



Schengen Visa



ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN APPLYING FOR A SCHENGEN VISA



Follow these steps

Make your visa process smooth by applying for a visa correctly and by the rules. You must fulfill all the listed requirements to ensure a smooth process, save time and money.

Visa application is your personal responsibility. You are personally responsible for your visa application file. You must have your documents in good order and apply for country you plan to visit or spend most time in.



Submit a complete file. Note that submitting documents which are fake/not authentic will lead to a refusal of your visa application.

Apply by yourself and get appointment directly with the Embassy/Consulate or the trusted Official External Service Providers in case a Schengen state makes use of such a provider as most Schengen States do (See the table below.). You have to apply to the Schengen State you plan to visit or spend most time in.

In 2024, a record-breaking 1.1 million Schengen visas were issued in Türkiye.

Schengen Member States:

29 member countries: 25 EU Member States and 4 non-EU countries: Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Difference between Schengen and national visas:

A Schengen visa is an authorisation issued by a Schengen State that allows travellers to enter the Schengen area for:

- Intended short stays in or transit through the territory of a Schengen State (short stay visa)
- Transit through the international transit areas of airports of the Schengen States (airport transit visa)

Short stays are stays of no more than 90 days within any 180-day period. Your visa indicates how long you can stay.

Other types of visas are governed by the national law of Member States.

Every Schengen State decides who enters its territory. Therefore, it is important to make sure that you provide the correct information in the visa application and when entering the Schengen Area.

Schengen visa application is a transparent process governed by European law: no arbitrary process, no visa refusal for political reasons.

Provider	Schengen States
iDATA	Germany - Italy
VFS GLOBAL	Austria - Belgium - Bulgaria - Croatia Czechia - Denmark - Estonia - Finland France - Iceland - Latvia - Lithuania Luxembourg - Malta - Netherlands Norway Poland - Slovenia - Sweden Switzerland (after 01.07.2025)
AS-Visa	Hungary
BLS	Slovakia, Spain
Kosmos Visa Services	Greece
TLSContact	Switzerland (until 30.06.2025)

Please note that **Romania** and **Portugal** do not work with any external service provider. Every visa applicant should upload their own visa application file on the Romanian official national visa website: <https://eviza.mae.ro/> or at the Portuguese Embassy website: <https://ancara.embaixadaportugal.mne.gov.pt/tr/>



Only Consulates of countries members of the Schengen Area can process visa applications. The Delegation of the European Union does not receive or process visa applications.

You do not need a travel agency or any other actor aside for the authorised external service providers listed above.

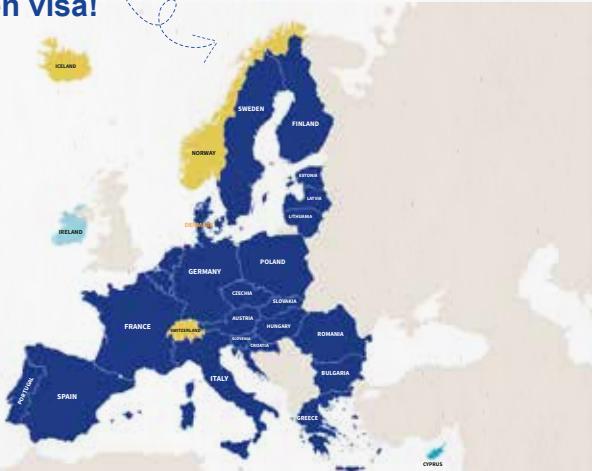
Intermediaries/travel agencies are not Official External Service Providers authorised by Schengen States and are not associated in any way with Embassies or Consulates. Using their services does not increase your chances of getting a Schengen visa! Even if you decide to go through an intermediary, you have to check your file at every step of the process.

Be aware that the cost of a Schengen visa is at present €90 for adults and maximum €45 for children aged 6-12. No visa application fee for children aged 0 to 6. An additional service fee is applied by the external service providers, which collect applications on behalf of Embassies or Consulates. This additional service fee cannot exceed half of the official visa fee.

Lodging an appeal against a negative decision might be subject to a fee. Reapplication is also possible, but it is important to carefully consider the reasons for the previous denial and take the necessary steps to address the reasons for refusal.

SCHENGEN AREA

Areas where you can go with a Schengen visa!



DOS AND DON'TS

FOR APPLICANTS



Dos

What should you do when applying for a Schengen visa

You should apply in due time

Applications shall be lodged, as a rule, no later than 15 calendar days before the start of the intended visit. Begin planning your application up to 6 months in advance of your intended visit.

You should apply to the correct country

You must apply to the Official External Service Provider or to the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country you plan to visit. If you plan to visit more than one Schengen country, you have to apply to the Embassy or Consulate or the external service provider of the country that is your main destination with purpose of stay, or longest intended stay. Make sure that you really apply to the external service provider of the Schengen country you plan to visit. They are referenced on the Embassy or Consulate's website.

Ensure that all the documents you provide are correct

You have to make sure that all the details in your documents are consistent, and correspond to your real plans in the Schengen Area.

You should provide proof of genuine travel arrangements

You have to provide genuine hotel reservations and flight reservations that match your actual travel plans. It is strongly advised to make bookings that can be cancelled or changed without extra cost.

You should verify your invitation details

If invited, you have to ensure the inviter's contact information is correct.

You should provide complete employment and/or income details

You have to clearly state your workplace and/or income source.

You should provide proof of financial means

You have to submit bank statements showing sufficient funds for your trip, no older than three months.

Personally verify your documents

Check your documents personally before submission to ensure their accuracy. Duly sign your application form.

Check your passport's validity

Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your planned return from the Schengen Area.



Don'ts

Things not to do when applying for a Schengen visa and when using it

You must not seek Schengen visa from the country that is not your primary destination

You must apply through the Embassy or Consulate of the country where you will spend the most time. If you spend equal amounts of time in several countries, apply to the country of first entry.

Follow the rules and avoid mistakes

Visa applicants who do not follow the rules may have their visa application refused, visa revoked, denied entry at the border, or unable to benefit from Schengen visa for some time.

Do not pay extra fees

The cost of a Schengen visa is at present €90 for adults and maximum €45 for children aged 6-12. No visa application fee for children aged 0 to 6. In addition, a service fee may be applied by the Official External Service Provider, which collects applications on behalf of Embassies or Consulates. Other intermediaries/travel agencies ask for extra fees, sometimes significant ones. Using their services does not increase your chances of getting a Schengen visa! They do not have better access to the Embassies/Consulates. You don't need to pay for these extra fees. Using such agencies is at your own risk. Do not engage with fraudulent travel agencies which offer you false promises on receiving a Schengen visa against exorbitant additional fees.

Do not block appointment time-slots that you will not use

Only book one appointment: don't book any time slots for appointments that you will not use.

After receiving a visa, do not overstay your visa duration

Your Schengen visa indicates the length of your allowed stay in the Schengen Area. This allowed stay is maximum of 90 days in a 180 day period. If you exceed this period, your stay becomes irregular. For instance, if you received a multiple entry Schengen visa of a long duration (1, 2 or 5 years), you can visit the Schengen Area up multiple times provided that you do not stay more than 90 days in each period of 180 days.