

API Portugal VFS Visa Process

BEGIN THE FBI BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS NOW!!!

This guide is for participants who are obtaining their Portuguese visa through VFS Washington, New York or San Francisco. If you are going through Boston, New Bedford, or Newark you can contact your Program Coordinator for further assistance with the visa process.

Further information on the visa process can be found in the [API Visa Information](#) guide, which provides a step by step guide to applying for your visa!

How to Obtain Your Visa Through VFS:

- Verify the consulate for your jurisdiction.
- If you are going through one of the VFS consulates for Washington, New York or San Francisco, click the following link and follow the instructions below:

<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/prt/apply-visa>

Apply for a visa

Information about starting your application

Need more information? Mail-in Application Process Ready to apply?

Step-by-step guide

Let us walk you through the process

1 Identify visa type
Choose the right visa for your trip

[View more](#) ↓

- VFS provides a Step-by-step guide to walk through the application process, review each step. You can also view if the consulate allows for mail-in by clicking on the “Mail-In Application Process.” The visa type you are applying for is a **“Portugal National Visa ‘D’”**, also known as the **Student Visa**. Do **NOT** select Tourist Visa or Short Term Visa.

Let us walk you through the process

1 Identify visa type

Choose the right visa for your trip

[View more ↑](#)

The first step is to determine which [visa type](#) you need, and check whether you're eligible to apply for it.

You'll also need to know the documents that you'll have to submit along with your application, [how long the application might take](#) and fees you'll have to pay.

Each application must comply with the guidelines applicable for your visa category.

If your documents are not in English, you may need to get translations prepared before applying.

- In Step 1, click on [“visa type”](#) and choose Number 4 under the Long Stay D Visa (this is the student visa)

VISA TYPES

Select the visa type that is right for you to see important information on visa fees, documents required, forms, photo specifications and processing times.

4. Research, Secondary education, Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, Post-Doc ▾

Research, Secondary education, Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, Post-Doc, Mobility program / Exchange program, Religious person undertaking studies in a recognized institution, Professional training, Unpaid internship, Volunteer work

Overview Visa Fees Documents Required Photo Specifications Processing Time Download Forms

Overview

Long-stay visas, in compliance with existing domestic law, can be either temporary or for residency authorization purposes, depending on the duration of the stay and granting the visa holder an authorization to stay in the country according to different purposes: study, internship, work, medical treatment, among others.

- Review the requirements for the National D-4 visa. This is a great page to bookmark! If you click **“Documents Required”**, you should see a general list* of the forms needed to submit the visa application.
 - Here you can review the different tabs: Overview, Visa Fees, Documents Required, Photo Specifications, Processing Time, and Download Forms.

****The list of documents is not an exhaustive list of documents and the applicant could be asked for additional documents if desired by the Consulate General of Portugal after you submit your application.***

Original documents are required by the consulate. API will be sending the following documents by **mail** to your permanent address unless you indicate otherwise:

- API Acceptance Letter
- API Proof of Housing
- API Visa Letter
- CISI Insurance Letter
- ISCTE Acceptance Letter

API is only able to send these necessary documents once students complete **all** Onboarding Step 1 forms and pay the confirmation payment.

If you need these documents expedited, please contact your Program Coordinator immediately. We may be able to expedite for an additional fee.

- In step 4 you will be able to see the visa fees and how to pay them.

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Pay your fees

Find out the amount you need to pay

[View more ↑](#)

Once you have made your application, you will need to pay your [visa application fee](#). If you download the form to print and bring to the Visa Application Centre, payment can be made at the time of your appointment.

You will have to pay the Visa fee at the Visa Application Centre in Credit or debit card / money order / cashiers check.

You will need to submit your visa application in person or via mail. **Please CONFIRM with your consulate.**

- If mail-in, VFS will typically send you return labels so please check with them to confirm.
- If you mail it in, please be advised that you may need to be separated from your passport for a length of time when they're processing your visa. You cannot go abroad without it.
- If you go in person to the initial appointment, please note that you will need to also go in person to pick up your visa. It cannot be picked up by someone else.

Portuguese Consulates do not have an expedited visa processing service. You must apply on-time or you risk not receiving a visa before your program start date.

Helpful Links:

- For access to the visa application form, click [HERE](#).
 - You can use our [Sample Form](#) to help fill out the application
- Request for Portuguese Criminal Record: click [HERE](#)
- **Book an appointment** - [HERE](#)
- To find out what happens at the Visa Application Center click [HERE](#)!
- [VFS FAQs](#)