

Passports & Visas

Before leaving for your trip, you will need to ensure that you organize your travel documents well in advance, especially your passport and travel visa. It is important to check with your host country's embassy or consulate regarding their specific regulations for passport validity and visa requirements.

Some things to remember:

- Ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your date of departure from the destination country
- Apply for a visa if applicable
- Check if you need a medical exam
- Read through the Global Affairs Country Travel Reports and Advisories website (formerly known as DFATD) for your country

Passports

Your passport

Before departing, you will need to ensure that your passport is valid for six months beyond your date of entry. If you are unsure, it is a good idea to check with your host country's embassy or consulate regarding their regulations. In most cases, you cannot apply for a visa without a valid passport. For more information about passports, visit the [Passport Canada website](http://www.ppt.gc.ca/) <<http://www.ppt.gc.ca/>>.

Passport Tips: Important tips to keep in mind *(Slide Presentation)*

<<http://prezi.com/ifyzoryfbsan/passports-prezi>>

Tip 1: Make a photocopy of the picture page of your passport and save it on your hard drive or print a copy and keep it separate from your passport

Tip 2: When traveling, keep your passport in a safe place. Do not keep it in an outer compartment of your backpack or suitcase.

Tip 3: When you arrive in your host country, keep your passport in a safe place and keep the photocopy in a separate safe place.

Tip 4: Don't bring your passport with you when you are on excursions unless it is absolutely necessary. You can bring the photocopy with you instead.

Medical exam certificate

Be aware that some countries may require that you have a medical examination or certain vaccinations before entry. Check with your host country's embassy or consulate or the [Global Affairs Travel Advisory](http://travel.gc.ca/) <<http://travel.gc.ca/>> website for more details. To learn more about vaccinations, check out the Physical Health section of the Health and Wellness module.

Vaccinations and Certificates

It is vitally important to review vaccination requirements and suggestions with your family physician or a travel clinic (such as [Vancouver Coastal Health](http://www.vch.ca/) <<http://www.vch.ca/>>) prior to your departure, particularly if you intend to study in a tropical environment. Currently the only vaccination that can be required by law is for yellow fever. However, there are a number of other vaccinations that can help make your study abroad experience a healthy one. Vaccinations should be recorded on an International Certificate of Vaccination card, available from passport offices, which should be signed by a medical official at the time of the vaccination.

Visas

Some countries have specific visa requirements. You should research your host country's visa requirements well in advance of your trip.

Visa Requirements (Slide Presentation)

<<http://prezi.com/xlp2zw2qari4/visa-prezi/>>

What is a visa? A visa gives travelers official permission to enter a country and allows them to stay for a specific duration of time. Some countries require a formal application for an entry visa either in advance or at the border, while others require no formal application at all.

Tip 1: If your destination country requires a formal visa application, apply early as these can take several weeks or even months.

Tip 2: Learn more about entry visa requirements for your destination, or any country that you will be travelling through, through the country's consulate or embassy website, or the Global Affairs Travel Reports and Warnings.

Tip 3: Remember to check the Global Affairs website (formerly known as DFATD) on a regular basis as entry and exit requirements may change before your leave.

Tip 4: Do not remove your visa once it has been attached. Check to see that your arrival and departure dates are correct. If you extend your stay, you may need to apply for another visa.

Tip 5: For students at UBC on a student visa, check your Canadian re-entry documents for expiry dates, and that you are able to re-enter Canada after your time abroad.

Final visa reminder: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct visa. Be aware of the rules and restrictions governing visas and your length of stay. If you stay after your visa expires, you could be fined, deported, forced into a lengthy bureaucratic process, or even arrested, making it difficult to return to that country in the future.

ISIC

ISIC Card for Travelers

UBC suggests that students obtain an International Student Identity Card (ISIC), the only internationally accepted proof of full-time student status. Students can take advantage of countless benefits and discounts with their ISIC card while abroad. For more information about the ISIC card and to learn how to get one, visit the [ISIC](http://www.isic.org) <www.isic.org> website.

Quicklinks

[Passport Canada](http://www.ppt.gc.ca/index.aspx) <http://www.ppt.gc.ca/index.aspx>

Gain additional information about how to apply for a Canadian passport or renew your existing passport.

[Global Affairs: Canadians Travelling and Living Abroad](http://travel.gc.ca/) <http://travel.gc.ca/>

Provides up-to-date destination information on safety, security, and local laws and customs.

[Registration of Canadians Abroad](http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration) <http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration>

[Foreign Embassies in Canada](http://w03.international.gc.ca/Protocol-Protocole/Consular-Consulats.aspx?lang=eng.)

<http://w03.international.gc.ca/Protocol-Protocole/Consular-Consulats.aspx?lang=eng.>

[International Student Identity Card](http://www.isic.org/) <http://www.isic.org/>

What do you think?

Passports for travel should be valid for 6 months beyond your date of entry.

- True
Correct! Before departing, you will need to ensure that your passport is valid for six months beyond your date of departure from the destination country.
- False
Try again. Check out the Passports tab for more information.

Your travel visa should not be detached from your passport.

- True
Correct! Do not remove your visa once it has been attached. Check to see that your arrival and departure dates are correct. If you chose to extend your stay, you may need to apply for another visa.
- False
Try again. Check out Tip 4 on the Visa presentation to learn more.