

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Recreational courses versus academic study on a visitor trip

Can a short course be taken on a visitor trip?

The Department of State distinguishes short, recreational, non-credit study from study leading to a degree or academic certificate. Short duration alone does not bring an academic program within the visitor framework.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Obtain the school's written explanation of content and intended outcome.
- ☐ Record whether academic credit or a credential is associated with the activity.
- ☐ Describe the schedule and its relationship to the overall visit.
- ☐ Preserve clarification from the institution without treating it as an immigration ruling.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

U.S. Department of State: Student visa: school and category distinctions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>

U.S. Department of State: Visitor visa: purpose and process

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html>

U.S. Department of State: Visa information: frequently asked questions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/frequently-asked-questions.html>

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/visitor/visitor-recreational-study/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.