

SCHENGEN VISA APPLICATION

THE BASICS YOU NEED TO KNOW



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What is Schengen and Schengen Visa?

The Schengen Area is an area comprising 26 European countries that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders. The area mostly functions as a single jurisdiction for international travel purposes, with a common visa policy. (Wikipedia)

A Schengen visa is a short stay visa allowing its holder to circulate in the Schengen area. The Schengen area covers 26 countries ("Schengen States") without border controls between them.

THE LIST OF SCHENGEN COUNTRIES

These countries are:

- 1- Austria
- 2- Belgium
- 3- The Czech Republic
- 4- Denmark
- 5- Estonia
- 6- Finland
- 7- France
- 8- Germany
- 9- Greece
- 10- Hungary
- 11- Iceland
- 12- Italy
- 13- Latvia
- 14- Liechtenstein
- 15- Lithuania
- 16- Luxembourg
- 17- Malta
- 18- The Netherlands
- 19- Norway
- 20- Poland
- 21- Portugal
- 22- Slovakia
- 23- Slovenia
- 24- Spain
- 25- Sweden
- 26- Switzerland.

TYPES OF SCHENGEN VISA

If you're traveling to Europe and entering the Schengen Area from a country without a visa-free travel arrangement, you'll need to apply for a Schengen visa.

These come in four main Schengen Visa categories or Schengen Visa types - A, B, C, and D.

The most common Schengen Visa type, a Uniform Schengen Visa, covers categories A, B and C, providing you with your airport transit visa and allowing you to stay in any country in the Schengen Zone for up to 90 days in a six-month period. This will be the visa you need if traveling to Europe for a short vacation.

There are three types of Uniform Schengen Visas

1. Type A

Schengen visa or Airport Transit Visa

The type A visa allows citizens of non-Schengen states to transit through or wait for their connecting flight in the international zone of an airport located in a Schengen country. It is compulsory for those travelling from a non-Schengen country to another non-Schengen country and who have to connect flights in the airport of a Schengen country. The holder of a type A visa is not allowed to enter the said Schengen country.

Side Story: Some Nigerians are using the Transit Visa to Ja Pa (don't say na me tell you ooo)

2. Type B Schengen visa

The type B visa relates to journeys lasting fewer than five days has been replaced by type "C" with the condition "transit"

3. Type C Schengen visa

The short stay Schengen visa is the most common one. It is issued by the visa services (embassies, consulates, appointed external providers) of a country belonging to the Schengen area. It allows the holder to stay or travel freely in the Schengen area for less than 90 days over a 180 day period. It is mandatory for citizens of some countries of which Nigeria is one.

According to the purpose of your trip, the short-stay category C Schengen visa can be:

- A single-entry visa (“1” on the visa sticker): allows its holder to enter the Schengen area once. If you leave the area, the validity of your visa expires even if the validity period isn’t over yet. In a nutshell: any exit is final!
- A double-entry visa (“2” on the visa sticker): allows its holder to enter the Schengen area twice during the validity period of the visa. You can thus leave the Schengen area and re-enter it during that period of time. The second time you leave the area, your visa expires.
- A multiple-entry visa (« MULT » on the visa sticker): allows its holder to enter and leave as many times as they want. This authorization is valid for a maximum of 90 days over a 180 day period.

4. Type D Schengen visa or national long-stay visa

The national visa is the type D long-stay Schengen visa. It is mandatory for any foreigner wishing to study, work or live in a Schengen country for longer than 90 days (up to 1 year). It allows its holder to travel and stay in the Schengen area outside of the originally chosen Schengen country for periods of 90 days maximum over 180 days and during the entire validity period of their visa. The travel purposes which can justify applying for a category D visa are:

- tourism or private visits
- professional activities
- to study, to take part in a training program or complete an internship
- family reasons

The national visa or type D visa is issued by the consular authorities of the intended Schengen country in accordance with national legislation.

Therefore it is necessary to contact the services of the country to know the different conditions and formalities that need to be met. Under certain conditions it can be granted as either a single or a multiple-entry Long-stay visa.

The types of multiple-entry visas are:

One-year multiple-entry Schengen Visa

You can apply for this Schengen Visa type provided that you have used three visas within the previous two years. When you apply for this Schengen Visa type, you will need to show proof of your previous visas and the trips you made to the Schengen Area. You may enter for 90 days over each 180-day period.

Three-year multiple-entry Schengen Visa.

The three-year multiple-entry visa is granted to applicants who have obtained and lawfully used a previous multiple-entry visa valid for one year within the previous two years. The 90/180 rule applies.

Five-year multiple-entry Schengen Visa

You can apply for a five-year multiple-entry visa if you have obtained and lawfully used a previous multiple-entry visa valid for at least two years over the past three years.

90/180 Schengen Visa Rule

One important thing for multiple-entry visa holders to remember is the nature of the 90/180 rule. Most think the 180-day period starts when your visa becomes valid, but it keeps rolling - meaning you need to count back from the date you plan to re-enter the Schengen Area to check you haven't spent more than 90 days there in the past 180 days.

Limited Territorial Visa

Another type of visa is a Limited Territorial Visa that only allows you to travel through one country. These are generally only issued in peculiar or emergency cases when a standard visa to visit Europe is unobtainable.

PROCESSING DURATION

It takes 15 days to process a Schengen Tourist visa.

However, Schengen visa processing time may vary in some specific situations, for example, if you are applying for study visa or work visa which is the country National visa it may take more time

Schengen Visa Application Requirements

Documents are Required when Applying for a Schengen Visa

The following list of documents are required for any short-term Schengen visa application:

- Visa application form. Fully completed and signed.
- Two recently taken photos must be attached. Both photos must be taken within the last three months, according to the visa photo requirements.
- A valid passport. Not older than 10 years and it should valid for at least three more months beyond the date you plan to leave the Schengen area. Older passports with visas on them (if you have any).
- Round trip reservation or itinerary. It must include dates and flight numbers specifying entry and exit from the Schengen area. You can use
- Travel insurance policy. A document that proves you have travel health insurance for the whole Schengen territory, with a minimum coverage of 30,000 euros in case of any medical emergency as illnesses, accidents and even repatriation in case of death.
- Proof of accommodation. A document that shows where you will be accommodated throughout your stay in Schengen. This can be one of the following: • A hotel/hostel booking • A rental agreement. • A letter of invitation from a host at whose house you will be staying.
- Proof of financial means. Evidence that you have enough money to support yourself financially throughout your stay in the Schengen. This can be one of the following:
 - Bank account statement – that shows you have enough money in your account for the trip. The statement shall be no older than 3 months.
 - Sponsorship Letter – by another person that confirms they will be

financially supporting your trip to the Schengen. In order for this letter to be valid, it must be accompanied by a bank statement of the sponsor, no older than three months.

- A combination of your bank account statement and a letter of sponsorship.
- Proof of paid visa fee. €80 for adults and €45 for children from 6 to 12 years old.

Along with the aforementioned generally required documents, Schengen embassies around the world require some specific documents from the visa candidates depending on their employment status as well as several additional documents depending upon the type of Schengen visa applied for.

Schengen Visa Requirements According to Applicant's Employment Status

Specific required documents, based on the visa applicant's employment status are as following:

- For employees:
 - Employment contract.
 - Current bank statement of the latest 6 months.
 - Leave permission from the employer.
 - Income Tax Return (ITR) form or Certificate of Income Tax deducted at the source of salary.

For the self-employed:

- A copy of your business license.
- Company bank statement of the latest 6 months.
- Income Tax Return (ITR).

For students:

- Proof of enrollment.
- No objection letter from School or University.

For retirees:

- Pension statement of the latest 6 months.

If unemployed and married to an EU citizen:

- Confirmation of Employment letter, no older than three months, from their spouse's employer stating the position held within the company as well as the starting date.
- Spouse's valid passport.
- An official marriage certificate.

Schengen Visa for Minors (Children)

The parents / legal guardians of minors applying for a Schengen visa must submit some extra documents for the underage applicant:

- The minor's birth certificate.
- Application form signed by both parents.
- Family court order – in cases where only one parent has full custody of the child.
- Certified copies of ID/passport of both parents.
- A notarized parental authorization signed by both parents/guardians if the minor will be travelling alone.

Specific Documents Required According to Schengen Visa Type
Apart from all the aforementioned documents, depending on the Schengen visa type you are applying for, several additional documents should be submitted as well.

Major Documents Required when Applying for a Tourist Visa

The additional required documents to obtain a Schengen visa for tourism purposes are:

- Bank statement. Preferably for the last 6 months.
- Affidavit of Support. In case one does not have a bank account or does not own enough funds to be taking care of their expenses during this travel, one must ask the visiting friends or relatives to sign an "official affidavit of support" at the corresponding office in his/her place of residence. Make sure you carry the original document when applying for the visa.
- Travel Itinerary. The applicant's description of their trip, the purpose of travelling, the time frame and all the personal data written down in a letter,

as well as hotel reservations or a formal invitation letter from a resident of a Schengen country.

Documents Required when Applying for a Training Visa

The additional required documents to obtain a Schengen Training visa are:

- Enrollment certificate. At an eligible institution for the courses, one will be attending in the Schengen country.
- No objection letter. NOC from the educational institution where the visa applicant is currently enrolled (if applicable)

Documents Required when Applying for a Medical Visa

The additional required documents to obtain a Schengen Medical visa are:

- A letter from a doctor/clinic/hospital in the home country of the visa candidate, that he or she needs medical treatment.
- Official confirmation of the treatment/appointment by the receiving medical institution (hospital/clinic) in the EU.
- Proof of financial means. Proof that the applicant has sufficient financial means to pay the medical expenses and other related expenses throughout their treatment. This can be one of the following:
 - Bank statements.
 - Letter of sponsorship + bank statements of the sponsor.
 - Proof of advance payments of the treatment + bank statement for other related expenses.
 - Verbal note from the Ministry of Health of applicant's home country – which must declare the readiness of the relevant government of the applicant's home country to cover his medical treatment costs (for covered medical treatment by the Government of the home country of the applicant).

TO STUDY IN SCHENGEN ZONE

The Student Schengen Visa is basically a Europe Study Visa for a short span. So, the [student visa](#) for Europe lets a student stay in the member countries of the Schengen Zone for a maximum of 3 months. If the course you are pursuing has a longer duration, you will have to apply for a long-stay study visa for the particular country.

You can apply for the Schengen study visa as long as you are not a citizen of the Schengen Zone and your home country has not signed a visa-free agreement with any of the member countries.

You can check this Blog post to get further about information about study in Europe <https://yocket.com/blog/student-schengen-visa> or Click the Link above.

LANGUAGE ISSUES AS REGARDS SCHENGEN COUNTRIES.

Majority of Schengen countries speak English has their second language, although the rate vary from country to Country. Countries like Finland, Sweden, Denmark speaks English more.

My Opinion: Language should not stop you from Traveling to Schengen Countries, we will only stop learning the day we die.

NOTE:

Your Schengen visa will be denied if the authorities believe you cannot afford your travel and living expenses in the Schengen area. In order for you visa application to be successful, you must successfully demonstrate that you can afford food, housing, travel, and all other costs associated with their trip. 12 Dec 2020

Refrence

https://www.google.com/search?q=what+is+schengen&rlz=1CDGOYI_enNG1006NG1007&oq=what+is+schen&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j0i512l5.7394j1j7&hl=en-US&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8

<https://www.axa-schengen.com/en/apply-schengen-visa/schengen-visa-types>

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-visa_en

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