TIPS ON APPLYING FOR SPANISH VISA

By now you should be aware that you need to apply for a Spanish visa for your upcoming semester in Spain. Your study abroad office at your home school should be able to properly advise you in how to apply for a Spanish visa. We can also serve as a resource in advising you in the visa application process. Applying for a visa can be a time-consuming and confusing process, but it is required in order for you to enter Spain. You’ll specifically be applying for a “Student Visa” which is also synonymous with a “long-stay visa.” A visa is basically a sticker with your photo and some numbers on it that is placed in one of the blank pages in your passport. The visa looks very similar to the ID-page in your passport.

In order to apply for the visa, you will need to visit the Spanish Consulate that is assigned to the state you live in. Each of the different Spanish Consulates will have a link on their web site specifically outlining the requirements to apply for a visa. You will need to complete a “National Visa Application” which is the actual visa application, as well as provide some additional documents. Attached to my e-mail is a list of Spanish Consulates in the United States according to jurisdiction. The document contains important contact info for each Spanish Consulate in the U.S. You might have to travel out of state to apply for your visa depending on which state you live in. You must also apply in person for your visa. There’s no other way around it. The Spanish Consulate does not have an online application available nor do they provide students with the option to mail in your visa application materials. Before you apply in person for your visa, you must set up an appointment with the Spanish Consulate in your jurisdiction. You can only set up an appointment by visiting the web site for the Spanish Consulate in your jurisdiction by using their online appointment system. The Spanish Consulates will not set up appointments over the phone. The Spanish Consulate will e-mail you back with the date and time for your visa appointment.

On the day of your appointment, please make sure to show up on time. You’ll want to make two copies of all your original visa application materials. The Spanish Consulate will want to keep the originals and then one set of your copies. You’ll then keep the second set for your own records. The processing time for Spanish visas is about 4-6 weeks. If you live near a Consulate, you can pick up your visa when it’s ready. If you live far away, some Consulates will provide the option of mailing it back to you.

Hope this helps! Please let me know if you have any further questions.