

## Applying for Your Student Visa: Uruguay

### 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 student visa to go to Uruguay?

- Yes. You do need a student visa in order to study in Uruguay.
- Exchange students traveling to Uruguay *do not need* a student visa *prior to* entering the country (students can enter the country with a Tourist Visa that has a duration of 30 days) . You do need a valid passport that will be valid for at least six months beyond your projected departure date from Uruguay.
- Upon arrival, students must inform the Department of Immigration that they will be in the country for more than 90 days and complete the required paperwork.
- Shortly after arrival in Uruguay, *all* students will need to register for a student visa and student status. The documents required to register are:
  - The **application form**, complete and signed. (Download from Embassy or Consular website.)
  - One **passport-sized photograph**. (Bring two photos just in case.)
  - A **photocopy of a roundtrip ticket** fully paid or a signed statement by a travel agency or passenger carrier guaranteeing the traveler's departure from Uruguay
  - The **consular fee**: \$42 USD, money order to the Consulate of Uruguay.
  - An **official letter of program participation** from your host university
  - A **valid passport** that will be valid for six months beyond the departure date
- ▶ **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.
- In addition to the student visa, students who would like to reside in Uruguay for *more than 180 days* (more than six months) but less than a year, must obtain a "Temporary Residence" that costs 716 Uruguayan pesos.

### What do I need to apply for Temporary Residency?

According to the Los Angeles Consulate, you will need the following documents and items to apply for Temporary Residency:

- Photo identification
- An official letter of program participation from your host university that specifies the dates of attendance
- Proof that your host university is an accredited academic institution
- Proof of sufficient financial stability and resources during the time of study
- Proof of health insurance for the time that you will be in Uruguay.
- Letter from a health care provider certifying that you are in generally good health.
- Tourist card or other documentation that you complete or receive upon entry into Uruguay when you pass through customs.
- Police report which demonstrates your criminal record from age 15 on. You need to be able to demonstrate a record of good conduct for 5 full years before your entry into Uruguay.
- Valid passport
- Temporary Residency fee of 716 Uruguayan pesos

- A health card, which costs 300 pesos and can be obtained in Montevideo
- ▶ **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.

### **What do I need to keep in mind when applying for Temporary Residency?**

- As a student, you pertain to “Category 3”: “Students who enter the country for post-secondary (undergraduate) or graduate studies”
- For members of Category 3, the period of permanency with a Temporary Residency is 1 year. You can apply for an extension of 1 year. Your time in Uruguay on a Temporary Residency Status must not exceed two years.
- You *must* be in Uruguay for more than 180 days to obtain Temporary Residency
- Notarized documents *must* be endorsed with a notary’s official stamp or seal.
- *Make photocopies of all of the documents and items for your personal records!*
- You must have all documents ready before initiating the application process
- The Department of National Immigration has the right to request further documentation beyond the regular, specified documents
- The Department of National Immigration has the right to revoke Temporary Residency Status
- If the application does not speak Spanish, he or she will need to complete the process with an interpreter
- All foreign documents must be legalized by a representative of the Minister of External Relations and be translated into Spanish

### **General tips for applying for a visa:**

- Foreign embassies and consulates in the US receive hundreds of inquires 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!
- 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.
- **Keep a photocopy of all documents, including your passport and any credit or bank cards, in a safe place.**
- Be sure all documents are in order. Missing documents may cause delays in the processing of your application.

**Uruguayan Embassy:** <http://www.uruwashi.org>

**Uruguayan Consulate, Los Angeles:**

429 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 400  
 Consulate General of Uruguay  
 (310) 394-5777