

VISAS



This guide outlines key information about applying for a visa.

VISAS

PURPOSE

A visa is a permit given by a country allowing an individual to enter that country. It names the kind of visit and says how long the person can stay. The process of applying and receiving a visa can be tedious and time consuming, and like passports the earlier you can apply the better. If you have any questions, contact your trip director before submitting your application. How to apply for a visa is at the end of this document.

DISCLAIMER

These instructions are mere guidelines that we provide to the best of our ability. Different countries have different requirements. **You are fully responsible for all visa processes and customs/immigration requirements.** FOCUS is not responsible for you missing a trip or any portion of a trip due to any visa, customs or immigration-related issues. As instructions may change, please double check the process directly with the issuing authority.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- **Research** – Talk to your trip director, he or she will be able to notify you if you need a visa for trip if you are a U.S. citizen.
- **Non-U.S. citizens on a FOCUS mission** – If you are a non-U.S. citizen on a FOCUS mission trip, please check the entry requirements to the country of your destination. Though American citizens might not need a visa entering a particular country, other nationalities may need one (and vice-versa). Each participant is responsible for knowing their particular passport, visa, customs, and immigration requirements.
- **Participants abroad prior to mission** – If you are abroad for many months before the mission, it may be very difficult or even impossible to apply for a visa. Please mention this in the interview, or notify your trip director as soon as possible if you are in this situation..

ENTRY AND EXIT FEES

Some countries charge an additional fee upon arrival and departure (e.g. entry tax). These fees may be covered in the cost of your mission trip, but if it is a fee attached to purchasing a visa upon arrival, that cost will be each participant's responsibility. For greater distinction between an entry fee and a visa on arrival, please talk to your trip director.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR APPLICATION

- Never reference religion in your application. Doing so will increase the likelihood of your application being rejected.
- Never write out the full name, "Fellowship of Catholic University Students", simply put "FOCUS" if asked what organization you are traveling with.
- **Always apply for a Tourist visa.** Missionary visas are meant for those planning to serve long-term, and even our month-long trips do not qualify for long-term missions. Additionally, applying for a missionary visa often results in an individual not receiving a visa and not going on the trip.

HOW TO APPLY

Your trip director will walk you through the best way to apply for your visa. You can research other methods if you would like.

