



ACADEMIC
STUDIES ABROAD

Academic Studies Abroad

Visa Information for Peru Programs

This information pertains to U.S. passport holders going to Peru on an ASA semester or summer program.

At your first arrival airport in Peru (either Lima or Cusco airport), you will have to pass through the Peruvian Immigration checkpoint, where you get your passport stamped to document your entry into the country. The stamp you will get is your Tourist Permit. **Peruvian Immigration has the right to stamp passports with tourist permits at their own discretion for stays of 30, 90, or 180 days.**

The ideal situation is you are given a stamp for the full duration of your program, but this is not guaranteed. (Semester students → ideally 180 days. Summer students → ideally 60 days.) Since tourist stamps are given *at the whim of the Immigration officer*, it is not automatic, as an example, for semester students to get a 180-day stamp.

To encourage the Immigration Officer to give you the ideal stamp, USIL will provide a special letter for you to show the Immigration Officer, written in Spanish, stating that you are staying for X months and requesting that they give you a stamp for X days.

Although this letter is not a guarantee that you will get the correct stamp, it may help. **Very important! You will need to show this letter to Immigration AT THE FIRST AIRPORT YOU ARRIVE TO IN PERU, BEFORE YOU HAND OVER YOUR PASSPORT.**

- If you arrive into Lima airport and then have a connecting flight to Cusco, then you will need to present your Immigration paperwork at LIMA airport. If you fly directly into Cusco airport on a flight that originated in a country other than Peru, then you would present your Immigration paperwork at Cusco airport.

WHAT TO DO AT THE AIRPORT IMMIGRATION CHECKPOINT

- ASA will email you an Immigration letter from USIL shortly before you depart (written in Spanish; PDF format). You'll need to print this letter and bring it with you on the plane.
- After you de-plane, follow the crowds to the Passport/Immigration Checkpoint. When you reach the front of the line, the Immigration Officer will ask you for your passport and your Andean Immigration Card (given to you on the airplane during your flight). **BEFORE you give him those items, hand him the Immigration letter from USIL.**
- After they read the letter, hand over your passport and Andean Immigration Card. The Immigration Officer will give you a stamp for 30 days, 90 days, or 180 days – completely at their discretion.

SEMESTER STUDENTS: WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET A STAMP FOR 180 DAYS?

- In case the officer gives you a stamp for an insufficient amount of days, USIL can assist you in obtaining a tourist permit extension. Once your tourist permit is extended, it will be legal for you to stay in Peru for the duration of your program. *Without the permit extension, you will be in Peru illegally once your tourist permit expires.*
- **The Peruvian government charges US\$450-500 for the tourist permit extension. The student is responsible for paying this fee.**
- **Just in case it is necessary for you to get an extension, you need to bring the following paperwork with you to Peru, which is required to extend your tourist permit:**
 - Letter from your bank (obtained by you, prior to departure). This letter must be written in Spanish or officially translated into Spanish – you can have this done for a fee before departure OR after you arrive in Peru. **The letter from your bank needs to state that you currently have at least \$500 in your bank account per each month of your stay in Peru.** (Ex: If you are studying in Peru for 4 months, the letter must state that you have at least \$2,000 in your bank account as of the day the letter is issued.)
 - Letter from ASA, written in Spanish, stating that we guarantee payment for your tuition and housing expenses for the duration of your program. (ASA will provide this letter for you shortly before departure.)