A visa is added to a passport by a foreign government and is issued to students who study abroad at an educational institution. Students studying abroad in Spain for more than 90 days are required to obtain a National Study Visa.

Students must apply for the visa at a Spanish Consulate in the jurisdiction of their residence or studies. For Iowa, the Consulate is located in Chicago.

This document contains the instructions and tips for applying for the visa. This serves as a guide to help with the process. Students are responsible for reviewing the live material on the Consulate’s website as things may change.

Steps

- Apply for your passport or make sure yours is valid for at least 6 months after your study abroad experience.
- Think about when you want to go to Chicago and then book your appointment ASAP as they fill up quickly! Book here: app.timetrade.com/tc/login.do?url=spainconsulchicago
- Work on compiling the checklist of items on the checklist in this document. Meet with your study abroad advisor prior to your appointment to ensure you have all the materials.
- Reminder, processing time is 4 weeks not including mailing or holidays so apply early (est. 10 days for mailing)! (Thanksgiving Break is good for Spring students and over the summer is good for Fall students)
Documents Checklist

Students should start to compile the items on this checklist. All of these items must be provided to the Consulate in order to receive the student visa. If any are missing, the visa could be denied. It is recommended that students keep a folder with this information safe and in one place. While it is not required, it is best to meet with your study abroad advisor prior to the appointment to make sure you have everything you need. As always, consult with the official list online to ensure things have not changed.

- **Completed Visa Application**

- **Recent Passport-Sized Photograph** (can take this in the Study Abroad Center for FREE)

- **Official Passport + 1 copy**

- **Official Driver's License or Student ID + 1 copy**

- **Official Acceptance Letter + 1 copy** (WILL COME FROM THE STUDY ABROAD CENTER)

- **Proof of Financial Means**: Statement from the University/School or US program assuming full financial responsibility for room and board (WILL COME FROM THE STUDY ABROAD CENTER)

- **Proof of Health Insurance Coverage** (WILL COME FROM THE STUDY ABROAD CENTER)

- **Return Envelope**: A pre-paid and self-addressed UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICES EXPRESS MAIL with a tracking number

- **Consular Fee**: Obtain a money order for $160 USD (as of January 1, 2018)

- For programs over 180 days, please see the Consulate’s website for additional steps. You must get a Criminal History Check as well as a Medical Certificate.

Please Reference the Spanish Consulate in Chicago's Website: [www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/CHICAGO/en](http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/CHICAGO/en)

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