



Office of Global Opportunities (OSU GO)
Oregon State University, University Plaza, Suite 290
1600 SW Western Blvd., Corvallis, Oregon 97331
T 541-737-3006 | F 541-737-2598 | international.oregonstate.edu/osugo

Education Abroad and International Students

Oregon State University offers a variety of international learning opportunities that enable students to study, intern, volunteer and conduct research in over 80 countries around the world. Programs such as these are designed to help prepare students to graduate from OSU with enhanced global awareness and intercultural skills, both of which are necessary to excel in a globally competitive job market.

If you are citizen of a country other than the United States, it is important that you research the following questions as you decide whether or not to participate in a particular program. The guidelines below are intended to help you prepare to enter your destination country on the appropriate visa (if needed) and return to the U.S. in the appropriate visa status to continue your studies at OSU. Because international travel can be complicated, it's best to begin preparing at least 4-6 months before the start of your program. Note, however, that most embassies will not accept visa applications more than 90 days before the intended travel date.

1. Before applying to a program or submitting your deposit, **research the relationship between your home country and your destination country.**
 - a. Locate the nearest Embassy or Consulate of your destination country within the U.S. (often in one of the large cities on the west coast such as San Francisco, Los Angeles or Seattle) and locate information pertaining to visitors, tourists and/or students from countries other than the U.S.
 - b. The type of visa application you need will depend on your program. Please consult with your Program Advisor or OSU GO Advisor located in University Plaza – Suite 290, tel. 541.737.3006 for questions about visas to the destination country.
 - c. Does your destination country have an Embassy or Consulate in your home country? Do they have clear information and instructions about how citizens of your country can apply for a visitor or student visa?
 - d. Do you plan to travel to (or through) other countries in addition to your education abroad destination? If yes, be sure to consult with the appropriate embassy website to find out if you will need an entry or transit visa.

Note about websites: Be sure to locate the official websites and be careful about commercial websites that may charge extra for applications and services.

2. Another important step before deciding to participate in an education abroad program involves **scheduling an appointment with International Student Advising & Services (ISAS)** located in University Plaza – Suite 130, tel. 541.737.6310 to discuss the following topics:
 - a. Discuss your current immigration status and U.S. visa type, U.S. visa stamp expiration date and possible need for a visa renewal at a U.S. Consulate overseas before you return to OSU.
 - b. How long is your education abroad program? Will you remain outside the U.S. for more than 5 months?

- c. Will you be registered full-time at OSU while you are overseas on your program?
- d. When are you completing your OSU degree?
- e. Are you sponsored by a government or agency that requires approval to participate in an OSU education abroad program? Be sure to check with a Sponsored Student Advisor in ISAS as part of the process to determine if this will work for you.
- f. If you hold an F-1 or J-1 student visa, be sure to request a travel signature at least 2-3 weeks before your departure from the U.S.

Commonly requested supporting documents when applying for visas:

- 1. OSU Letter verifying your acceptance into an OSU education abroad program.
 - a. Request from your Program Advisor or OSU GO Advisor
- 2. OSU letter verifying enrollment
 - a. Request from Registrar – <http://oregonstate.edu/registrar/verify-your-enrollment>
- 3. Copy of your program itinerary including lodging
- 4. Proof of medical insurance while abroad
 - a. This will be issued to you by the Office of Global Opportunities (OSU GO)
 - b. As an international student, you have a mandatory health insurance requirement at OSU, so check with Student Health Services about how to manage your insurance requirements most appropriately.
- 5. Proof of finances – eg. bank statement
- 6. Biometrics - [US Citizenship & Immigration Office in Portland](#) may be able to assist. Call to make an appointment.