

## Schengen Visa

The Schengen Visa Scheme allows those wishing to visit certain countries within the European Economic Area (EEA) (and Switzerland) to travel between these countries using only one visa. The following countries all make up the Schengen space: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. [www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-countries-list](http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-countries-list)

If you are travelling to countries outside of the Schengen space (e.g. Republic of Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Croatia or Romania) you should contact **that country's embassy in the UK** for information about immigration procedures there.

### Is anyone exempt from the Schengen visa requirements?

Citizens listed below are not required, at this moment in time, to obtain a Schengen visa and can enter EEA countries for a maximum of 90 days.

Albania*	Israel	Saint Lucia
Andorra	Japan	Saint Vincent
Antigua & Barbuda	Kiribati	Samoa
Argentina	Macao S.A.R.***	Serbia*
Australia	Malaysia	Seychelles
Bahamas	Marshall Islands	Singapore
Barbados	Mauritius	Solomon Islands
Bosnia & Herzegovina*	Mexico	South Korea
Brazil	Micronesia	Taiwan**
Brunei	Moldova*	Timor Leste
Canada	Monaco	Tonga
Chile	Montenegro*	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Nauru	Tuvalu
Costa Rica	New Zealand	Ukraine
Dominica	Nicaragua	United Arab Emirates
El Salvador	North Macedonia*	United States of America
Georgia	Palau	Uruguay
Grenada	Panama	Vanuatu
Guatemala	Paraguay	Venezuela
Honduras	Peru	
Hong Kong S.A.R.***	Saint Kitts and Nevis	

\* Visa-free regime applies to citizens of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia only if they are holders of biometric passports.

\*\* Visa-free regime applies to holders of passports issued by Taiwan only if their passport contains an identity card number.

Special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China:

Hong Kong\*\*\*

\*\*\* Visa-free regime applies only to holders of a "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" passport.

Macao\*\*\*

\*\*\* Visa-free regime applies only to holders of a "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" passport.

\*\*\* Visa-free regime applies only to holders of a "Região Administrativa Especial de Macau" passport.

However there are some exceptions, so before you travel, please **check directly with the visa office of the country you intend to visit.**

### What type of Schengen visa will I need?

There are three types of Schengen visas: Short Stay, Airport Transit and Transit Visa.

- The short stay or travel visa allows a visit of up to three months in any six-month period.
- The airport transit visa allows the traveller to transit through the international transit zone/area of an airport of a Schengen member state.
- The transit visa enables a traveller to pass through the territory of one or more Schengen countries on their way to another country outside the Schengen space

**Don't forget: it is your responsibility to check the individual country's embassy requirements that you intend to visit.**

### Where do I apply for a Schengen visa?

- If visiting only one country in the Schengen space, you should apply to the embassy of that country

- If visiting several of the 27 countries, you should apply to the embassy of whichever country is your 'main destination' **i.e. the country in which you plan to spend most time during your trip**
- If visiting several countries in the Schengen space without having a main destination, you should submit an application to the embassy of the country **where you will first enter the Schengen space**
- Online application form:  
<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/download-schengen-visa-application-form>

## General conditions:

- Must have two blank pages in passport
- Must not already have a valid Schengen visa (contact Embassy who issued visa to ask to have it cancelled)
- **Required to have 3 months validity remaining on UK visa after returning from proposed travel**
- Passport - Must be valid for 3+months after expected departure date from the Schengen area
- Must have been issued within previous 10 years (passports with extensions not accepted)
- Family members; each person must have their own passport (no baby in parents' passport)

## What documents will I need to provide?

- A completed application form:
- Original passport/BRP card
- Recent photograph(s)
- Proof of purpose of the visit: invitation letters from friends or conference organisers for example.
- Evidence of accommodation booking, flight reservations and a basic itinerary
- You should check that your current UK student immigration permission will allow you to return to the UK after your trip. Some countries insist on as long as six months
- Evidence of sufficient funds to complete the trip - you generally need to calculate around €90 (£ 75) per days of holiday. Please provide 3 months of previous bank statements. Most recent bank statement must be no older

than 1 week before appointment (print statements day before appointment)

- Visa fee of of €80 (£67 to 70). Some Embassies accept cash only (check the individual website) but most accept debit card, credit card and postal orders. **The fee is usually not refundable, even if a visa is refused**
- Evidence of student status- This is a certificate you can order online on myUniHub or ask the UniHelp desk
- Medical insurance (also called travel insurance) to cover the entire period – must be for a minimum of €30 000.

For more information visit:

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-insurance>

## How long will it take?

Processing times vary between Embassies; the applicant's nationality can also delay the process (15 additional working days for checks). This can be extended to 30 days and exceptionally to 60 days if the consulate you are applying from needs to carry out a more detailed examination of your circumstances or requires further documentation.

On average you should apply 4 weeks before travel date, however we recommend you apply at least 6 weeks before the intended travel date. **The earliest you can apply is 6 months before the travel date.**

Finally, don't forget to protect **your passport and visa** (by keeping it in the hotel room or safe for example). Instead carry a photocopy of your passport/Schengen visa and UK visa on you, and show it if asked by local authorities. Usually you are given 24 hours to produce originals.

**Please note: If you lose your UK visa it could take weeks to have a new one issued, which could be very expensive and have repercussions for your studies.**

For more information call: **020 8411 4507** or email the International Student Advice Team at: [intadvice@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:intadvice@mdx.ac.uk). You can also book an appointment via myUniHub or via the UniHelp advisors (based in the ground floor of the Sheppard Library).

The International Student Advice Team has made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered.

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