

# 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, overstay 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)