



Dear Future AFSer/Applicant,

Please find enclosed general instructions on entry and documentation requirements for Paraguay. You will need both an entry visa and a temporary residence visa for Paraguay. **AFS-USA will apply for your entry visa and AFS-Paraguay will assist you in obtaining the temporary residence visa upon arrival.**

There is some documentation that is required to facilitate this process. As you will note, obtaining a visa is a detailed and time consuming process, and for this reason, visa information is sent not only to students who are guaranteed, but also to students whose applications are still in review. It is important that you begin preparing for this process **immediately. Visa documents submitted by you later than the deadline (see below) might result in your having to travel late or not being able to participate in the program. You are responsible for any additional cost incurred by your late submission of documents.**

Obtaining a Passport

If you still do not have a passport, you must apply for one **immediately!** You cannot obtain any other type of travel or residence authorization without a valid passport and it will take approximately 4-6 weeks to obtain one. If you delay in obtaining your passport, you will need to request that your passport application be “expedited” (rushed) at an additional cost.

Domestic Travel

Regarding your domestic travel to the gateway orientation site, please do not book any tickets until you receive what we call the *Travel Notification Packet* in the mail from the AFS USA Travel and Logistics Department. This packet will give you important detailed information about travel and logistics for your trip. **AFS always recommends that participants book domestic tickets that are both refundable and changeable.** This is due in part to the possibility of changes in international flights students will be taking to return home, but also due to the fact that **complications may arise in obtaining visas** and these complications can at times delay a student’s departure. **Please note that participants will be responsible for paying any penalties incurred for changes they may need to make in their domestic travel in the event that they are not able to obtain their visa in time for their scheduled departure.**

Taking Trips before the Start of Your Program

You should not plan any excursions outside of the United States prior to your program. As mentioned before, obtaining a visa takes time and your passport will be required.

Should you choose to travel before the start of your program and not allow enough time for AFS to procure your visa, you will run the risk of not being able to participate on this program.

Getting Started

Please read the enclosed materials carefully and begin assembling the required documents immediately. AFS will obtain the entry visa for you. It is very important, however, that you follow the accompanying instructions very carefully and comply with all the requirements and deadlines.

Should you have any questions or require assistance, do not hesitate to contact your **Admissions Advisor at 1-800-237-4636.**

Sincerely,

AFS Visa Team



IMPORTANT VISA INSTRUCTIONS:

PARAGUAY YEAR/SEMESTER/18+ PROGRAMS 2008

An entry visa and residence visa will be required for your program. **AFS will assist you in this visa process.** To do so you must follow these instructions carefully and promptly. **DO NOT WAIT** to begin this process. Any procrastination, errors or omissions will involve delays that could jeopardize your travel arrangements. **It is very important that you return the following items to AFS immediately, or no later than June 20.**

STEP 1:

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO SEND AFS:

1. **UNITED STATES PASSPORT + 2 copies of picture/signature pages:**
Yes, you must send AFS your passport since the visa is a stamp that the consulate will affix to one of its free pages.
 - Must be *signed* and valid at least six months beyond your stay, with blank pages.
 - If you have a passport from a country other than the United States, please contact your Admissions Advisor at 800-237-4636 immediately, as additional documents may be needed.
2. **TWO COLOR PASSPORT-TYPE PHOTOS**
 - Digital prints, snapshots or graduation photos are not acceptable.
 - Write your name on the back of each photo.
 - Photos must show the full face, without sunglasses or hats.
3. **VISA FEE**
 - Please enclose a **MONEY ORDER** in the amount of \$65.00 made payable to the **Consulate of Paraguay**. Personal checks will **not** be accepted.
4. **PARENTAL CONSENT FORM:** (enclosed) + **2 copies**
 - **This document must be notarized by a notary public and certified by the authority that issued the Notary his or her commission and license.** Please check with your Notary on this requirement.
 - This form is required for all students **under the age of 18.** BOTH parents must sign this document. Please refer to the Parental Consent Form Fact Sheet for further information.

5. **TWO COPIES OF YOUR PARENTS' IDENTIFICATION**

- The consulate requires this to verify the signatures on the above listed parental consent form

Please submit two copies of your parents' identification (Driver's license or passport)

6. **VISA APPLICATION + 2 copies**

- Please complete the enclosed application as the sample indicates. For students under 18, parents must sign the application.

7. **TWO COPIES OF PROOF OF CURRENT ADDRESS**

(Driver's license, phone/utility bills with current address)

8. **VISA EXTENSION FEE:** \$135.00 for the semester program participants and \$270.00 for the year program participants. Please bring the appropriate amount with you to Paraguay either as cash or traveller's cheques.

Please send these items immediately or no later than June 20th via FedEx, DHL or UPS (**DO NOT USE REGULAR, CERTIFIED, REGISTERED OR DELIVERY CONFIRMATION MAIL**) to:

AFS-USA
Paraguay Visas – NH08
One Whitehall St., 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10004

Remember to retain the tracking number to your package in a safe place.

NOTE: Please do not call AFS to check if your documents were received. AFS will contact you in case something is missing or if documents are not received in time. You can check with your carrier to see if the package was delivered.

YOUR PASSPORT WITH THE VISA WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU AT THE GATEWAY DEPARTURE ORIENTATION.

You will need another form of Identification to travel to your Gateway orientation.

Please check with your airline for alternative forms of identification. Please remember to retain a copy of your passport for your own records.

Step 2:

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO BRING WITH YOU TO PARAGUAY:

Upon arrival, AFS Paraguay will assist you in obtaining a visa extension that will cover the remainder of your stay. In order to obtain this extension you **MUST** bring **ALL** of the following items with you to Paraguay:

2. **FOUR (4) PASSPORT PHOTOS:** Digital prints, snapshots or graduation pictures are **not acceptable**. Please put your name on the back of each photo.
3. **ONE (1) PHOTOCOPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE:** You must bring with you a clear and readable photocopy of your birth certificate to turn over to the immigration officials.

AFS will apply for your visa. Visa requirements, issuance regulations and fees are established by government authorities and/or consular officials, who reserve the right to make changes at any time. Please note that AFS cannot intercede to revoke decisions made by these authorities. Therefore AFS is not responsible for any changes in requirements or fees that occur after we have provided you with these instructions.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please call your Admissions Advisor in Portland at 800-237-4636.



AFS PARENTAL CONSENT FORM (PCF) FACT SHEET

Many consulates/ foreign governments require proof that the legal parents have given their permission for their minor child to travel abroad without them. This is done in order to avoid problems with runaways, international custody battles and other lawsuits. Generally, both natural parents must sign the PCF. Both signatures must be notarized by a Notary Public.

Students Over 18

Students who will be over 18 one month before departure need not submit a PCF, except for countries where the legal age is higher (in Argentina, Japan and Chile, the legal age is 21).

Divorced Parents

Both parents must sign if they were granted rights of visitation. If visitation rights were not granted and a photocopy of the divorce papers are submitted as proof of this fact, then only the custodial parent need sign the PCF. Copies of the parental consent form may be made to be signed and notarized by each custodial parent separately.

If the parent has full custody and the absent parent needs written permission to visit the child then the signature of the non-custodial parent is not required. Legal proof of this situation must be presented to the Consulate.

The divorce decree must be reviewed to assure that the visitation situation is clearly spelled out. If the non-custodial parent has not taken advantage of the visitation rights, and has no contact with the child, a statement from a lawyer must be presented (see AWOL section in this document).

Name Differences

When parents use a different last name from the child, consulates often feel insecure about whether the signer is in fact the parent of the child. Name difference may occur because:

- Mother has remarried.
- Mother is using her maiden name.
- Child never took father's name.
- Child is using stepparent's name.
- etc.

The most common document to submit in such a case is a photocopy of the divorce decree but in some cases the child's birth certificate showing parents names, name change paper (copy of marriage license) or adoption papers will suffice. In selecting a document, remember that the purpose is to establish that the signer is the natural parent of the child.

Living In Different Cities

If one parent does not live at home photocopy the Parental Consent Form and send a copy or copies to the absent parent. If AFS is obtaining the visa the form can be sent to AFS directly. If the student is obtaining the visa through the Consulate of Jurisdiction the form must accompany all other documents. It is acceptable for a parent to draw up a facsimile form. The facsimile must include a statement to the same effect as that on the AFS form, and it must be notarized.

One Parent Deceased

The surviving parent must sign the PCF and attach a photocopy of the death certificate.

Both Parents Deceased

The legal guardian(s) of the child must sign the PCF and attach proof of legal Guardianship. Copies of the death certificates may be required.

Stepparents

Unless they are legal guardians of the child through adoption or custody agreement, Stepparents must not sign the PCF. Legal guardianship must be documented.

AWOL

If one parent is missing or completely out of touch, a recent notarized affidavit from a lawyer should be submitted to the effect that the absent parent has been out of touch for a significant period of time. Even with this documentation, it is uncertain that the consulate will issue a visa in this situation.

If there are any questions about any of these issues please contact AFS at 1-800-237-4636.



PARENTAL CONSENT

Date: _____

I/we the parent(s) of _____
(Name of student)

grant my/our permission for my/our _____
(Son/daughter)

to travel between the USA and **Paraguay** under the auspices of AFS Intercultural Programs.

Signature

Signature

Print name

Print name

Sworn before me on this day of _____

Signature of Notary Public

My commission expires on _____
Date