

Off campus study in Lacoste
An FAQ for SCAD F-1 students

Q. I am considering an upcoming quarter of study in Lacoste; do I need a visa?

A. For the most recent information on which countries need visas and expected processing times, please visit the French Consulate website at: <https://atlanta.consulfrance.org/>

Please note that the Lacoste program is approximately 58 days in length, not including the additional Paris excursion. If you intend to arrive earlier, or depart later than the end date of the program for additional travel and tourism, bear in mind that you only have a total of **90 days** for traveling in the Schengen agreement states. These 90 days include the 68 days of the Lacoste program, so you will have 32 days. If you wish to have more time to travel, it is your responsibility to determine if you need additional visas for additional countries you plan on visiting.

Q. What are the Schengen agreement states?

A. Please note that new countries are continually signing the Schengen agreement, and you should check with consulates to ensure that you can continue to travel to such countries which are currently not members of the Schengen agreement. Please note that a Schengen visa does not grant you permission to travel to countries such as Ireland and the U.K. as they have not signed the Schengen agreement, and have visas of their own that you may need to apply for.

For an updated list and map of the countries apart of the Schengen region, please consult:

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-countries-list/>

Q. My trip includes several Schengen countries. Can I apply for my visa at the Consulate of France?

A. Yes, as long as France is your main destination or if France is your first port of entry in the event that your length of stay is equal in several Schengen countries.

Q. I want to stay for longer than 90 days. What do I need to do?

Any student (domestic or international) wanting to stay in any Schengen countries longer than 90 days must be responsible for applying for their own visa, as SCAD cannot issue certification for students to remain in the Schengen countries past the official Lacoste program dates, which total less than 90 days. Please [click here](#) for the Atlanta French consulate information, or visit <https://atlanta.consulfrance.org/>

Application Information for Stays Up to 90 Days

Your personal appearance is required when submitting your application at the French Consulate in Atlanta. Applicants will be received by appointment only. To make an appointment, please [click here](#) or visit

<https://atlanta.consulfrance.org/prendre-rendez-vous-au-consulat-general-de-france-a-atlanta-6936>

No application will be accepted more than 90 days before entry into France. Please note that it is advised that you apply at least five weeks in advance of your expected departure date to France in order to ensure your application is fully processed as you will not be able to depart the U.S. until your visa has been approved.

Consulate General of France in Atlanta
Buckhead Tower at Lenox Square
3399 Peachtree Rd NE
Suite 567
Atlanta, GA 30326
Tel: (404) 495 1660
Email: info.atlanta-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr

The offices of the Consulate General of France in Atlanta are located on the 5th floor of the Lenox Building, next to the Marriott Hotel, at the corner of Lenox Road and E. Paces Ferry Road NE.

Application Requirements for Stays Up to 90 Days:

Please note that no copies are made at the consulate. Applicants are responsible for bringing all original documents and the number of copies listed in order to have a complete application.

- ▶ Passport or travel document valid for a period of three months beyond the applicant's last day of stay in the Schengen states. The issuance date of your passport must be less than 10 years and make sure your passport has two blank pages to affix the visa. You must bring the original passport and one copy of the information page.
- ▶ 1 short stay visa application form (attached) completely and legibly filled out. Follow instructions carefully!
- ▶ 2 recent passport size photographs (loose, NOT glued). Photographs must have a white background with a full-face view of the person with mouth closed- no hats or glasses permitted. Photos must be taken within the last 6 months.
- ▶ If you are not a US citizen, official proof of resident status in the USA and one copy of each of the following are required:
 - Green card
 - I-551 stamp
 - Valid US visa or an "Advanced Parole" which must be valid for at least 90 days beyond the last day in France
 - copy of valid I-20 (or valid DS2019) with accompanying I-94 card

Applications from B1/B2 visa holders are not accepted. They must apply in their country of residence.

- ▶ The official visa issued by the U.S. and one copy, if applicable. Your U.S. visa must be valid for return to the U.S. upon your completion of program in France. If your U.S. visa has or will expire prior to completing your program in France, you must apply for a French visa within your home country, or renew your U.S. visa prior to applying for your French visa at the consulate in Atlanta.
- ▶ Official copy of airline reservation with detailed itinerary. The roundtrip airline tickets are required only at the time the visa is issued and one copy of the reservation with detailed itinerary must be brought as well. Be aware that your visa will not be issued without a photocopy of your entire ticket or the e-ticket receipt with the ticket number. You should not officially purchase your flight until your visa has been approved.
- ▶ An international general medical/health insurance with a coverage of at least \$47,000 dollars and emergency evacuation coverage (these 2 items must be clearly stated). F-1 visa students already covered under the SCAD international health policy can take a copy of this policy with them to the interview. Students not covered under the SCAD international health policy will be automatically enrolled in the SCAD off campus programs insurance- **THE OFFICE OF STUDY ABROAD WILL PROVIDE THIS FOR THE STUDENT**
- ▶ Financial guarantee such as a notarized statement certifying that the applicant will be provided with a monthly allowance of \$800.00 for the duration of stay in France, or a proof of personal income along with a letter from school stating that room, board, and tuition are fully prepaid. If you pay for your own expenses, you have to bring your two last bank statements – **THE OFFICE OF STUDY ABROAD WILL PROVIDE THIS FOR THE STUDENT**
- ▶ A proof of residence in the Atlanta jurisdiction (AL, NC, SC, GA, MS, TN): copy of your drivers license or state issued ID. If you have neither, a copy of your rental agreement showing your address in Georgia or a bill (for electricity/water/cable/phone) that has been mailed to your Georgia address should suffice.
- ▶ Prepaid self-addressed envelope if you wish the Consulate to send your passport back by mail. Only UPS or Fedex express mail will be accepted. The Consulate is not responsible for any loss of mail or documents within. If no envelope is provided, personal appearance, between 8am and 9am only, is required for the retrieval of the passport.

► A letter from Study Abroad certifying that you will be studying in Lacoste - **THE OFFICE OF STUDY ABROAD WILL PROVIDE THIS FOR THE STUDENT**

Processing Fees for the Short-Term Visas:

Payment is only accepted in USD dollars and only by credit or debit (only MasterCard or Visa). For current information on the cost of a short-term student visa (Schengen, for up to 90 days), please [click here](#) or visit <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/us/tarifs>

Note: The Consular Administration has full authority to request additional documents than those submitted by the applicant. Submitting the aforementioned documents does not ensure automatic issuance of the visa.

Important Information for F-1 Students:

I-20 Information

F-1 students who will be studying at Lacoste will require a new I-20 that states that they are on a study abroad program in order to be eligible to re-enter the country and have the third page signed for travel. It is also important that you check the program end date on the first page of your I-20 to ensure that it will not expire before you re-enter the U.S. Please be sure that you request this new I-20 from the ISSO prior to your departure.

OPT Information

F-1 students who will be undertaking their final quarter of studies at SCAD at Lacoste should see the ISSO about the risks that this will pose to your eligibility for OPT (work authorization in the U.S.).

Visa Information

F-1 students must ensure that the visa in their passport is good for re-entry to the U.S. after completing their studies in Lacoste as the French Consulate will not grant a visa unless the student has this eligibility. Students should check their F-1 visa to ensure it is a multiple entry (as a single-entry visa will not permit you to enter the U.S. again) and also that it will not expire before you intend to return to the U.S. For students who have only a single-entry visa, or a visa that will expire prior to the end of their studies in Lacoste, they will need to apply for a French student visa in their home country.

If you have additional questions, e-mail isso@scad.edu and studyabroad@scad.edu