

A visa is a document that may be required to legally stay and complete an internship in another country. Obtaining a visa generally requires an application, a fee and sometimes an in-person appointment at the country's consulate (often in Chicago). Please plan ahead as this may take a few weeks or months.

This is a brief document to get you started on visas, but is by no means a comprehensive guide. Visas options and requirements vary greatly; this document will give you an idea of some possibilities. IIP can help troubleshoot what may be required for your situation, though we are not experts in every location and you are responsible for securing the appropriate visa!

Passport

You first need a valid passport that is valid during your travels abroad. Learn about passports and renewal information at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>

Tourist Visa/Visa Waiver

Some countries will allow students to do internships of less than 90 days on a tourist visa or a visa waiver (i.e. you receive the visa/landing permit upon entry without applying in advance). Usually you cannot be paid in this case.

Student Visas

If you are already studying abroad or taking a class with your internship you may be able to apply for a student visa. Ask questions about the restrictions. You may have a limited number of hours you are eligible to intern. There may be restrictions on whether you can be paid or not. Usually you have to be getting credit from an institution located in the country where you are interning.

Internship Visas

Some countries have a specific category for internships. These may allow payment. In some cases they may also require the internship be for academic credit or a required part of your degree (and therefore you are not eligible post-graduation).

Business Visas

Some countries may have a business visa that is allowed for internships as well. You should confirm whether or not this allows payment. Generally a Work visa (as opposed to Business) will be intended for long term employment and not be possible for internships.

Work Permit/Work Authorization

In addition to a particular visa, some countries may require you to acquire a work permit to receive any remuneration for your internship. These are separate applications from the initial visa application.

International Students

You may have different visa requirements than U.S. students. Most commonly, you may not be eligible to enter another country on a tourist visa/visa waiver. Be sure to find information relevant to your nationality. You also need to confirm that your visa and other documents for the U.S. are still valid for your re-entry after traveling abroad.

Resources

Check out **GoinGlobal** (log-in link on the left of [IIP's database](#)) for country profiles, which include information on visa requirements for working and interning. Search for the country's nearest **Consulate** (often in Chicago), carefully read through their visa information and contact them with questions.