

Visas to Enter Oman

This information sheet has been written to help international schools plan their travel to Oman. Unfortunately, Omani visa regulations for visitors have a habit of changing on a frequent basis. Consequently, this information is unlikely to be 100% accurate at any point in time. However, it should help OBO clients better understand the process and time frames involved.

Firstly, please can we ask you to check all your passports before organizing travel/visas. Passports need to be valid for at least 6 months from the date of travel. If your passport expires sooner please renew it ASAP. Airlines can refuse you entry to a flight if they feel your travel documents might cause a problem with Omani immigration.

In general, passports fall into one of three categories – those who are visa exempt, those who can obtain a tourist visa on arrival and those who need to pre-approve their visa before travelling. These three categories are explained in more detail below:

VISA EXEMPT

Citizens of the following GCC countries do not require a visa to enter Oman:

VISAS ON ARRIVAL

Citizens of the following countries (named 'List A' in Oman) are eligible for tourist visas on arrival:

European Countries

Andorra	France	Luxembourg	San Marino
Austria	Germany	Macedonia	Slovakia
Belgium	Greece	Malta	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Hungary	Moldova	Spain
Croatia	Iceland	Monaco	Sweden

Cyprus	Italy	Netherlands	Switzerland
Czech Rep	Ireland	Norway	Turkey
Denmark	Latvia	Poland	United Kingdom
Estonia	Liechtenstein	Portugal	Vatican
Finland	Lithuania	Romania	

Central & South American Countries

Argentina	Chile	French Guiana	Uruguay
Bolivia	Colombia	Paraguay	Venezuela
Brazil	Ecuador	Suriname	

Other Countries

Australia	Indonesia	New Zealand	South Korea
Brunei Dar al-Salam	Japan	Seychelles	Taiwan
Canada	Lebanon	Singapore	Thailand
Hong Kong	Malaysia	South Africa	United States of America

Passport holders from these countries can purchase a 1 month tourist visa for 20 OMR from the American Express Foreign Exchange Bureau in Immigration at Muscat International Airport. This bureau only accepts cash (no cards) but being a FOREX bureau they will accept most major currencies. Once you have paid your visa fee you will be given a receipt which needs to be shown at the passport control desk.

Please be aware that passport holders from these countries who are also residents of a GCC country can purchase a 10 day tourist visa at the same FOREX bureau for just 5 OMR.

PRE-APPROVED VISAS

If the passport you hold is not on any of the above lists you will require a pre-authorised visa to travel to Oman. This visa can be applied for at your local Omani Embassy or we can do it for you. There may be a slight difference in price of these two routes.

Our preference is for you to try your Omani Embassy first. To do this we will provide you with a letter stipulating: the nature of your trip to Oman, the dates, and the names of people requiring a visa. **This process needs to be started at least 6 WEEKS before you travel.**

If, after 2 weeks of pursuing this option you appear to be getting no-where, we will be happy to help you. However, to have enough time we need all necessary paperwork at least 4 weeks before your course. If we receive details later than this we cannot guarantee your visa pre-approval will be issued in time. The route we follow is significantly more expensive (30 OMR per visa) than the Embassy route, because we apply for an Official Visit visa through the Ministry of Education (as opposed to a tourist visa).

The minimum requirement for visa applications is a clear, scanned copy of the child/teacher's passport information page and a scanned, colour copy of a passport photo against a blue background. For some countries there may also be additional requirements. For example, Bangladeshi passport holders are currently asked to also provide a copy of pages 3/4 and Indian passport holders have to submit their last page as well. In addition to this, the Royal Oman Police can change requirements at the last minute.

If you/we are successful in receiving the pre-approval, visas are left for you to collect from the Visa Collection Counter in Muscat International Airport's arrival hall, before immigration.

If we have helped provide your pre-approved visa, the cost will be added to your final invoice.