

Italy Visa FAQs

1. **Appointments**
2. **Documents and Application**
3. **Receiving the Visa**

1. Appointments

My appointment is later than the last date you said it should be- what should I do?

Keep that appointment. Italian student visas take up to two weeks to process, but can be processed in a few days. The best thing to do is reach out to the embassy/consulate, let them know you're having a conflict, and follow their advice.

My appointment is close to the time I go home for break- will I receive my passport back in time?

You need to check this information with the embassy/consulate you are applying at. Email is usually more efficient than phone calls. Processing time can be very short, but I cannot guarantee this. Only the consulate can make decisions regarding this, try to be mindful of this when booking appointments and be prepared to travel back to DC if needed.

I'm planning on traveling before or after my program- is this alright?

Students can travel for 90 days within the [Schengen zone](#) either before or after their program (or combined between the two times!) It's always good to verify with the consulate at the time of your appointment that everything will be alright with your visa with this travel.

I'm traveling before my program and need my visa returned earlier than the dates listed on my application.

The best thing to do for this is to let the consulate know in advance, I recommend bringing the itinerary for the travel before your program with you to prove that you will be traveling.

There are no appointment times left/that work for the timing.

Absolutely let your education abroad advisor know- but also book the earliest available appointment. It's the easiest way for the embassy to know how many students need appointments and they're more likely to respond if you have an appointment than if you don't. It's better to have an appointment after the program start date than none at all.

Why do I have to attend a certain embassy/consulate?

Consular jurisdiction is decided entirely by the Italian embassy/government. They base this on needs and population.

I've exhausted all resources and my visa application will not be completed in time.

First, don't panic. The embassy/consulate will do their best to process your visa in a timely manner. However, please reach out to your education abroad advisor and your program contacts. While not ideal, most programs will allow you to arrive late if you have not received a visa yet.

2. Documents and Application

I've lost my copy of one of the documents that you've provided!

It's important that you hold on to these documents, however, accidents do occur. UMD has copies of the acceptance letter from us and the insurance letter on file, as well as an unofficial copy of the letter from your host institution. Often, the embassy will let you submit an unofficial pending that you can provide the official when you pick up your visa.

I'm stuck on how to complete certain items on the visa application, can you help?

Education Abroad provides students with a guide on how to complete their visa application- outlining things like program contacts and what to put for each item. If you would like another set of eyes on your application, let your advisor know.

How can I prove I have financial need for my application?

The simplest way is to use your own bank statement with the approximate amount outlined by the consulate. However, you can have a family member's attached bank statement and an affidavit as well. If your program is funded entirely by scholarships, it is also possible to bring a letter from UMD proving this, and can be helpful to have a letter if you are using a substantial amount of scholarships to pay for your program.

I do not have a drivers' license or proof of ID that proves I live within my jurisdiction.

Typically, the embassy will be able to accept some sort of equivalent items for this. This can include official mailed items etc. If you're attending the embassy in DC, your UMD student ID typically suffices for ID to prove you are within this jurisdiction.

The consulate says I need a return flight booked to apply!

That's true! Most consulates will require a return flight for your program. The flight out of Italy does not need to be back in the US. If you need to an exception for this, you will want to reach out to the embassy. Your education abroad advisor cannot change Italian governmental rules.

Is it true they use my passport for processing and I cannot receive it back until I have my visa?

Yes. The visa goes inside of your passport so it's essential that the consulate has it on hand for the entirety of processing.

3. Receiving the Visa

Can the embassy/consulate mail my passport back to me?

The DC embassy currently cannot do so, however, some consulates can! Check their website.

The date on my visa is wrong! What do I do?

First, check that you're reading the date in the correct format. Europeans write dates DAY/MONTH/YEAR whereas Americans write the day MONTH/DAY/YEAR. Second, if the dates are outside of your program dates, you're fine! They've simply given you a bit of extra time. Unless the visa dates are completely off base of your program dates, don't worry!

But what about this permit to stay?

An excellent question. You will apply for this using visa materials when you arrive in your host country. Some programs include the cost of this in their programs, for others you will have to pay for this. It's important that you keep any and all documents returned to you by the consulate but if not, let your advisor know so they can provide new copies ASAP.