

Study Permits

If you are a foreign student and wish to study in South Africa you can apply for a Student Permit by completing Form BI-1738. Study permits must be applied for at any regional office of the Department of Home Affairs near the educational institution you will be studying at or at the nearest South African embassy, mission or consulate abroad.

Study permits are valid for the duration of the course for which they are issued, alternatively 36 months for school and 24 months for other institutions.

The following documents must be submitted with the BI-1738 application form:

- A passport valid for no less than 30 days after the expiry of intended visit
- Payment of the prescribed fee
- A vaccination certificate, if required by the Act
- Proof of financial means to cover envisaged living expenses during the sojourn in the Republic and to also pay for the tuition fees. This should be in the form of:
 - bank statements
 - cash available, or
 - travellers' cheques
- Proof of medical cover
- A cash deposit equivalent to the value of a return ticket. In the case of African students, an undertaking from the relevant government to take full responsibility of the student and to pay all costs, should it become necessary to deport the student
- Medical and radiology reports
- In the case of a minor, the particulars of the person in the Republic of South Africa who will act as the learner's guardian and a letter from such person confirming guardianship
- Consent from both parents for your stay in South Africa, or from the parent who has sole custody, along with proof of sole custody
- An official letter from the educational institution, where you intend to study, confirming provisional acceptance and the duration of the course.
- If you are 18 years and older, a police clearance certificate from each country in which you resided for 12 months or longer since the age of

18 years is required. This should be submitted with the application or within three months of submission

As a holder of a study permit you may also apply for permission to work for the purposes of getting work experience, as part of your studies to obtain a diploma or degree by submitting:

- an offer to do practical training
- consent from the educational institution
- proof that you are still a registered student

The Department's consent to get practical training as part of your studies is issued free of charge provided that you are a registered student and that your study permit remains valid for the entire duration of the training period.

Alternatively, as a foreigner studying at a higher educational institution with a valid study permit, you may work part-time for no more than 20 hours per week. However, you may not work during academic vacations.

The overriding consideration in processing applications for study permits are that:

- No foreigner may displace a South African citizen/resident at a local educational institution
- The student must have proof of sufficient funds to pay for day-to-day living expenses, accommodation as well as tuition fees during his/her stay in South Africa
- The student must have adequate medical cover with a registered South African medical scheme and proof thereof