



AmeriSpan Study Abroad
The Bridge Between Cultures

Mail: 1334 Walnut Street, 6th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Fax: 215-751-1986
Tel: 800-879-6640/215-751-1100
Email: info@amerispan.com
Web: <http://www.amerispan.com>

Russian Visa Requirements

Visa support letter (invitation)

Virtually all travelers to Russia need an entry visa, which is a document stuck into the applicants passport. The earliest arrival and the latest departure dates are indicated on the visa and must be observed. Students have to apply for the visa at a visa department of a Russian Consulate or Embassy in their home country. The school will provide participants with a necessary letter of invitation.

Tourist visa: For students wishing to study **four weeks or less**, we will arrange a simple invitation which entitles the student to apply for a tourist visa. The tourist visa is **valid for one entry and for maximum 30 days**. In order to proceed, we need to have the following information:

- Last name and first name(s)
- Nationality
- Date of birth
- Passport number and expiry date

A tourist visa cannot be prolonged.

Short-term student visa: Students wishing to study more than four weeks need to apply for a student visa. The student visa is valid for one entry and for maximum 90 days. In this case the invitation will be issued by the Russian Ministry of Interior Affairs. This procedure takes up to four weeks. We need the following documents and information about the student to file the student letter of invitation:

- Clear passport copy with all relevant personal data (full name and first name, date and place of birth, nationality), passport number, passport issue and expiry dates, issuing authority and place of issue, any prolongation remarks. We need the copy either by fax or scanned and sent by e-mail. Please note that the passport must remain valid for six months beyond the Russian visa expiry date.
- Exact length of stay (allow for some extra days).
- Place of application for the visa (city, country)
- Permanent home address, phone/fax number
- Place of work/study; job title, position, exact address of work or study, contact phone/fax

Long-term student visa: (has an extra cost) For students wishing to study more than 3 months (90 days) we will simply prolong the short-term student visa in Russia (**up to 1 year in total**). Since this procedure takes at least one month, the student must apply for it no later than six weeks before the expiry date of his/her current visa. After the prolongation, the student is given a **new visa valid for maximum 9 months, with multiple entries**. Please note that **in order to apply for a visa prolongation it is necessary to provide the original of a health insurance policy, indicating explicitly that the student is insured for the whole period of stay, as well as a recent HIV test**.

Visa application procedure

The visa-fee depends on the price policy of each consulate and on the applicant's nationality. The following items are needed to file an application for a Russian visa:

- Completed visa application form (available at any Russian consulate)
- Visa support letter (invitation), either for a tourist or a student visa)
- One recent passport-sized photo
- Valid passport
- Health insurance policy (required by some Russian consulates especially for stays longer than four weeks)
- HIV test certificate (only for stays longer than three months)

Visa registration

The school must register all students within three week days after arrival at the local office of the Ministry of the Interior. Registration of a visa normally takes two working days. Passport and visa copies are handed out during the registration process. Students can use these copies as valid documents while changing money, traveler's checks (at some places), etc. Visa registration costs are included in the enrollment fee.

Notes

- In order to apply for a student visa all consulates require the original of the invitation letter.
- The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs MID maintains an up-to-date list with addresses and websites of [Russian embassies and consulates](#) around the world. http://www.mid.ru/zu_r.nsf/strawebeng
- Visa form for US citizens: http://www.amerispan.com/pdf_files/russia_visa_appl_us.pdf