

Italian Visa FAQs - Updated April 2024

1. Do I need to make an appointment?

If you are applying at the Washington, DC Embassy, you will **NOT** make an individual appointment. For Spring 2024 programs, the Embassy has asked us to do **BATCH PROCESSING**, which means you will submit all of your documents to the Education Abroad office, and we will drop them off at the Embassy for students at a designated appointment.

If you are applying at a different consulate, you will need to follow their instructions, which could vary.

2. Where can I apply?

Since you attend school at UMD, you can apply at the DC Embassy (no matter what your permanent residence is).

You can apply for a visa at the Italian Embassy in **Washington DC** only if you live in: The District of Columbia (D.C.); Maryland (M.D.): only Montgomery and Prince George's Counties (all other Counties are under the jurisdiction of the Italian General Consulate in Philadelphia); Virginia (V.A.): only Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the City of Alexandria (all other Counties are under the jurisdiction of the Italian General Consulate in Philadelphia).

You can apply at the **Philadelphia Consulate** if you are a resident of: Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland (except Prince George and Montgomery Counties), New Jersey (the following counties only: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, Salem), North Carolina, Virginia (except Fairfax and Arlington Counties) and West Virginia.

3. I can't decide - should I apply at the Philadelphia consulate or DC Embassy?

So you live in a county that is eligible for both locations - this is great! Both have about the same processing time, but it may take longer for the materials to get to you from Philadelphia because it's mail-in only. Many students are worried about the security of mailing in these materials, however, with tracked and insured mail, there are minimal issues related to this process. You must ensure that you are tracking your return envelope. The consulate will not keep tracking information.

If you are applying to Philadelphia, you will have to apply on your own. Students who apply to DC will be part of a batch, so you will submit your documents to our office, and we will drop them off at the Embassy.

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4. Can my parent/guardian complete the visa process for me?

Your parent is welcome to assist you with the process but ultimately, it is YOU as a legal adult who must apply for the visa yourself and attend the embassy appointment (if not applying at DC).

5. What should I do if I'm traveling internationally over the summer?

You need to submit your passport with your visa application and documents, so it is always best to NOT make any international travel plans for the early summertime. If you do have plans and cannot change them, plan to apply for the visa **ASAP** so that you hopefully receive it before you leave for your travels, or plan to apply independently ASAP once you get back from your travels.

We **CANNOT** guarantee that you will receive the visa in time for any early summer travels, however, so you will need to be prepared for that possibility. You can also look into getting an [emergency passport](#) or [second passport book](#).

6. Help! I need some clarity on the bank account - how much money do I need? What can I use to show proof of this?

The DC embassy expects around \$1000 per month (~\$30/day) you will be abroad. So if you are abroad for 4 months, you will want to have around \$4000 in your account. They will want to see statements from the last 3 consecutive months demonstrating that the account has had at least this much money in it. You can use statements from a parent's bank account if you do not consistently have the needed amount in your account, but we recommend using your own bank account if possible, as it avoids needing notarized documents or excess information from parents.

The funds need to be in a CHECKING or SAVINGS account (no IRAS, investment accounts, etc), and you need to show monthly statements that show the minimum amount of funds (just a screenshot of an account summary is not enough).

7. How long will it take to process my visa application?

It can take four weeks at a **MINIMUM** to process your application, though it is always best to allow as much as possible for processing. In Fall 2022, it generally took less than 4 weeks, but there is no guarantee that processing times will be similar in Fall 2023.

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8. I prefer to book my appointment in New York/Boston/another consulate.

You are more than welcome to do so if these consulates correspond with your permanent address. However you must be mindful of two things:

1. It is YOUR responsibility to book these appointments. Appointment availability WILL vary and you may need to check back REGULARLY to get an appointment. Appointments may not be in a comfortable timeframe for you and you may be forced to take the first appointment available, which you will be expected to be at.
2. The materials might be slightly different from those for the Embassy in DC, so you will need to check the list provided by that consulate and follow those instructions.

9. Do I have to book a return flight in order to have a visa appointment?

YES. This is required by the Italian Embassy; they need to know that you're both entering and leaving Italy in order to receive your visa. They can turn down an application based on the omission of this information. You can book two one-way tickets, but they need to see a flight out of Italy after your program ends.