

This guide is intended to help students prepare for the visa process. Please note that visa requirements and procedures can change with little or no notice. The Center for Global Study & Engagement (CGSE) strongly recommends reviewing this guide before applying to study abroad to ensure that visa timelines and requirements do not conflict with other academic, travel, or personal commitments.

Visa requirements may differ based on your citizenship status. If you are an international student or hold dual citizenship, please consult CGSE early to understand how this may affect your visa process.

How to use this guide

This is a planning tool to help you understand the general visa process. Once accepted into a program, you will receive a detailed visa guide including key dates, deadlines, required documents, and action items specific to your program via email and through the program D2L Brightspace pre-departure course.

Visa Requirements

- All students (except EU citizens) must obtain a student visa to participate in the program.
- Students who arrive in France without a valid visa will be denied entry and may be sent home at their own expense.
- You are solely responsible for obtaining your visa on time.
- The visa process is critical—please take it seriously and begin early.

Visa process at a glance

- **CONSULT** and **READ** information on the visa guide and on the Campus France website
- **GATHER** all of the supporting documentation for your visa application.
- **APPLY** through Campus France and the French visa website
- **SCHEDULE** your visa appointment at the visa processing center
- **GO TO** the visa processing center for an in-person appointment to deliver your passport and visa application

Materials you should be prepared to provide:

- ☐ **Original passport**
 - You will need to surrender your original passport at your visa appointment. Do not plan any international travel while your visa is processing.
 - Your passport must be valid at least 6 months AFTER the end of your study abroad program.
- ☐ **Required application materials (Accepted students will receive specific information)**
- ☐ **Proof of sufficient funds for program period in France**
 - You may need to provide proof of sufficient funds (amount varies) through a bank statement.
- ☐ **Visa fees**
 - You are responsible for all associated fees related to obtaining your visa (including travel, if required). Refer to the program cost sheet for estimated visa fees.
- ☐ **Travel to visa processing center**
 - You will be required to travel in person to the visa processing center to submit your application. You are responsible for any associated travel costs.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

For fall and academic year students

- Visa processing can take several weeks to months, especially during summer.
- You will not be able to travel internationally while your passport is being processed.
- Plan ahead and contact CGSE with any concerns.
- International students returning home for summer may need to apply from their home country. Visa procedures and timelines may vary significantly. CGSE can assist, but it is your responsibility to confirm the process.

For Spring semester students

- Visa processing occurs during winter break and may take several weeks.
- You will not be able to travel internationally during this time.
- If you are studying abroad in the fall semester at a different location, the spring visa process may be complicated and depending on your location and program dates, it may not be possible for you to obtain your visa between programs. You should consult the CGSE before making your plans.
- You may be able to apply from your fall location, but this is not guaranteed.
- You may need to return to the U.S. between semesters to apply. Confirm your fall program's end date to ensure the timeline works.
- International students should confirm where they will be during visa processing. If returning to your home country, check how this affects your visa application. You may need to apply from your home country, where procedures may differ.