

Travel Advisory Reminder: EU Border Protocols 2026

LSU travelers to Europe should be advised that the European Union (EU) has implemented the **Entry/Exit System (EES)** as of April 2026. A further protocol known as the ETIAS travel authorization is expected to follow later in 2026. These systems will significantly change border entry procedures for non-EU visitors.

What to expect:

- Biometric registration at first entry: non-EU citizens will be required to provide biometrics (fingerprints, facial scans) in replacement of physical passport stamping.
- Digital tracking of your travel in the EU: Entries, exits, and duration of stay (90 to 180 days) will be recorded and monitored by relevant authorities.
- Longer processing times: As the system is being finalized, anticipate delays at airports and land borders, particularly during initial implementation or high-traffic travel periods.

What LSU travelers should do:

- Allow extra time when arriving, departing, or connecting through EU border points.
- Ensure your passport is up-to-date and in good condition. This will be electronically linked to your travel record.
- Follow stay limits carefully: overstays will be automatically detected and enforced.
- Prepare for ETIAS implementation: LSU travelers who are visa-exempt previously from traveling to EU countries will need to apply online for pre-travel authorization prior to departure.

Applicable countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.