

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, during the "golden hour" of sunset. The museum's iconic, undulating, copper-clad facade is highly reflective, mirroring the warm orange and yellow light of the setting sun. The building's complex, organic shapes create a dramatic silhouette against the sky. In the foreground, the calm waters of the Nervión river reflect the building and the sky. To the left, a bridge with a prominent orange arch is visible, and the city lights of Bilbao begin to glow in the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of architectural grandeur and natural beauty.

FLIGHT

PASSPORT

VISA

INFORMATION

Spain: Policy, Law, and Regional Autonomy in Europe

Fall 2021

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.

Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, information is subject to change based on shifting conditions in the US and Spain. As you book your flights, we encourage you to purchase tickets on airlines with flexible cancellation and postponement policies.

Each country has specific entry requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic which may include providing proof of vaccine, a negative COVID-19 test prior to your travel or testing and/or quarantining upon arrival. SIT will provide updated COVID-19 related information prior to your travel as this information is constantly shifting and we would like to provide you with relevant accurate information closer to your travel date. Please read the Health Guidelines for this program for recommendations related to preventing the contraction and spread of COVID-19.

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: Tap Air Portugal, Swiss, Lufthansa, United, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia, American Airlines, Delta, KLM and Air France. **Options may be limited due to COVID-19 air travel changes.**

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:

Arrival Date: Monday, September 6, 2021

Arrival Airport: Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Group Meeting Time: Between 11am and 2 pm

Group Meeting Location: Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Group Will Be Met By: SIT Staff

Notes: Please wait in the cafeteria area outside of the arrival gates.

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 accident and illness 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:

Departure Date: Sunday, December 19, 2021

Departure Airport: Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Earliest Departure Time: 9 am

It **IS** possible to remain in-country after the program. Students receive a student visa for the program. Spain is part of the Schengen zone (a group of 26 European countries—for a list, please see the link below). Students only get a total of 180 days with your student visa, and 110 days will be used for the program. The remaining days can be used after the program end date. For more information, please refer to: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/schengen-fact-sheet.html>.

This is not guaranteed as travel restrictions are evolving during the pandemic and need to be monitored and followed closely.

Please note that the program is no longer responsible for you or your visa applications 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 U.S. State Department information at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html for passport processing times and application procedures.
- **Non-US Citizens:** contact your embassy or consulate. **Obtain your visa for the United Kingdom (Scotland excursion) before leaving your home country or the US.**

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 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 **student visa** for this program.

For this program, students with US passports will obtain a **student visa** for the **Spain prior to arrival** and a **tourist visa** for **Scotland, upon arrival during the excursion.**

Further information about the visa application process will be sent via email by your admissions counselor. Visa application requirements vary by consulate so **DO NOT** apply for your visa until you receive this information.

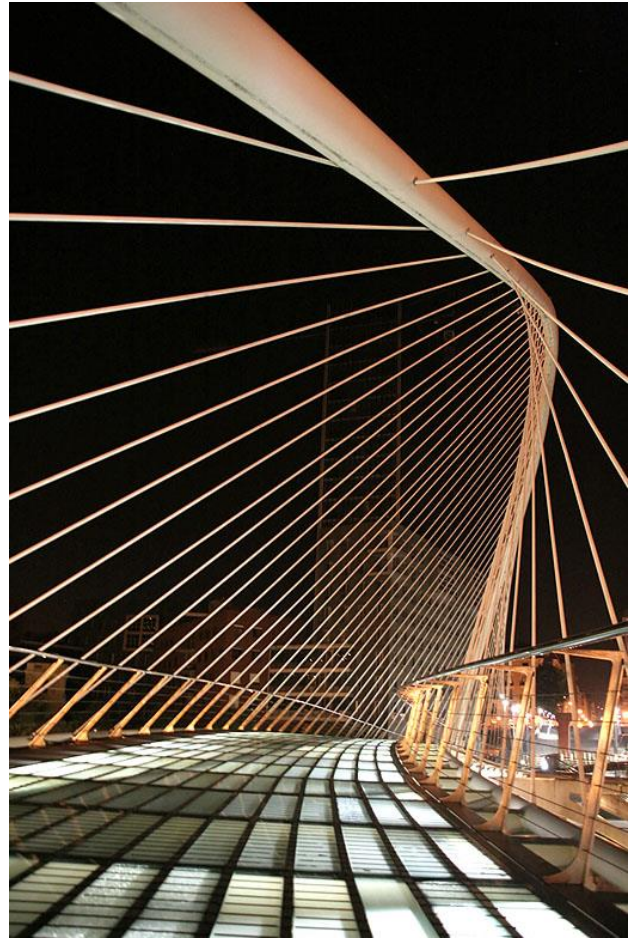
US citizens are only permitted to remain in the Schengen zone (a group of European countries, including Spain, with a mutual immigration agreement; Schengen countries are listed here: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/schengen-fact-sheet.html>) on a student visa for 180 days within a 180-day period. The SIT Spain program will take the entire 110 days. **This means that students may travel in Schengen Zone after the completion of the program. Please review the list of Schengen countries at the link above; please also note that Iceland is included in the Schengen zone.**

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.
- Students are responsible for their own passports. Throughout the term, students should keep their passport and visa on their person at all times. They risk a fine if they cannot present a valid, original identification when a police person or other authorized civil servant asks for identification.
- 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.