Depart for Study Abroad!

If you do not receive your visa within one week prior to departure, contact UCEAP and contact the Consulate. You may need to pick up your visa in person instead of waiting for the Consulate to mail it to you. Apply early in your appointment window to avoid this issue!

Beginning of application appointment window.
The earliest you can apply for your visa - 120 days prior to departure (LA Consulate) or 40 days prior to departure (SF Consulate). Refer to the visa guidelines for your exact dates.

End of application window.
No later than 3 to 5 months before departure.
No earlier than 3 months before your visa appointment and no later than 2 months before your visa appointment.

Get a Medical Certificate letter from your UC Health Center or your Private Health Practitioner.

Schedule visa appointment online for a time within your application appointment window. Note: Only appointments for the current and following month may show on the Consulate’s online scheduling calendar, so you will be able to schedule your appointment 1 to 2 months prior to your preferred appointment date. Example, if you wish to schedule your appointment for May 1st, check the Consulate’s appointment system in March and April to see if the May calendar is available. Appointments fill up fast!

Prepare remaining visa requirements prior to the Application Appointment Window.

APPLICATION APPOINTMENT WINDOW

Get your Live Scan fingerprints for your background clearance.

Receive your background clearance in the mail and e-mail the DOJ to request the official letter for the Apostille of the Hague.

Receive your official letter for the Apostille of the Hague and mail the letter, the background clearance, and a cover letter to the Secretary of State to request the Apostille of the Hague.

Receive your official letter with the Apostille of the Hague on it back from the Secretary of State. Make a copy for yourself and take the original to your visa appointment.

Tasks to Complete

Asap

- Make sure you have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after your program end date.

- National Visa Application Form; Evidence of Funds; Passport Photos; Passport Photocopy; Photocopy of Student ID Card or Driver’s License; Receive Acceptance Letter and Participation Letter; Visa Fee; USPS Express Envelope (Travel Itinerary—San Francisco Consulate Only!)

- Get a Medical Certificate letter from your UC Health Center or your Private Health Practitioner.

- Begin this process with your Live Scan fingerprints at least 1 to 2 months before your visa appointment.

- No earlier than 3 months before your visa appointment and no later than 2 months before your visa appointment.

- No later than 3 to 5 months before departure.

- Begin the process with your Live Scan fingerprints at least 1 to 2 months before your visa appointment.

- End of application window.

- Department of Justice to request the official letter for the Apostille of the Hague.

- Receive your official letter for the Apostille of the Hague and mail the letter, the background clearance, and a cover letter to the Secretary of State to request the Apostille of the Hague.

- Receive your official letter with the Apostille of the Hague back from the Secretary of State. Make a copy for yourself and take the original to your visa appointment.