

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's D2L Brightspace pre-departure course.

Visa Requirements

- All students must obtain a student visa to participate in the program.
- Students who arrive in New Zealand without a valid and appropriate visa will be denied entry and may be sent home at their own expense.
- You are responsible for providing the documents to obtain your visa.
- Students will submit all their documentation online.
- 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 D2L Brightspace course
- **GATHER** all of the supporting documentation for your visa application
- **APPLY** through the group application process by meeting all deadlines

Materials you should be prepared to provide:

- Original, signed and certified passport**
 - CGSE will certify your passport
 - Your passport must be valid at least 6 months AFTER the end of your study abroad program
- Offer of Place from University of Otago**
 - You should apply to the University as soon as you know you have been accepted by Dickinson
- Required application materials (Accepted students will receive specific information)**
- 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.
- Flight Itinerary**
 - Yes, you must purchase your tickets before you submit your visa application and include your receipt.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

For fall and academic year students

- Applications must be submitted at least two months before the start of the program.
- Visa processing can take several weeks to months, especially during summer.
- Plan ahead and contact CGSE with any concerns.

For Spring semester students

- Visa processing occurs during winter break and may take several weeks to months
- It is the busiest time for student visa processing, so you should make plans to apply asap
- This is a good location for students who are planning to be abroad in the fall