Passport and Visa Information

South Africa: Social and Political Transformation
Spring 2016

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. In the months leading up to the start of your program, you will receive detailed visa instructions from your admissions counselor.

To participate in this program, you will need a passport that is valid for at least six months after the end of the program. Please note that the U.S. Passport Card is not an acceptable travel document for SIT Study Abroad programs as the Passport Card is valid only for land and sea travel between the United States and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.

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. Note: you will also need to bring your yellow WHO vaccination card; please see the Safety, Security, and Health pre-departure document for more details.

Passport Application or Renewal of an Existing Passport
- 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 or (888) 272-7881 to discuss whether you should expedite your application.

For this program, students with US passports will need a Tourist visa for Mozambique and a Visitor’s visa for South Africa. Processing time for this visa is around 10 days for Mozambique and 30 days for South Africa.

Further information about visa application processes, if applicable, will be sent by e-mail from your admissions counselor (in mid-June for fall, mid-November for spring). DO NOT apply for any visas until you receive this information.

Students with non-US passports: Please read the information below very carefully and contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible.
General Visa Notes for All Participants

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 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.
- If you are planning to travel to other countries before or after the program, check with the embassies of those countries before you leave the US regarding visas, documents, and/or immunizations required. You will find most embassies on the Internet at http://www.embassy.org/embassies.
- If your transit route involves connections in other countries, check with the relevant embassies to determine whether you need a transit visa.

Additional information pertaining to visas is contained in the green box above and will be sent at a later time. If you are planning to be abroad during the two months prior to your program start, please contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible to discuss the feasibility of your plans.

Special Note for Students with Non-US Passports

Students who are not US citizens 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, which may complicate the visa application process. We strongly recommend that you contact the embassy of each of the countries named above 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.