

SPECIAL CATEGORY PROVISIONAL VISAS FOR STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS, TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS

All the foreign persons, from any nationality (excluding the ones in the fourth group of the Entry General Guidelines); who wish to enter Costa Rica as students, researchers, teachers, and volunteers, could manage before the Consulates of Costa Rica, personally or by an authorized third person, an special category provisional visa.

The student, teacher, researcher, or volunteer who seeks a provisional visa, (even if the applicant is from a country that does not require an Entry Visa) should manage the request either personally or by a duly authorized representative before the respective consulate.

The persons who request a provisional visa have two options to apply for it, which are the following:

1. By means of a digital system, if enabled for the country of origin of the foreign person and if the Department has authorized the use of the digital system. To this end, the consulate abroad will explain the applicant the procedure.
2. Through the presentation of the physical documentation directly in the corresponding Consulate.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements that the applicant must present before the Consulate are the following:

- 1 Request for special category provisional visa as students, academics and researchers and volunteers, signed by the Consul or authenticated before a notary public, basing his claim. It should also include the following information of the foreigner: given name and last name, nationality, passport number, residency place, profession or occupation, date of birth, exact address of intended place of permanency in Costa Rica, date and place of birth of the applicant, fax to receive notifications, date and signature.
- 2 Birth certificate of the foreign applying for the visa.
- 3 Criminal record of the foreign person requesting the visa
- 4 Valid passport or travel document, with an expiry date of not less than six months. A copy of the entire passport must be included.

- 5 Letter of acceptance from the public or private school recognized in Costa Rica, attesting to the alien as a student, academic, researcher or volunteer; indicating the alien's involvement in it and the period that he will be linked to the center.
- 6 Evidence of financial means for subsistence during his stay in the country.
- 7 The Consul may request, if necessary, additional documents issued at the applicant's home country if the information is critical to the analysis in the visa granting process.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Once the applicant submits all the requirements, the Consul has 30 calendar days to solve the visa application.
2. If the Consul has some doubt about the documents submitted, he could request a clarification. He could also request a personal interview with the applicant.
3. This visa should be used within a period of sixty days, starting from the date of the respective notification to the applicant or his representative and it is valid to enter the country just one time.
4. Each consulate, in an individual way, establishes schedules and procedures according to the staff each of them count with. Therefore, the applicant should ask the Costa Rican consular authorities for information about those topics.
5. Once the foreigner enters Costa Rica with a provisional visa, this person should fill out his application to obtain the intended special category, complying with the deadlines, requirements, and terms established by the Law and its regulations.
6. Keep in mind that all the services that the General Directorate of Immigration offers are for free; just the taxes established by the law must be canceled.
7. Consult about requirements, appointments, and attention quotas only to the members of the staff properly identified.

