

“Visa to get married” requirements – Embassy of Belgium 10/02/16

Requirements to declare a legal cohabitation in Belgium

The visa ‘to declare a legal cohabitation in Belgium’ is a C type visa (Schengen visa). This visa allows you to declare a legal cohabitation with your partner residing in Belgium, procedure that has to be done within the three (3) months of the applicants’ arrival in Belgium. To avoid any disappointment, applicants are advised to submit their complete files at least three (3) months before the intended date of departure since these applications are sent to Home Office in Brussels for decision.

IMPORTANT

Before submitting the visa application, all foreign official documents must be legalized consecutively by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country that issued the documents and by the competent Embassy of Belgium. For more information on legalization check: <http://diplomatie.belgium.be/nigeria/>

All files must consist of one set of original documents + **2 complete sets** of clear, legible photocopies of every original document submitted (passport included).

Please note that applicant and person to be joined should be above 21 years old.

Required Documents:

1. A passport recognized by the Schengen country(ies) you intend to visit, valid for at least three months following the date of expiry of the requested visa + copy of bio data page and all pages of the passport with visas and stamps
2. Two (2) legibly and fully completed application forms, dated and signed with 2 recent colour passport pictures to be glued on the visa application form. Please do not forget to mention your **legible e-mail address** since the Embassy will only contact you by e-mail.
3. If you are non-Nigerian, you will have to prove that you are a legal resident in Nigeria.
4. History of the relationship and proof of the permanent and stable character: explanation letter and proof of relationship i.e. pictures, visas, plane tickets, e-mails, hotel invoices etc.
5. A medical certificate filled out by an approved medical doctor by the Belgian Embassy issued not more than six months prior to the date of application. Please check the list of approved medical practitioners:
http://www.vfsglobal-be-ng.com/pdf/Approved_medical_practitioners_010216.pdf
6. Proof of sponsorship/financial means by the person to be joined in Belgium:
 - affidavit of support (Annex 3 bis) to be obtained by your host at the municipal office of his place of residence and legalized by that authority
 - salary slips of the last three months of your guarantor and/or most recent income tax decision (if he’s independent)
 - an attestation of family composition of the guarantor (issued by the municipal administration)
 - copy of identity card or residence permit of the guarantor (front and back).

(Your guarantor can find a detailed information brochure on this issue in Dutch or French on the following website www.dofi.ibz.be)

7. Proof that the person being joined has sufficient accommodation (registered lease or registered property deed).

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8. Proof of employment/income of the applicant:

- if employee: letter of appointment, leave letter, salary slips of the last 6 months and bank statements of your salary account
- if retired: proof of retirement + bank statements of the account where your pension comes in
- if you are an owner of a business: all documents relating to the company (Tax Clearance Certificate/Memorandum of Articles of Association/Certificate of Incorporation of a Company/Certificate of Registration/Personal Income Certificate), letter of introduction and bank statements of the last 6 months (personal/business).

9. A certificate attesting the lack of any convictions for crimes or offences under common law issued not more than six months prior to the date of application – legalized Police Character Certificate

10. Proof that both parties are not married

11. Travel Health Insurance covering all Schengen countries for an amount of at least 30.000 €. Please check the website for the officially recognized companies.

Two sets of copies of all previous documents. Please note that the documents should be arranged in the above order, and be followed by 2 sets of copies in the same exact order.

These visa applications have to be submitted to the Home Office in Brussels by diplomatic pouch so processing time is much longer than a short stay visa.

The verification of the submitted documents can delay or impede the issuance of the requested visa.

These delays depend exclusively upon the instance that issued the documents.

When entering the Schengen territory, the Immigration Authorities may want to see any of the above-mentioned documents and/or proof of sufficient funds. If you cannot provide these, you risk being sent back home with the next flight, since you do not meet the conditions to enter the Schengen territory any more.

Any false statements or documents will lead to your application being rejected. Please note that an incomplete file may lead to a visa refusal.

A complete file does not either guarantee the issuance of a visa. Additional documents may be required to substantiate your visa request.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL BELGIUM APPLICANTS:

Increased fees for visa applications

Please note: As of 02 February 2020 the Schengen visa fee per person (Short Stay Visa) will increase from 60 to 80 euros or the equivalent amount in your local currency. For children between 6-12 years old the visa fee will increase to 40 euros or equivalent

As of 02 February 2020 travelers will be able to submit their visa applications up to 6 months ahead of the scheduled departure date. As a rule, applications shall be lodged no later than 15 calendar days before the start of the intended visit to the Schengen area.

Guarantees for return (assessment of migration risk): The applicant is requested to provide as much information as possible to document his/her family background, professional and socio-economic status, ownership of land or real estate (for instance: proof of family bonds with his/her country of origin, proof of regular income and stable source of revenues from the applicant and/or his/her partner, proof of property, etc.)

This information is essential to correctly judge the intention of the applicant to leave the Schengen area before the expiry of his/her visa.