

Croatia Fall 2026 Travel Instructions

Booking travel:

Your round-trip itinerary is due by June 1st, 2026

Enter your flight information, including all layovers, in your Student Portal.

SFS operates on a cohort-based model and exceptions for late arrivals or early departures will not be granted. **Tickets booked incorrectly are your responsibility to rectify and can be difficult and expensive to change!**

Round-trip Travel to Program: Arrival Airport: ZAG – Zagreb Franjo Tudman Airport Arrival Date: Sep 7th, 2026 Arrival Time: Before 8 PM Departure Airport: ZAG – Zagreb Franjo Tudman Airport Departure Date: Dec 16th, 2026 Departure Time: Anytime	Mid-Semester Break: Dates: Oct 23rd – Nov 1st *Dates subject to change Students are responsible for their own food and accommodations during non-program time. See the field guide for estimated costs.
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Important booking notes:

- **Purchasing:** SFS recommends purchasing flights directly with the airline rather than 3rd party websites to expedite customer service in case of travel delays/cancellations.
- **Connecting flights:** SFS recommends at least 2 hours for all layovers. Terminal changes, customs and immigration, and travel delays should be considered when booking.
- **Travel to the center:** On arrival day, SFS staff will meet students at the ZAG Airport and arrange travel with the group to a hotel in Zagreb for the night. The following day, the group will travel to the center.
- **Traveling pre- or post- program:** If you choose to arrive before the program start date and time or leave after the program end date and time, all planning and costs associated with additional transportation, accommodation, visas, health testing, etc. are the responsibility of the student. If you choose to arrive early, you may contact staff and meet them directly at the hotel. You will be dropped off at the airport on the departure date and time.
- **Luggage:** SFS has no luggage limitations. Check with your airline for their luggage allowances.
- **Make the most of your travels:** Join a frequent flyer program and consider purchasing carbon offsets.

Travel Insurance:

SFS is not responsible for reimbursing travel expenses for programs canceled or rescheduled due to acts of war/civil unrest, strikes, weather, quarantine/epidemics/sickness, government regulations, or failure of equipment, power, or communications. **Therefore, SFS highly recommends purchasing travel insurance and refundable flights to protect your ticket investment.** Be sure to ask specifically about coverage as it pertains to COVID-19.

Airport Letter:

The SFS admissions team will send an "Airport Letter" 1-3 weeks prior to departure. This letter will include where and when to meet SFS Staff at the airport and what to do should you or your baggage get delayed.

Health & Travel Entry Requirements:

Health and travel-related entry requirements may change prior to departure. SFS will communicate updates as they become available; however, students are responsible for confirming and complying with all destination and transit requirements before traveling.

Passport Requirements:

A valid, signed passport is required for students to enter Croatia. Your passport must be valid for at least 3 months after your departure from Croatia.

Visa Requirements:

US Citizens:

1. European Schengen Tourist Visa Waiver:

- US Citizens do not need a visa for a stay of up to 90 days within Schengen Countries.
- Any days spent in the Schengen area within the 180 days prior to your arrival date will be counted towards your 90 day allotment. The dates you resided in Croatia using your Temporary Residence Permit are not taken into account for this calculation. **Leave at least 30 days of your Tourist Visa Waiver for staff to process your Temporary Residence Permit.**
- Cost: Free *Cost subject to change
- Contact your local consulate for any questions or guidance on non-program travel.

2. Croatian Temporary Residence Permit:

- Upon arrival to Croatia, SFS staff will assist you in applying for a Temporary Residence Permit granting you residential student status to supplement your Tourist Visa Waiver for the remainder of your program.
- After the program ends and your Temporary Residence Permit expires, your Tourist Visa Waiver will begin again where it left off. Any days spent in the Schengen area within the 180 days prior to your Temporary Residence Permit being granted will be counted towards your 90 day allotment.
- Cost: Included in Tuition

Non-US Citizens: Students who are not U.S. citizens are responsible for investigating and obtaining a visa that will cover them for the entire program prior to arrival. If this applies to you, please contact your country's consulate for further instructions.