

# **Schengen Visa Screening Requirements - Detailed Overview**

This document summarises the short-stay (Schengen 'C') visa screening and requirements across the Schengen Area, based on the EU Visa Code and European Commission guidance.

Schengen visa processing is coordinated across member states; biometric data is shared through the Visa Information System (VIS).

## **Primary Identity & Application Forms**

Valid passport with sufficient validity and blank pages, completed short-stay visa application form for the relevant member state.

Recent passport photographs complying with Schengen photo rules.

## **VIS & Biometrics**

Schengen states collect biometric identifiers — a photograph and 10 fingerprints — stored in the Visa Information System (VIS) for up to 5 years to support identity verification and to detect fraud.

Biometrics reduce identity fraud and speed up border checks across member states.

## **Proof of Purpose, Funds & Travel Insurance**

Purpose of travel: invitation letter, proof of accommodation, travel itinerary, and invitation or conference documents where applicable.

Proof of sufficient funds: bank statements, sponsorship letters, or employer support.

Travel health insurance with minimum coverage of €30,000 for medical expenses and repatriation is mandatory for Schengen visas.

## **Background & Entry Ban Checks**

Consulates check past visa history, overstays records, and alerts in Schengen databases. Prior refusals or bans increase scrutiny.

Visa officers may request additional documents or interviews if concerns arise.

## **Common Reasons for Refusal & Tips**

Lack of travel insurance, insufficient funds, unclear travel purpose, previous overstays or visa refusals, and inconsistent documents are frequent refusal reasons.

Provide a clear travel plan, certified translations where needed, and consistent documentation across all supporting paperwork.

# **Practical Checklist (What to Include)**

Passport, completed application form, photos, travel insurance certificate, proof of funds, accommodation bookings, return ticket, invitation letters, and biometric enrolment receipt.

## **Sources**

EU Visa Code and operational handbook:

[https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-visa/visa-statistics\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-visa/visa-statistics_en) and [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/1d79f44d-49ba-4847-951e-129f924b1051\\_en?filename=Commission+Implementing+Decision+C%282024%29+4319-annex\\_en.PDF](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/1d79f44d-49ba-4847-951e-129f924b1051_en?filename=Commission+Implementing+Decision+C%282024%29+4319-annex_en.PDF)

Visa Information System (VIS):

[https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-information-system\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-information-system_en)