

Special Note About Visas

Individuals receiving a History of Art: Institutional Fellowship will need to secure a study visa from the country in which they will be in residence while on the Kress fellowship. The visa application process varies from country to country and may require several weeks to complete, particularly given summer schedules at many of the foreign art research centers affiliated with this program. The Kress Foundation therefore strongly advises Fellowship recipients to take appropriate steps towards obtaining the proper documentation immediately upon acceptance of the award, and to apply for the relevant visa as soon as possible, to ensure a successful start to the first year of research.

Please note also that language can matter when communicating with consulates, especially in non-Anglophone countries. We have been advised, for example, that such English words as “research,” “work” and “fellowship” may erroneously suggest work performed for compensation, which would require a different category of visa. Fellowship recipients may wish therefore to employ the word “study” as the most appropriate descriptive term for the activity they will be pursuing while at their European host institution. For the same reason, the financial support afforded by the fellowship might be best described as a “scholarship” rather than a “stipend.”

Bear in mind that consulates review requests for visas for a number of reasons. The Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università, e della Ricerca) has a helpful discussion of this on its website at <http://www.study-in-italy.it/studying/info-22.html>. While these guidelines are principally intended for foreign students enrolling at academic institutions in Italy, they may be helpful to fellowship recipients as well, and so we reproduce portions of the relevant text from that helpful website here:

Study Visa

Only a visa issued for study purposes is valid ... No other type of visa will be accepted. Therefore you have to apply to the [governing] Italian diplomatic authority and ask for a study visa in your name. The [governing] Italian Embassy/Consulate is the authority responsible for accepting your pre-application and checking if you meet the requirements for the visa...

The study visa will be issued only against demonstration that you:

1. have a suitable accommodation in Italy;
2. may dispose of enough financial means to support yourself;
3. are entitled to medical care in Italy ([proof of] Health Insurance);
4. possess the amount of money necessary to travel back to your country, or have already purchased a valid return-ticket.

Finally, if your college or university has a study abroad office on campus, we encourage you to consult with them about the visa process and all facets of travel abroad.