

ATTENTION:

IF YOU ARE NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND ARE PLANNING TO GO ON AN SEU MISSIONS TRIP, PLEASE READ THIS!!!



If you are attending Southeastern as one of the following:

- on an F-1 (student) visa
- on any other type of visa (as a dependent)
- as a Permanent Legal Resident of the U.S. (“green card”)

... then you carry a passport from a country other than the United States and may have different visa requirements from your American teammates for your country of destination. Please alert your team leader about this as soon as possible.

BE SURE TO CHECK EARLY ON THE POSSIBLE VISA REQUIREMENTS. EARLY – AS IN SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE DATE!!! Tourist visa requirements vary greatly from country to country in terms of paperwork and application requirements, cost, time involved in the process, and restrictions. You need to start your investigation and process early to avoid possible disappointment and the financial loss of a pre-purchased plane ticket.

To find out if you'll need a visa or not, contact the destination country's nearest U.S. Consulate (all available via the Internet). For example, if you are a citizen of Colombia and wish to travel to Thailand, you need to google “THAILAND CONSULATE U.S.” Most embassy/consular websites have links with their visa requirements. Use this as a starting point, but don't stop there. To be certain the website is up to date, call the consulate and ask to speak to an officer in their visa office. Ask what the required documents are, where to download the application, the cost, the average time it takes to process the visa. If possible, have them confirm via email or point you to a specific webpage. You may be required to travel to Tampa, Orlando, or as far as Miami. Make an appointment if possible. Do not mention that this is a “missions” trip – you want to apply for a tourist visa. (There are usually separate visa requirements for business purposes or ministry purposes, and they can be more involved.)

Do not rely on the host missionary to advise you about this. They are not responsible for knowing the requirements for all nationalities, and visa requirements between countries can change overnight due to a constantly evolving political climate.

If you have any questions about this or need assistance, please see Jan Hurndon in the International Students Office at 236 Pansler, email jphurndon@seu.edu or phone 863-667-5215.