Panama Spring 2023 Participants,

Congratulations on your acceptance to FSU International Program’s study abroad program! It’s time to start preparing for the upcoming immigration and visa processes you’ll need to complete to be eligible to study abroad. A Visa Packet with further information and guidance regarding the visa application process will be provided to all participants at a later date.

For now, please review the information and timeline included in this packet concerning important immigration items and steps that must completed immediately.

Please contact the Immigration Team, at IP-Visas@fsu.edu, if you have any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

The International Programs Immigration Team
IMPORTANT COMPONENTS FOR STUDENT VISA

PASSPORT
A valid passport book is required for your program and international travel.

If you have a passport, please ensure it meets the following requirements:

- Has **six months of validity** beyond your intended date of return (NOVEMBER 6, 2023)
- Must contain at least **2 blank visa pages**.

If you do not have a passport, or your current passport does not meet the outlined requirements, please contact IP-Visas@fsu.edu, immediately for guidance.

Processing times for passport issuance are currently delayed – if you require a new passport, it’s essential you apply as soon as possible. You can find a list of local Passport Acceptance Facilities near you on the U.S. Department of State’s website, found [HERE](#).

BACKGROUND CHECK
All participants are required to obtain an FBI Background Check for their student visa application.

Further information and instructions regarding the FBI Background Check will be uploaded to your IP Student Portal. Your background check must be obtained within a specific timeframe to meet immigration requirements – therefore, it will be important to adhere to the guidance that will be shared in your Visa Packet.

AGE, RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP

UNDER 18 REQUIREMENTS
If you will be **under the age of 18** on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023**, please contact an Immigration Coordinator at IP-Visas@fsu.edu, as you will have additional requirements that must be met.

NON-U.S. & DUAL CITIZENS
Visa requirements for non-U.S. citizens are different from those of U.S. citizens. Please be advised that you will need to be in possession of your Permanent Resident Card, or U.S. visa, to allow re-entry into the U.S. following your program.

If you are a non-U.S. citizen or hold dual-citizenship status, please contact IP-Visas@fsu.edu.

CURRENT RESIDENCE
If you currently reside outside of the United States, please contact an Immigration Coordinator at IP-Visas@fsu.edu.
Please check your passport and make sure it meets all validity requirements. If you do not have a passport, or your current passport does not meet the outlined requirements, please contact IP-Visas@fsu.edu, immediately for guidance.

**NOW**

**AUGUST**

**MID-AUGUST**
You will be required to upload a copy of your physical passport to the IP Student Portal. Please reference the upload instructions carefully.

**OCTOBER**

**EARLY-OCTOBER**
A program-specific Visa Packet will be uploaded to your IP Student Portal. The Visa Packet will provide instructions and guidance on how to complete the FBI Background Check process and compile all required support documents.

**NOVEMBER**

**LATE-NOVEMBER**
Your FBI Background Check and support documents will be due to the International Programs office.

Be sure to monitor your IP Student Portal and FSU Student Email. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact International Programs at IP-Visas@fsu.edu.