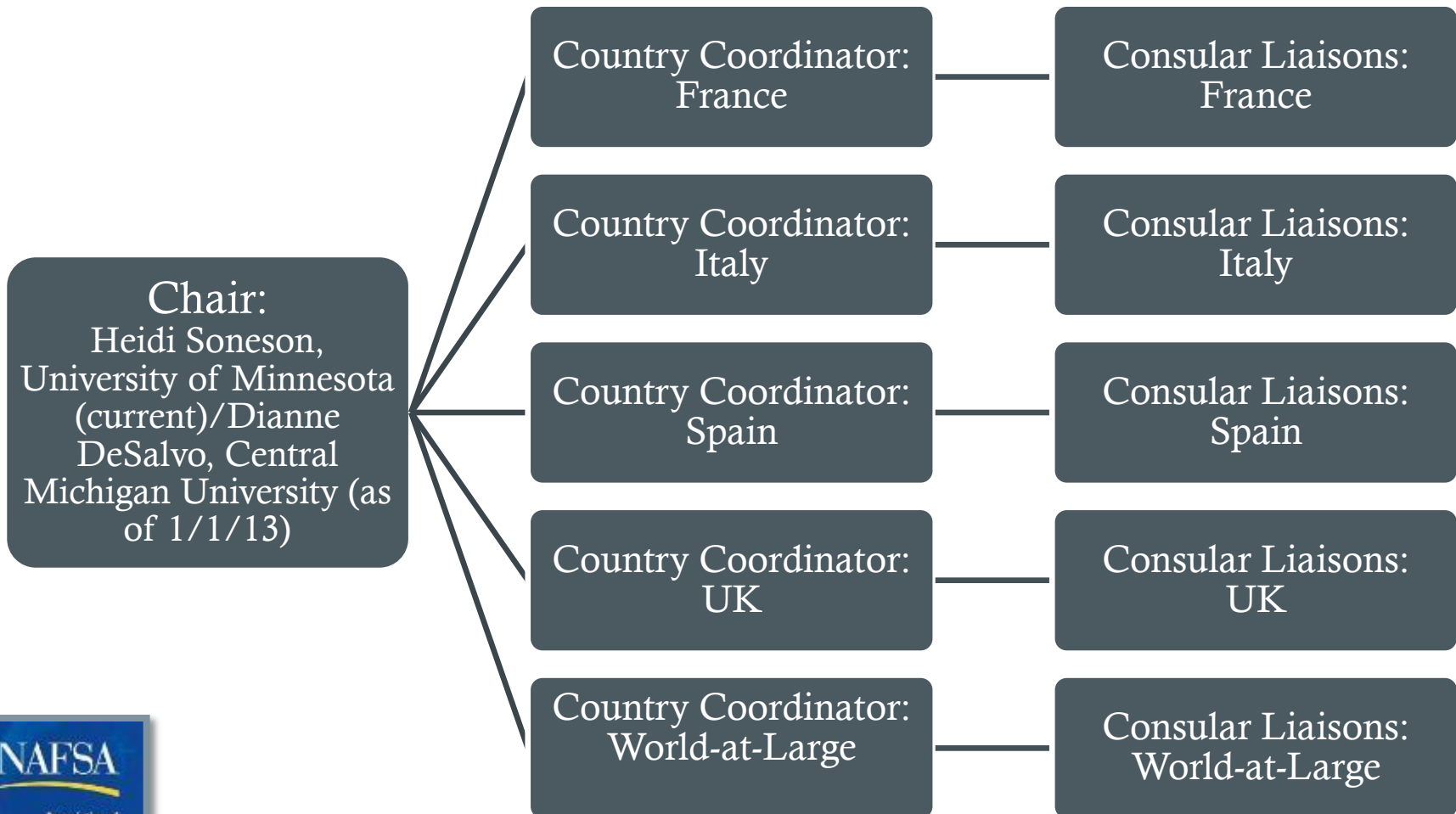


NAFSA Regional Conferences 2012

NAFSA: Regulatory Practice Committee



NAFSA: Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee





INTO THE WILD

Observing Wildlife in Botswana
Launches Career



NAFSA
2013 Annual
Conference
& Expo

May 26-31 · St. Louis, MO

Call for Proposals

Contribute to the field of international education by presenting a poster at NAFSA's 65th Annual Conference & Expo in St. Louis, Missouri, May 26-31, 2013. The deadline for submission is December 10.

[Watch a Proposal Tutorial](#)

(1 of 2)



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A resource for any education abroad office, this publication helps students explore the possibilities of study abroad, along with relevant advice and links to resources for planning.

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Visa Help

Submit questions to get help on visa issues for U.S. students and faculty studying abroad.

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Visas For Education Abroad

The following information is designed to assist education abroad advisers as they guide their students to obtain a student visa to study abroad. NAFSA's EA Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee members review these pages regularly for accuracy, but the consulate to which the student applies for a visa may change its procedures. Students and advisers should confirm specific procedures with each relevant consulate.

Additional general information relevant to education abroad is available under [NAFSA Regulatory Information](#).

NAFSA has two EA Visa subcommittees:

- The [Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee \(46kb PDF\)](#) is available to assist you with your visa questions. [Submit questions through EA Visa Help.](#)
- The [Visa Education Subcommittee \(65kb PDF\)](#) provides educational resources about the visa application process.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION



Cuba France Italy Spain United Kingdom

Select another Country

GENERAL VISA FAQs

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

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EA VISA HELP

Submit your question to get help on specific visa issues for U.S. students and faculty studying abroad.

[EA Visa Help](#)

EA VISA RESOURCES

[Visa Education Subcommittee](#)



Visit: www.nafsa.org/eavisas

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Education Abroad

Submit questions to get help on specific visa issues for U.S. students and faculty studying abroad.

[Request Visa Help](#)

International Students & Scholars

Inform the Regulatory Practice Committee about emerging trends or government obstacles for studying abroad or incoming students and scholars.

[Report an Issue](#)

Contact your Regulatory Ombud for assistance with specific immigration cases at USCIS Service Centers. **Before submitting your request:**

[Get Liaison Help](#)

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



Education Abroad Visa Help

Part I - Adviser's Information

Jeremy Doughty (jeremy.doughty@snc.edu)
St. Norbert College

100 Grant Street, Bemis 321
De Pere, WI 54115-4040
USA
T: (920) 403-3433 F: (920) 403-4083

Part II - Required Information

Visa Information

This issue relates to:

- France
- Italy
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Other



Select one of the top four countries or any "other" country.

Choose one issue - visa a

or other issue.

Visa Application

--select an option

Specify details if necessa

- ✓ --select a country
- Afghanistan
- Aland Islands
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina

Appointment

ion

necessary

Other Issue

Specify details

Part IV - Additional Details for Visa Issue

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

1000

If the consulate has responded provide more details

1000

Enter up to 1000 characters into each text field. The remaining space is shown as you type.



Additional information?

1000

Submit



FRANCE

Country Coordinator

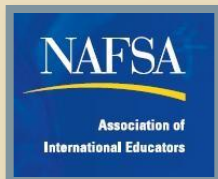
Jason Sanderson

Georgetown University



Regional Liaisons

- *Atlanta*: Liliane Spenle
- *Boston*: Emily Brazer
- *Chicago*: Janis Halpern
- *Houston*: Jane Chandler
- *LA*: TBD
- *Miami*: Giselda Beaudin
- *NY*: Rebecca James
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• CampusFrance Updates

- Admission letters must have the exact program dates and the contact information of the U.S. study abroad advisor
- Fees expected to increase to \$100 in fall 2012 for students applying to be in France for spring 2013 semester
- A step-by-step [video](#) is now available for students



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• Consulate Updates

- All consulates have harmonized the supporting documentation requirements, but students should check the website of their individual consulate for exact information
- Students may apply at the consulate of their home or school address jurisdiction
- Bank statements showing sufficient funds (\$820 per month in France) are required
 - Required amounts may be adjusted for students on documented financial aid



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• OFII Updates

- Single-semester students (91-180 days) may choose at the time of application whether or not to go through OFII
 - The visa fee (50€) is the same
 - Students who opt out of OFII cannot work in France, nor can they extend the validity of their visa on site
 - Students who opt out of OFII cannot change their status on-site and decide to go through the process
- Students studying in France longer than 180 days are required to go through OFII
- U.S. passport holders may be summonsed via email by OFII as part of a pilot program



ITALY

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Georgetown University



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- *NY*: Suzanne Shane
- *Philadelphia*: Scott Keller
- *SF*: Noah Kuchins
- *Washington DC*: Karen Wardzala

• General Updates

- Student Visa Requirements
 - **Stays greater than 90 days**
 - Visa is required
 - U.S. students and students from non-Schengen countries studying in Italy for more than 90 days must complete the National Visa Application Form
 - **Stays less than 90 days**
 - Visa is NOT required for U.S. students or international students from visa waiver countries on programs less than 90 days
 - International students who are from non-visa waiver countries (China, Haiti, etc.) must complete the Schengen visa application
- Consulates reserve the right to change their requirements and/or request additional information



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- There continues to be no fee for student visa applications
- **Permesso di Soggiorno (Permit of Stay)**: This is the second part of the immigration process for students and *occurs in Italy*, within 8 days after arrival
 - Total fees (91-365 days): 153,22€
 - 107,50€: Permit of Stay Tax Fee
 - 30,00€: Certified Mail
 - 14,62€: Official Stamp
 - 1,10€: Post Office Fee
 - Please note that a photocopy of the information page of the passport is now sufficient (no longer the entire passport)



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• Consulate Specific Updates

• Philadelphia

- Updated web site with a new checklist and great clarity regarding requirements for **Health Insurance, Financial Means** and the **Letter of Acceptance**

• San Francisco

- Batch processing is no longer possible. All students must be interviewed either at the SF consulate or an Honorary Consulate in the SF jurisdiction who will forward the application on to the SF consulate.
- Honorary Consulates in SF jurisdiction: http://www.conssanfrancisco.esteri.it/Consolato_SanFrancisco/Menu/II_Consolato/La_rete_consolare/
- Passports/Visas will still be returned to students by mail, directly from the SF consulate

• New York

- The student's address in Italy should be indicated in the acceptance letter issued by the U.S. or host institution



SPAIN

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University of Kansas



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Recent Changes

- Effective June 1, 2012, the visa fee for U.S. citizens is \$160.
- Students applying to Spanish Consulates in Miami and SF must schedule their appointment via VFS Global
 - VFS:
<http://www.vfsglobal.com/Spain/usa/>
 - Study abroad advisors requesting batch processing should still work with their respective consulate for appointment.
- All other consulates are utilizing TimeTrade for online appointment scheduling.



SPAIN

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(thru 12/12)



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Common Questions

- Background checks
 - Required for student stays of more than 180 days
 - Students may submit state-issued background checks from the their state of residence with the Apostille issued by the Secretary of State's office to fulfill the "Certification of absence of police records" requirement
- Batch processing
 - Allowed at all of the consulates
 - Your institution may develop a relationship with the consulate and ensure that visas are submitted in timely fashion
 - Check with your specific consulate



SPAIN

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Common Questions

- Internships
 - U.S. citizens participating in unpaid internships qualify for tourist/student visas dependent on the length of the internship
 - Check with your specific consulate
- Non-U.S. citizens
 - All consulates accept Schengen and student visa applications from non-U.S. citizens
 - Student's F-1 visa should be valid before, during, and after the trip
 - Check with your specific consulate
- Consulates reserve the right to change their requirements and/or request additional information



Country Coordinator

Laurence Tuccori
Ohio University



Regional Liaisons

- Shima Gorgani
- Amber Schneider
- Christine Menand



• Two Student Routes

- Student Visitor
 - Less than 6 months (no work, internships or volunteering permitted)
 - \$129 for visa nationals effective April 06, 2012
- General Student Visa Under Tier 4 (for internships/volunteer work/work)
 - \$477
 - All applications are processed in NY
 - Tier 4: 28-day rule for proof of funds (funds must be in account for 28 consecutive days)
 - Applicable to visa nationals as U.S. citizens qualify for differentiation
 - CAS required as of February 2010
 - Submit original documents and passport
 - Guidance states to allow for 6-week minimum processing
 - Or choose Priority (\$150) or Premium (\$100) processing at time of application mailing
 - UKBA goal to process the majority of applications within 15 business days



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- Internships (50% rule)
 - Remain intact for university-level (66/33 for non-HEIs from April 2012)
- **Other Routes**
 - BUNAC
 - Student research
 - Tier 5 with UK institution serving as sponsor (Government authorized change)
 - Business visitor route
 - Faculty leading short-term programs less than 6 months



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- **UK Student Immigration Updates**
 - From April 2012, all sponsors must achieve Highly Trusted Sponsor status
 - Interim limit on CAS until reached
 - Must reapply for HTS (new application and fee) every 12 months
 - London Metropolitan University
 - QAA oversight required for study abroad programs without U.S. accreditation themselves or for U.S. full-degree programs in the U.K.
 - Streamlined application process for students from low-risk countries attending HTS institutions
 - No longer need evidence of funding
 - Consulate could still request funding



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Ohio University



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- **UK Student Immigration Updates**
 - Maintenance fees increased to £1,000/month in London boroughs and £800/month elsewhere
 - Can only count up to £1,000 in maintenance fees already paid to sponsor even if paid in full
 - Must show proof of funding unless from low-risk country
 - English proficiency for students not holding a passport from a majority English-speaking country
 - HEIs can make own assessment and note in CAS



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- **UK Student Immigration Updates**
 - Students at universities and study abroad programs sponsored by overseas HEI (UK campus and third-party) retain current work permissions (50/50 rule still applies)
 - Only postgraduate and Government sponsored students will be permitted to bring dependents

OTHER COUNTRIES

Country Coordinator

Beth Laux

University of Utah



World-at-Large Liaisons

- Aaron Caplan
- Joe Sevigny
- Elizabeth Lauze
- Andy Kabasele
- Lisa Brown
- Claudia Giannetti

- Reference the NAFSA EA visa web site for updates on recent visa changes for various countries
- Submit visa requests to EA Visa Help
 - Beth's team will attempt to help
 - www.nafsa.org/eavisahelp
- Additional liaisons are welcome to join the team
 - Contact Beth through EA Visa Help
 - www.nafsa.org/eavisahelp

FBI Clearance

- Rules are established by the Attorney General
- Nearly 25 percent of requests for records are denied
 - Insufficient data: Missing information, illegible fingerprints, incorrect payment
- Fingerprints
 - Solicited from any police station or local law enforcement office
 - Specific times for fingerprinting
 - Contact the station beforehand
 - Students should ask for 2 to 3 sets of prints

FBI Clearance

- Authentication
 - If the consulate requires the FBI record to be authenticated, the student's original application to the FBI should indicate that it must be authenticated by the DOS
 - The document must be forwarded to the Office of Authentications at the DOS to obtain an Apostille stamp

FBI Clearance

- Processing Time
 - Efforts have been made at the FBI to reduce processing times
 - Had been as long as 10 weeks
 - Students with strict time limits who wish to expedite the DOS authentication process are encouraged to work with a visa processing service
 - Can guarantee 24-hour processing in some cases
- Additional Information
 - FBI: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/faqs>
 - Submit requests to EA Visa Help

International Student Visas

- International student visas may require a very different process than U.S. citizen visas
 - Each student has unique circumstances
 - Most countries require entry visas of international students even when U.S. citizens are not required to obtain a visa
 - Some countries may require transit visas, even if that country is not the student's final destination

International Student Visas

- Consulate / Embassy
 - International students should be prepared to go to the consulate or embassy which holds jurisdiction for their school
 - Most consulates / embassies require an in-person interview
 - Check to see if documents can be sent and reviewed ahead of the interview so that only one visit is required
 - Some smaller countries only have one location in the U.S. to obtain a visa

International Student Visas

- U.S. Student Visa Status
 - International students should check with their international advisor regarding their U.S. student visa status
 - International students must ensure that their U.S. student visa will be valid upon their return to the U.S.

Visa Education

- 3 Questions to Consider
 1. What level of assistance do your students really need?
 2. What amount of time and resources does your office have to commit?
 3. What are the possible benefits and risks?

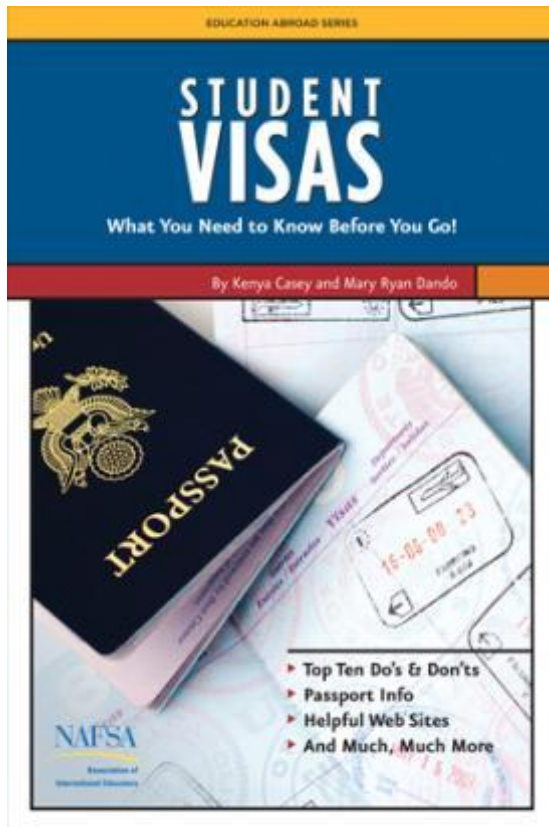
Visa Education

- Ensure clarity
 - Consider your institutional context
 - Publish your office's visa policy
 - Student and staff confusion does not further our mission
 - Consider the possibility of using a visa processing agency for relevant countries to ensure accurate support

NAFSA Help

- Committees
 - Regulatory Practice Committee
 - Consular Affairs Liaison Subcommittee
- Online
 - Visa Updates: www.nafsa.org/eavisas
 - Visa Assistance: www.nafsa.org/eavisahelp
 - Note: Register for a NAFSA ID and password
- Publication
 - *Student visas: What you need to know before you go*

Publication



- *Student Visas*
 - Top 10 do's and don'ts
 - FAQs
 - Passport information
 - Helpful web sites
 - Glossary of visa terms
 - [Purchase online](#)

Thank You

Get involved:

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

We are seeking volunteers (LA liaisons, Spain Country Coordinator)

Contact us via www.nafsa.org/eavisahelp.



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