

VISA APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS FROM THE US AND CANADA TO UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ > VISA D

Before traveling to Austria, please make sure you are familiar with the regulations concerning visas.

STAYS FROM 91 DAYS UP TO 180 DAYS (= 1 SEMESTER)

For stays that last from 91 days up to a maximum of 180 days, an Austrian national visa (D visa) is required. A D visa entitles you to spend up to 90 days of the maximum total of 180 days in other Schengen countries. Austrian visa regulations require all visa applicants to submit electronic fingerprints personally at the premises of the Austrian consulate serving their consular district in their country of residence (see option 1 below).

For exchange students holding a US or Canadian passport the visa section of the Austrian Foreign Ministry now offers the following options for visa applications (see options 1+2 below). Students of any other countries are required to obtain their visa as usual, meaning that they have to appear personally at the Austrian consulate serving their consular district.

Option 1 - For all students studying at a US or Canadian partner university
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As a general rule, students have to apply for and obtain their D visa at one of the Austrian consulates in the US or in Canada before they depart for Austria. Students studying in Canada therefore have to submit their visa applications at the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa in person. Students studying in the US have to submit their visa applications at the Austrian representations in Washington, New York, or Los Angeles in person. Please refer to the following web page to see where students have to submit their visa applications: www.austria.org/visa

Please note:

All students who study or live in an area close to one of the Austrian consulates listed above are strongly encouraged to pursue option 1.

Option 2 - For students holding a US or Canadian passport

This option is only for students holding a US or Canadian passport and studying at a US or Canadian University. These students can also submit their D visa applications at the Austrian Embassy Ljubljana (Slovenia) after their arrival in Austria. Ljubljana is located only 3-4 hours from Graz by train (depending on the connection) or 3 ½ hours by bus. Costs return trip: train ~ €80, bus - €52.

Please note:

- **This procedure follows Austrian national regulations. If you intend to apply for a D visa in Ljubljana, Austria should be your first entry point into the Schengen area.**
- **Students must make sure to bring their complete visa application and supporting documents along when travelling to Graz and must complete the visa application process before the 90-day waiver period expires. For this reason, they are strongly encouraged to submit their visa applications as soon as possible after arrival.**
- **Please note that for a visa application in Ljubljana you will have to make two trips (application, pick-up of visa) or plan a stay of at least three working days.**

Required Documents (D Visa):

Students applying for visa are required to submit the same documents under all options, regardless of where they file their application:

- Fully completed and signed application form for Visa D: http://www.austria.org/images/Form_D_1_-_Antragsformular_nationales_Visum.docx
- Two recent color passport pictures, sized 3.5 x 4.5 cm, <http://www.passbildkriterien.at>
- Valid passport (must be valid for at least three months beyond date of leaving Austria. First passport issuance date must not be longer than 10 years ago, must have one free page for the visa D) + photocopy of data page of passport + photocopies of pages that contain entries and stamps
- If applicable: original "Green Card" or US visa with I-94 affixed to passport + copy of green card and copy of US visa
- Proof of accommodation in Austria: e.g. tenancy contract, confirmation of the reservation of accommodation by the OeAD Housing Office, ...
- Proof of health insurance - letter issued by insurance company confirming complete coverage for the entire duration of your stay in Austria, minimum coverage in case of accident must cover health costs of at least USD 50,000 / €30,000 (copy of your insurance I.D. is not sufficient). Emergency coverage only is also not sufficient
- Proof of financial means (bank statement with full transactions of last three months including name and address, pay stubs, scholarship, letter of grants, tax returns, proof of pension, other proof of income)
- Letter of admission issued by Austrian school/university/organization and by your university in the US/Canada in case of an exchange program

For questions concerning completion of your application prior to trip to Graz:

- Austrian embassy Washington, USA: <http://www.austria.org/visa>
- Austrian embassy Ottawa, CA: <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/ottawa.html>