

# **YOUR STUDENT VISA GUIDE:**

**TOP 10 STUDY  
DESTINATIONS**



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# Introduction

When it comes to choosing where to study, knowing whether you will be able to get a study visa and/or a visa that enables you to continue working after graduation plays a major role in many people's university search.

Not all international students will be in need of a visa – EU students studying within another European country, for instance – but those who do need one should make sure to begin their student visa application well in advance.

This guide will cover everything you need to know about starting your student visa application for some of the world's most popular study destinations, including key information about common student visa requirements and how your application is processed.



# **General Rules for Any Student Visa Application**

# Getting started

Student visas enable you to visit and stay in countries legally for the duration of your academic studies. When applying for a student visa you should make sure to take into account how long your studies will last.

Often if your course or program lasts less than six months, you will be eligible for a shorter-stay visa, while for very short study programs you may just need a regular tourist visa or no visa at all.

You should also think about whether you want to extend your visa to allow yourself some extra time to travel or work in the country after completing your study abroad program.



## Filling in your application

To ensure you give yourself the best chances of success, make sure to fill in your student visa application as thoroughly and honestly as possible, taking into account all the specific student visa requirements for that country. We've outlined the different requirements for various top study destinations a little further on in this guide. Many specialist agencies exist which can answer any questions you might have, if you're happy to pay. Of course, the admissions teams at each university can also offer support and answer any questions you have too.

Once you have sent your application, be ready to promptly answer any further questions the visa authorities may have (check your phone, emails and post regularly) and make sure you have some free time to attend an interview in the coming weeks.

In case of an arranged interview, you will need to provide a number of documents, typically including:

- Proof of funding for entirety of your stay
- Proof of acceptance onto study program
- Passport valid for your entire planned stay and passport pictures
- English-proficiency test results

# How to handle rejection

If, for some reason, your student visa application is rejected, it's important to ascertain the reasons behind the rejection. Common reasons include a lack of funds, incorrect documents, and inability to provide convincing answers in the interview.

Once you know the reason(s) behind the rejection, you can work on solving those problems and potentially re-applying. This is why applying for a visa as soon as possible is recommended, as it provides plenty of time for delays or rejections.

If you keep being rejected by the same country, it might be time to consider an alternative study destination.

## Can I work while abroad on my visa?

Some students like to combine their studies with part-time work, or even stay after their studies on the same visa and find a full-time job. Whether this is possible will vary according to your visa, and you should check this before applying so that you're aware of any restrictions or limitations.

The next section outlines some of the differences between available visas and whether you can or can't work with that visa.



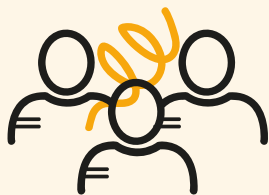


# Visas for the Top 10 Student Destinations

# US

## Who needs a visa

All non-US citizens



## Duration of the visa

**Duration of studies** plus an additional 30/60 days depending on visa type



## Fees

I-901 fee is

**\$200** for F/M visa holders;

**\$180** for J visa student holders.

**\$160** MRV fee



## Student job

**F1 visa holders can work on campus during their first year.**

After this, students may work in specific types of off-campus employment.

**M1 visa holders cannot work in the US until they have completed their studies.**



## Official website

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>



## Post graduation employment

**New visa required.**

International students can apply for practical training from their second year.





## Who needs a visa

**Any non-EU/EEA/Swiss nationals**

(subject to change after Brexit on 31st December 2020)



## Duration of the visa

**Duration of studies**



## Fees

**£348**

(approximately \$449) plus a healthcare surcharge which varies



## Student job

International students can work up to

**20 hours**

per week during term-time and full-time during holiday breaks



## Official website

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas>



## Post graduation employment

**Apply for a post study visa (PSW)** to stay in the UK for up to two years after graduation to look for work related to your degree.



# China

## Who needs a visa

Any non-Chinese citizens



## Duration of the visa

Student Visa (X-visa) lasts for duration of studies.

If studying for six months or less, students should apply for business visa (F-Visa)



## Fees

Annual JW-201 is **\$84 for US citizens, \$193 for UK citizens, \$60 for citizens from other countries**

Service application fees cost \$46 for regular service



## Student job

International students can only work if they have permission from their university



## Official website

<http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng//xnyfgk/t514394.htm>



## Post graduation employment

Work visa needed to work after graduation.

Requires two years of work experience.



# Australia

## Who needs a visa

Any citizen from outside  
Australia and New Zealand



## Duration of the visa

Duration of studies  
(up to five years)



## Fees

**AUD620**

(approx. US\$443) unless exempt



## Student job

International students can work up to

**40 hours**

hours every two week period once  
course has started



## Official website

[https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/  
getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-  
500#About](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500#About)



## Post graduation employment

Those holding a student visa and who  
have completed specific qualifications in  
Australia in the last six months, might be  
eligible for a Temporary Graduate visa  
(subclass 485).

Recent engineering graduates might  
be eligible for the Skilled Recognition  
Graduate visa (subclass 476).

Otherwise you must apply for a new visa  
that suits your circumstances.



# France

## Who needs a visa

Any non-EU citizens



## Duration of the visa



A short stay visa is valid up to three months;

A temporary long stay visa is valid from three to six months and a

long stay visa is valid for the duration of your studies

## Fees

For countries with EEF procedure

**\$59**

for all other countries

**\$116**



## Student job



International students can work up to

**964 hours**

per year

## Official website

[https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en\\_US/web/france-visas/student](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/student)



## Post graduation employment



To work in France after graduation, **non-European students must have a promise of employment or a work contract**

and be paid at least one and a half times minimum wage.

# Canada

## Who needs a visa

Any non-Canadian citizen



## Duration of the visa

Duration of studies plus 90 days.



## Fees

**\$150**



## Student job

International students can work up to

**20 hours**

hours per week during term time and full time during university breaks



## Official website

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit.html>



## Post graduation employment

**You will need to apply for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP).**

You have 180 days after you get your final marks to apply for a PGWP.



# Russia

## Who needs a visa



### Non-Russian citizens

Citizens of Azerbaijan, Abkhazia, Southern Ossetia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Armenia and Uzbekistan can study for free for up to three months but must then apply for a student visa.

## Duration of the visa



Student visas are issued for

# three months.

You must then apply for a year-long visa extension and repeat this every year for the duration of your studies.

## Fees



The cost of the visa **depends on your home country** and can be found out from a visa center in your country. Extending your visa annually costs \$20.

## Student job



**International students do not need any permits if they are employed at universities outside class time.**

Otherwise a work permit is needed

## Official website

<https://studyinrussia.ru/en/life-in-russia/arriving-in-russia/visa/>



## Post graduation employment

**Work permit required.**



# Germany

## Who needs a visa

All non-EU/EEA citizens



## Duration of the visa

Duration of studies



## Fees

**\$70-88**



## Student job

EU/EEA citizens can work up to

**20 hours**

per year per week while studying.

Non-EU/EEA students can work for 120 full days per year or 240 half days per year.



## Official website

<https://uk.diplo.de/uk-en/02/visa/residence-permit-visa/study-research/info-students>



## Post graduation employment

**EU/EEA citizens have the right to seek work in Germany without a work permit.**

Non EU/EEA citizens can extend their residence permit for up to 18 months to find work relating to their studies.



# Japan

## Who needs a visa

All non-Japanese citizens



## Duration of the visa

Valid for up to

# 2 years



## Fees

# ¥3000

(approx. \$28) for a single entry visa;

# ¥6000

(approx. \$57) for a multiple entry visa



## Student job

International students can work up to

# 28 hours

per week but there are restrictions on the types of work.



## Official website

[https://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/index\\_000025.html](https://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/index_000025.html)



## Post graduation employment

**Graduates can search for work for up to a year after graduation** by changing their status of residence from 'student' to 'designated activities'.





# Spain

## Who needs a visa

All non-EU/EEA citizens



## Duration of the visa

Short term student visa is valid for three to 6 months; long term student visa is valid for the duration of studies



## Fees

**\$70**



## Student job

International students can work up to

**20 hours**

per year per week while studying.



## Official website

<https://www.spainvisa.eu/visa-types/student-visa/>



## Post graduation employment

**EU/EEA citizens have the right to seek work in Spain without a work permit.**

Non-EU/EEA citizens who have lived in Spain for three years on a student visa can get a work permit.



# Additional resources



If you're looking for additional information on topics such as scholarships, rankings, online learning and more, then take a look at our other free guides and tools:

- [Rankings 101: How to use rankings to choose what to study](#)
- [Top 10 students cities - Everything you need to know](#)
- [Your complete guide to applying for an MBA](#)
- [A comparative guide: business masters vs MBA](#)
- [MBA salary trends: What employers want](#)
- [MBA skills trends: What employers want](#)
- [Your complete guide to applying for a masters degree](#)
- [Our favourite global scholarships and how to apply for them](#)
- [Your ultimate guide to choosing a university](#)
- [Your guide to online learning](#)
- [GMAT or GRE: which test should I take?](#)
- [MBA ROI calculator](#)

Find and apply to our QS World Merit [Scholarships](#).

If you're looking to attend a virtual or in-person event in your city, head over to our university and business school events pages and see what events we have coming up.



[Events](#)



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