

Portugal– Greece– Netherlands: IHP Europe: Comparative Public Health

Flight, Passport & Visa Information

Fall 2026

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 immediate action in preparation for travel.

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL

You are logistically and financially responsible for booking your own travel to program location in **Lisbon, Portugal**. You are logistically and financially responsible for your travel home at the end of the program from **Amsterdam, Netherlands**.

For your individual travel, it is your responsibility to read and understand the terms and conditions for your transit ticket(s), to reconfirm your reservations in advance of the day of travel, and to be aware of transit (i.e., flight and TSA) regulations for baggage size and contents. SIT is not responsible for additional charges you may incur as a result of schedule changes or other travel-related circumstances associated with your individual travel.

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. Please confirm submitting your travel details in writing with your Admissions Counselor. Your space on the program is not guaranteed if you neglect to enter your travel details into the application portal.

Your return flight home at the end of the semester may be booked later but **must be booked before you arrive in Netherlands**, the final country. This is because immigration officials in Netherlands upon arrival may request that you show proof of onward travel. **Be advised that you may be denied entry into Netherlands if you don't have proof of onward travel.**

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As you book your flights, we encourage you to purchase tickets on airlines with flexible cancellation and postponement policies.

GROUP FLIGHTS

SIT will book you and all students on the flights from Lisbon to Greece and Greece to the Netherlands. SIT includes one checked bag for all flights arranged within the program. You are responsible for costs of any additional baggage fees and for arranging your flight home from the final program location at the end of the semester: **Amsterdam, Netherlands**

Your responsibilities: You are responsible for

- being at airports or other designated departure points for group flights on time
- any costs associated with flights missed due to student fault
- to read and understand the terms and conditions for your airline tickets
- to reconfirm your flight reservations in advance of the day of travel (if required)
- to be aware of airline and TSA regulations for baggage size and content
- any costs associated with excess baggage
- obtaining any required transit visa(s) for any layover(s)

You will receive the group flight itinerary in a separate email from your admissions counselor.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON BAGGAGE

SIT strongly recommends students bring only one checked bag. SIT will not cover the cost of a second checked bag.

- A second checked bag is usually very expensive and costs vary by airline.
- Students are responsible for all costs associated with baggage beyond what is included for each flight.
- SIT often books group tickets and it is not always possible to pay in advance for a second bag. Paying at the airport during check-in is often more expensive.
- Apart from the costs, it can be very difficult to manage two checked bags throughout your travels and can slow down the group during transits to new locations.
- SIT vans have limited space and may have difficulty accommodating extra baggage.

IN-FLIGHT MEALS

If you have any allergies, please alert your admissions counselor as soon as possible. Please be cautious and bring your own safe food if you are concerned about the food on the airplane as airlines sometimes fail to meet our meal requests. You may want to bring disinfectant wipes and clean your seat area as a precaution. Airlines do not have any control of what foods other travelers bring onto the plane. The airlines may not serve any peanuts or shellfish products; however, other passengers may bring these products on board.

Please note that information is subject to change based on shifting conditions in Portugal, Greece and Netherlands.

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 for passport processing times and application procedures.
- **Non-US Citizens:** contact your embassy or consulate.

Students are responsible for their own passports. Please make a copy of the first two pages of your passport (one of which has your photo), and your visa (if applicable), and store it in a separate location than your passport. Throughout the term, students should always keep a copy of their passport and visa on their person.

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.

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. Issuance of visas is at the sole discretion of the applicable consulate or embassy and SIT assumes no responsibility for the issuance or denial of any visa.

Students with US passports:

Further information about visa application processes, if applicable, will be sent by e-mail from your admissions counselor. DO NOT apply for any visas until you receive this information. Passports must be valid for at least six months past the end of the program.

Portugal

Students with a U.S. passport do not need a visa to travel to Portugal if their stay is 90 days or less.

The European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is expected to come into effect in the last quarter of 2026. This electronic authorization will be required for citizens of over 60 visa-exempt countries, including USA, traveling to the Schengen Area, and must be obtained online prior to travel. The system aims to enhance security and streamline entry procedures. The fee is expected to be €7 (free for those under 18 and over 70), and the authorization will be valid for three years or until the passport expires. While no action is needed yet, travelers should be aware of this upcoming requirement when planning trips to Europe from late 2026 onward. More information in this [link](#).

Greece

Students with a U.S. passport do not need a visa to travel to Greece if their stay is 90 days or less.

The European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is expected to come into effect in the last quarter of 2026. This electronic authorization will be required for citizens of over 60 visa-exempt countries, including USA, traveling to the Schengen Area, and must be obtained online prior to travel. The system aims to enhance security and streamline entry procedures. The fee is expected to be €7 (free for those under 18 and over 70), and the authorization will be valid for three years or until the passport expires. While no action is needed yet, travelers should be aware of this upcoming requirement when planning trips to Europe from late 2026 onward. More information in this [link](#)

Netherlands

Students with a U.S. passport do not need a visa to travel to Netherlands if their stay is 90 days or less.

The European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is expected to come into effect in the last quarter of 2026. This electronic authorization will be required for citizens of over 60 visa-exempt countries, including USA, traveling to the Schengen Area, and must be obtained online prior to travel. The system aims to enhance security and streamline entry procedures. The fee is expected to be €7 (free for those under 18 and over 70), and the authorization will be valid for three years or until the passport expires. While no action is needed yet, travelers should be aware of this upcoming requirement when planning trips to Europe from late 2026 onward. More information in this [link](#)

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.

It is your responsibility to confirm and complete the visa application process particular to your situation, and to keep your admissions counselor informed.

SPECIAL VISA AND PASSPORT NOTES FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Enrollment may be withdrawn, and participation will not be allowed if all required visas are not obtained prior to arriving at the program launch city.
- 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.

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

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

To the program site in Lisbon, Portugal you may travel in any way you choose; however, please note that regardless of your transportation carrier, you are expected to be at your meeting location at the required time.

You are expected to meet your group at the following date, time and location:

Program Arrival Date: Monday, August 31, 2026

Arrival Airport: Lisbon Airport (LIS)

Group Meeting Time: Anytime before 5pm. Airport pickups will be arranged according to flight arrivals

Group Meeting Location: Outside of customs, next to Starbucks. See photos at the bottom of the page for reference

Group will be met by: SIT Staff

To ensure a smooth arrival, students will be picked up by SIT staff and certified drivers. Please make sure to send all your flight information, including any last-minute changes, even the day before your arrival, to the SIT staff and admissions counselor. Be aware that there are no private drivers at Lisbon airport, and no drivers will approach you for transportation. If you find yourself alone at the airport, only take a taxi from the designated taxi line outside the airport, where a police officer will be present to assist.

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 due to visa limitations. No SIT Study Abroad staff will be able to assist you with any matter should you arrive before the program's commencement date 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 in effect 14-days prior to your program start date and 14-days post your program end date, only outside of the United States.



Airport meeting location, near Starbucks Coffee, outside of customs.

Arrival prior to the start of the program is not advisable. No SIT Study Abroad staff will be able to assist you with any matter should you arrive before the program's commencement date and time 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 in effect 14-days prior to your program start date and 14-days post your program end date, only outside of the United States.

A vaccination card or immunization record may be required for you to enter the program country. Please reference the [Safety, Security, and Health](#) pre-departure document for information on how to check for vaccination requirements.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

Program Departure Date: Sunday, December 13, 2026.

Departure Airport: Amsterdam-Schiphol International Airport (AMS)

Earliest Departure Time: 11:00 am

It **IS** possible to remain in-country after the program ends. Please note that the program is no longer responsible for you after the end of the scheduled program.



MILEAGE CREDIT

Students interested in obtaining mileage credit for their flights, should consult with each individual airline once the flight itinerary has been received. Please note that it is your responsibility to request mileage credit, and policies regarding this process are specific to the individual airlines.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

For questions about your passport, flight, visa, and arrival information, please contact your admissions counselor, available Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (US East Coast time) to help you. 888-272-7881 menu option 2.

For questions concerning insurance coverage and vaccination, please contact our Student Health, Safety, and Well-being department by writing to studentwellbeing@sit.edu