



FLIGHT

PASSPORT

VISA

INFORMATION

Rwanda and Uganda: Peace and Conflict Studies in the Lake Victoria Basin

Summer 2020

## GENERAL FLIGHT INFORMATION

This document is designed to assist you in making your travel arrangements. An essential part of your preparation for studying abroad includes obtaining the proper travel documentation for your international stay. Please read this document carefully to determine if you need to take action *immediately* in preparation for travel.

You are responsible for booking your own travel to and from the program location. In addition, it is your responsibility to read and understand the terms and conditions for your airline ticket(s), to reconfirm your flight reservations in advance of the day of travel, and to be aware of airline and TSA regulations for baggage size and contents. SIT is not responsible for additional charges you may incur as a result of airline schedule changes or other travel-related reasons.

**Once you have finalized your travel arrangements, please log into your application portal and enter your itinerary information and any notes about your arrival in the *Travel Information* section of your application.** This will ensure that SIT staff knows when to expect you. Please submit your travel itinerary no later than 30 days prior to your program's start date.

## AIRLINE INFORMATION

We have been advised that the following airlines usually provide service to the meeting location for this program: RwandAir, SN Brussels, KLM, Emirates, Ethiopian, Qatar, South African Airlines, and Kenya Airways.

You can, of course, travel on any airline of your choice; however, please note that regardless of your transportation carrier, you are expected to be at your meeting location at the required time.



## ARRIVAL INFORMATION

You are expected to meet your group at the following date, time, and location. You may consider purchasing a round trip ticket to and from Kigali. You would then purchase a separate one-way ticket from Entebbe to Kigali to catch the Kigali outbound leg of your flight.

**Kigali Arrival Date:** Saturday, July 11, 2020

**Arrival Airport:** Kigali International Airport (KGL), Rwanda

**Group Meeting Time:** You will be picked up according to the arrival time of your flight

**Group Meeting Location:** Airport's main arrival hall after you have cleared immigration, picked up your luggage, and gone through customs

**Group Will Be Met By:** SIT Study Abroad staff holding an "SIT" sign

**NOTE: If you are unable to find suitable travel arrangements which will allow you to arrive at the specified date and time, please contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible—BEFORE you make any reservations.**

Arrival prior to the start of the program is NOT possible. No SIT Study Abroad staff will be able to assist you with any matter should you arrive before the program's commencement due to personal travel or for any other reason. Please note that medical insurance, provided to you through SIT Study Abroad for the duration of your program, is not in effect either before the program start date or after the program end date.

## DEPARTURE INFORMATION

You are expected to plan your departure for the following date, time, and location:

**Program Departure Date:** Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Departure Airport:** Entebbe Airport (EBB), Uganda

**Earliest Departure Time:** 00:01, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

It is possible to remain in-country after the program ends. However, it is your responsibility to ensure your visa is extended for the duration of your stay. You will also be responsible for your own accommodations and any other logistics that are necessary for your stay. Please note that the program is no longer responsible for you after the end of the scheduled program.

## PASSPORT INFORMATION

To participate in this program, you will need a signed **passport that is valid for at least six months after the end of the program.**

- If necessary, apply for a new passport or renewal immediately.
- **US Citizens:** consult US State Department information at [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html) for passport processing times and application procedures.
- **Non-US Citizens:** contact your embassy or consulate.

You may need to expedite your passport application in order to meet visa application deadlines. Please check with your admissions counselor at [studyabroad@sit.edu](mailto:studyabroad@sit.edu) or (888) 272-7881 to discuss whether you should expedite your application.

## VISA INFORMATION

A visa is an official endorsement from a foreign government permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region for a specified period of time. A visa may be glued or stamped directly into an applicant's passport or be on a separate paper or insert.

### Students with US passports:

For this program, students with US passports will need a tourist visa for Rwanda. A visa valid for 30 days for the purpose of tourism can be purchased for \$30 upon arrival at Kigali International Airport or at Rwanda's land borders. Be sure to apply for a tourist rather than a student visa. Accepted forms of payment include U.S. dollars printed after 2006 and credit cards issued by Visa.

You may obtain your Ugandan visa while on the program when we cross the Rwanda/Uganda border. Once in country, SIT program staff will facilitate your entry into Uganda.

Further information about visa application processes, if applicable, will be sent by e-mail from your admissions counselor in April. **DO NOT** apply for any visas until you receive this information.

### Students with non-US passports:

Students without a US passport may be subject to additional or different requirements for obtaining a visa or meeting other conditions of entry into the country or countries listed above. Many countries require individuals to apply for visas in person at the relevant embassy or consulate located in their country of citizenship. We strongly recommend that you contact the embassy of each country the program will be traveling to very early in the process to confirm visa and/or entry requirements applicable to your country of citizenship and determine next steps while allowing plenty of time to apply. If the foreign consulate permits non-US passport holders to apply for the required visa from within the United States, applicants are encouraged to contact Trivisa Visa Services. As an experienced visa agent working closely with a number of SIT programs, Trivisa may be able to assist you in your visa application process. A service discount is available by entering "SIT" as the corporate code in your Trivisa online application. It is your responsibility to confirm and complete the visa application process particular to your situation, and to keep your admissions counselor informed.

## GENERAL VISA AND PASSPORT NOTES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

- You are responsible for complying with all visa procedures and deadlines.
- Keep in mind that procedures and fees are subject to change at the discretion of the embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over your application. Students should double-check visa procedures prior to sending materials to ensure accuracy.
- Issuance of visas is at the sole discretion of the applicable consulate or embassy; SIT assumes no responsibility for the issuance or denial of any visa.
- Please make a copy of the first two pages of your passport (one of which has your photo), and give these photocopies to your academic director once you arrive.
- You may also need to bring your yellow WHO vaccination card or a copy of your immunization record; please see the [Safety, Security, and Health](#) pre-departure document for more details.
- Students are responsible for their own passports, though the program may hold passports for students at any time during the program if students prefer. Throughout the term, students should keep a copy of their passport and visa on their person at all times.
- If you are planning to travel to other countries before or after the program or your transit route involves connections in other countries, check with the embassies of those countries before you leave the US regarding visas, documents, and/or immunizations required. Please contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible to discuss the feasibility of your plans.



## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the US office of SIT Study Abroad at 802-258-3212 or toll-free in the US at 888-272-7881 and ask to speak to your admissions counselor, who is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM (US East Coast time) to assist you.