

Applying for Your Student Visa: Mexico

What is a visa?

A visa is official authorization allowing you to enter a country and travel, work, live, or study there for a specific period of time. Generally, a visa is an elaborate stamp that is sealed onto one of the pages of your passport. Visas are issued to American citizens by a foreign country's Embassy or Consulate located in the United States. Every country has its own regulations governing the issuance of visas.

Do I need a visa to go to Mexico?

A student visa is required for students who wish to study in Mexico for a period of more than six months. A student enrolling for six months or less can travel on a tourist card, but will have to obtain a student visa upon arrival. This costs about \$60 and your host institution can give you information on how to do this during orientation.

What do I need to apply for a visa?

You will need the following to apply for your visa (also called a "Residence Permit"):

- **A Passport** valid for at least one year after entry date of application;
 - ◆ Please see page 1 in the Study Abroad Handbook for information on how to apply for a passport.
 - ◆ Apply early for your passport! It may take 6-8 weeks to process your application.
- **Two application forms**, completed and signed;
 - ◆ Contact the consulate to obtain the appropriate forms. For the Salt Lake City Consulate, call (801) 521-8502 (for other consulates' phone numbers, see the website for the Embassy of Mexico in the U.S. at: <http://portal.sre.gob.mx/eua/> and click on [Servicios Consulares](#)).
- **An acceptance letter** from the host university in Mexico;
- **Letter from the local Police Department** stating that the applicant has no record. This letter must be duly notarized.
- **Notarized letter from your bank** or parents certifying financial solvency, defined as US\$300 per month as of September 2009 (loan, international student exchange program scholarship, etc.);
- **Seven front view pictures and six complete right side profile**, regular passport size and in color with white background are required, (photo machine, digital prints, or ¾ right side profile pictures, are not accepted).
- **Health Certificate** (letter from a doctor stating that the applicant is in good health)
- ▶ **Attention:** This list may not be all-inclusive! Verify this information with the consulate, as the application process can change or may even vary by consulate.
- ▶ Apply as soon as possible: The procedure for processing an application for a Mexican visa may take several weeks.
- ▶ Student visa applications must be submitted to the consulate 30 days in advance of the departure date, without exception. Contact the nearest Mexican consulate to verify the documents required to obtain the visa.
- ▶ Within 30 days of arrival in Mexico, you must notify authorities of the date of your enrollment and must register at the *Oficina del Registro Nacional de Extranjeros de la Secretaria de Gobernación*. This costs about \$40.

How do I obtain a visa?

A. In person

The Mexican consulate requires that you apply in person for your visa. It will take 48 hours to process your visa, so plan to return to the consulate two days later.

- Take the above documents to the Mexican consulate that has jurisdiction over your state of residence
- Call the consulate before you visit to verify hours of operation and location.
- Avoid waiting until the last minute to apply for your visa, as omitting one document or failing to complete a form completely may delay the processing of your visa for weeks.

B. Via mail

If you miraculously receive permission to apply via mail, be aware of the following:

- Send all documents, including your passport, in a FedEx, US Overnight Mail, or other express mail service that provides a tracking number for your parcel, to the consulate. **Keep a photocopy of all documents, including your passport, for yourself.**
- If there is a fee for your visa, send a money order or certified check--consulates will not accept personal checks.
- Be sure all documents are in order. Missing documents may cause delays in the processing of your application.
- Enclose a *postage paid* FedEx/US Overnight Mail envelope *addressed to yourself*. The consulate will only return your visa and documents if you provide a return envelope.
- Apply early.
- Do not leave the country until you have received your passport and visa.

General tips for applying for a visa:

Foreign embassies and consulates in the US receive hundreds of inquiries every day so contacting them can be a trying experience. Have patience. Some consulates only receive visitors or calls during certain hours of the day or on certain days of the week; visit their website to learn their hours or call back at different times of the day. You may find that you are placed on hold or that your call is never forwarded to the appropriate person. Don't be discouraged: be persistent, but polite. Remember that US consulates in foreign countries operate in a similar fashion!

Mexican Consulates in the US:

For a listing of Mexican Consulates and their contact information, see the website for the Embassy of Mexico in the U.S. at: <http://portal.sre.gob.mx/eua/> and click on [Servicios Consulares](#).

Mexican Consulate, Salt Lake City

AREA SERVED: Idaho, Montana, Utah, parts of Wyoming

ADDRESS: 155 South 300 West, 3rd. Floor, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

PHONE: (801) 521-8502/03

FAX: (801) 521-0534

WEBSITE: <http://www.sre.gob.mx/saltlake/>