

South Africa Student Visa



About the Visa

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 South Africa for more than 90 days are required to obtain a Study Visa.

Students must apply for the visa in person at a South African 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.
- Request FBI Background Check (see checklist) and set up your appointment for the physical and TB test.
- Think about when you want to go to Chicago. You do not need to schedule an appointment with the Consulate. We do recommend getting there early in the day (check hours [online](#)).
- 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 4-8 weeks not including mailing or holidays so apply early (est. 10 days for mailing)! (Thanksgiving Break is good for Spring students and in May after Finals 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 Form:** [www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/PDF/Temporary%20Residence%20Form%20\(DHA-1738\)%20\(Form%208\)%20\(June%202019,%202014\).pdf](http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/PDF/Temporary%20Residence%20Form%20(DHA-1738)%20(Form%208)%20(June%202019,%202014).pdf)
- **2 Recent Passport-Sized Photographs** (can take this in the Study Abroad Center for FREE)
- **Notarized copy of birth certificate**
- **Official Passport + 1 Notarized copy**
- **Medical Report signed on South African Consulate's Form:** www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/forms/medical.pdf
- **TB Test Report signed on South African Consulate's Form:** www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/forms/bi806.pdf
 - **Original FBI Certificate** (recommend this is requested from MyFBIReport.com). Takes 4-6 weeks to process.
 - **Official Acceptance Letter**
 - **Official Letter of Enrollment at UNI** (WILL COME FROM THE STUDY ABROAD CENTER)
 - **Proof of Financial Means:** In the form of recent three months bank statements stamped by bank, and notarized letter from the parents stating the financial responsibility.
 - **Roundtrip Flight Itinerary**
 - **Proof of Address in South Africa:** A copy of your accommodation confirmation
 - **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 \$36 USD

Please Reference the South African Consulate in Chicago's Website: www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/permit_study.htm

Updated 16 May 2018

