Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade: Comparative European Perspectives on Conflict and Democracy

FLIGHT, PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION

Spring 2027

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.

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

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AIRLINE INFORMATION

The following airlines usually provide service to the meeting location for this program: Austrian Airlines, Lufthansa, Swiss, United, Air France, KLM, Turkish Airlines and British 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.

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.

SIT recommends that students purchase a round-trip itinerary into and out of the host country. When you first arrive and pass through immigration and customs, officials may request that you show proof that you have confirmed plans to depart their country at a designated time in the future. In addition, booking a round-trip ticket will likely be more affordable than purchasing two separate one-way itineraries. Even if you later decide to change your return flight, the fees for making that change will often still amount to less than the overall price of two separate tickets. If you believe that you will want to travel independently after your SIT Study Abroad program has concluded, we recommend that you estimate the approximate amount of extra time you will need and then book your flights accordingly.

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 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; SIT assumes no responsibility for the issuance or denial of any visa.

Students with US passports:
For this program, students will be spending more than 90 days in the European Union, thus requiring a visa. Students with US passports will apply for an Austrian National Visa – Visa D in the US before the start of the program. The Austrian Embassy and Consulates in the US utilize the services of VFS Global, so you will have to go through this company to obtain your visa. The website explaining the process, documentation required, and to make an appointment to submit your Austrian Visa D application is here: https://visa.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/aut/. VFS Global has visa application centers in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. The visa application process may take 4-6 weeks, so you should apply as soon as you can. **You should expect to pay about $300 for your Austrian D Visa (price may vary as updated by local authorities).**

Program excursions: Hungary is part of the Schengen Area of the European Union and you do not need an additional visa to enter Hungary if you hold an Austrian National Visa – Visa D. We will also travel to Serbia for a little over a week; US citizens do not need a visa to enter or stay in Serbia for up to 90 days within a 180 day period.

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 Austria, Hungary, and Serbia. Please check the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website for a list of countries whose citizens require a visa https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/travel-stay/entrance-and-residence-in-austria for stays over 90 days and check the Austrian Embassy website in the country where you hold a passport. If you are an international student in the US you may use the services of VFS Global to apply for and obtain an Austrian D visa as above.

For non-US passport holders' entry into Serbia, you do not need to apply for a Serbian visa if you hold a valid visa or residence permit from an EU member state, a US visa, a Schengen visa, or a UK visa. If you do need to apply for a visa, further information is available on these Serbian sites: https://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/citizens/travel-serbia/visa-requirements and https://welcometoserbia.gov.rs/home.

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.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

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

Program Arrival Date:	Monday, February 1, 2027
Arrival Airport:	Vienna International Airport (VIE)
Group Meeting Time:	8:00 am – 2:30 pm
Group Meeting Location:	Airport arrivals hall after collecting luggage and exiting customs
Group Will Be Met By:	SIT Staff holding signs

Note that the European Union has introduced its new Entry/Exit System (EES); this is a data collection system utilizing biorecognition technology. At passport check facial recognition and fingerprints will be taken from all visitors digitally. See What is the EES? - EES for further information.

Further information about Vienna Airport can be found here: https://viennaairport.com/en/passengers.

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. Also let your admissions counselor know if you are arriving in Vienna by train and not at Vienna Airport on the scheduled arrival day.

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 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.

A vaccination card or immunization record is not 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, May 16, 2027
Departure Airport:	Vienna International Airport (VIE)
Departure Time:	Anytime

Please note that your housing will end this day and the program is no longer responsible for you after the end of the scheduled program.

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.