

Non-European Students

Before arriving to Portugal

Citizens outside the European Union or the Schengen Space have to apply for a visa at a Portuguese Embassy/ Consulate abroad, to enter in Portugal. Please consider that a 'tourist' visa will not be accepted.

Non-European citizens who have authorization for residence in an European Country (Schengen), have to request a visa for Portugal in the country where they have authorization for residence, may the stay be more than 3 months.

Visa request to enter Portugal should be made several months in advance because the process can take up to over 12 weeks depending on the country of origin. Some visa applicants may also be subject to security clearance checks.

It is essential to obtain information at the closest [Embassy or the Portuguese Consulate](#), about the type of visa to be requested and the required documents to complete the application.

Depending on your case, the basic application should include the following documents:

- ⇒ Application in a standard form;
- ⇒ Valid travel document (+3 months beyond the validity of the visa);
- ⇒ 3 passport-sized colour photographs
- ⇒ Certificate of no criminal record issued by the country of origin;
- ⇒ Medical certificate and/or Vaccine Bulletin and travel medical insurance;
- ⇒ Proof of accommodation or lodging in Portugal;
- ⇒ Proof of availability of means of subsistence in Portugal;
- ⇒ Proof of admission/acceptance or registration.

After arrival

Students entering Portugal through a non-controlled border (whose passports are not stamped in Portugal) need to fill in the [declaration of entry](#) and hand it in to the [Immigration and Borders Services](#) (address: CNAI, R. Álvaro Coutinho 14, 1150-025 Lisboa), within 3 working days of their arrival. After this three-day-period, the student will be charged a fine. If you are settled in hotel establishments or in another type of accommodation that declares your entry you don't need to do the declaration of entry.

Your visa is usually valid for 120/180 days which starts counting from the date / STAMP in your passport given by the airport in a Schengen country.

If your visa covers all the period you need to stay in Portugal you do not need to renew it. Otherwise, upon the arrival at Portugal you have to immediately [book an appointment](#) at SEF to renew your visa. If your visa expires you are not allowed to travel to another Schengen Countries.

EU-Students

Students from EU countries and from European Economic Area/EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland do not need a visa to enter Portugal. These students can stay for a period up to 3 months without other conditions and/or formalities beyond having a valid identity card or passport. However, if their stay is longer than 3 months, you will have to register your residence at the [City Hall](#).