



Dear Future AFSer/Applicant,

Please find enclosed general instructions on obtaining a **Student Residence Visa** for Iceland. **AFS will obtain this visa for you.** 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 traveling 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) which will mean an additional cost.

#### **Additional Support Documents**

In order for AFS to obtain your visa for Iceland, along with the completed visa application and other documents required by the Consulate, we will also need additional support documents and approvals which are provided by AFS-Iceland and the Icelandic Government. **AFS-Iceland will prepare these documents and forward them to the AFS USA office in New York as soon as your placement has been confirmed. AFS USA will then immediately apply for your visa.**

The process of obtaining the necessary approvals and documentation for this process can take time and in some cases, possible delays may result. If your documentation does not arrive within adequate time to obtain a visa, you may have to travel later than originally scheduled. Staff in the National Offices of both AFS-USA and AFS in Iceland will continue to monitor the situation closely in the up coming months. Be assured that AFS-Iceland is doing everything possible to have all placements confirmed as early as possible. In addition to this, visa and immigration regulations are constantly changing. **Participants who we feel may not be able to travel as scheduled will be notified approximately two weeks prior to the original departure date.**

#### **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 three months 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.

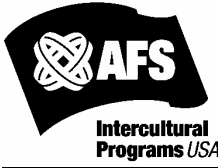
### **Getting Started**

We have included here some additional information concerning the visa application process for Iceland. AFS will obtain this visa for you. It is very important, however, that you follow the accompanying instructions very carefully and comply with all the requirements.

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

Sincerely,

AFS Visa Team



## VISA INFORMATION

### ICELAND YEAR PROGRAM 2008-09

A Student Residence Visa is required for your program in Iceland. **AFS will apply for this visa for you. Please follow these instructions** carefully as any omissions or errors could result in delays and jeopardize your travel arrangements.

**The following items must be received from you no later than May 15th:**

**1. UNITED STATES PASSPORT + 2 copies of the photo/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.*

- Your passport must be \*signed\* and valid for at least six months beyond your intended stay.
- If you hold a passport from a country other than the US, please contact AFS immediately as requirements could be significantly different.

**2. Completed Residence Permit Form**

- Complete as indicated, do not forget to sign. Please refer to sample.

**3. Four (4) Passport Photos**

- Snapshots, digital prints or graduation photos will not be accepted
- Print your name on the back of each photo
- One photo must be attached to the application.

**4. Visa Fees:**

- \$65.00 as a **money order** made payable to the **Consulate of Denmark**.

**5. Criminal Record Check**

- A letter from your local police department stating that you do not have a police record.

**6. Schengen Visa Form and Supplement**

- Please fill out both forms completely, don't forget to sign and date them. Fill in 'not applicable' where appropriate.

The above listed items must be received from you **no later than May 15th**. Please use a traceable service such as FEDEX, UPS or DHL. Please do not use regular, certified, priority or delivery confirmation mail. Please send your items to:

AFS-USA  
Attn: Iceland Visa –NH08  
One Whitehall St., 2nd Floor  
New York, NY 10004

*Please remember to keep the tracking number of 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 also check with your carrier to see if the package was delivered.**

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

**You will need another form of Identification to travel 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.**

Upon arrival in Iceland, AFS Iceland will help you apply for a Residence Permit. A fee of \$135 is required for this, please bring the amount with you in cash or traveller's checks.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, contact your **Admissions Advisor at 800-237-4636.**

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.