



Schengen Visa Information for Applicants

What is a Schengen Visa?

The Schengen visa is a short-stay authorisation issued by one of the Member States of the Schengen Area. It allows you to stay in or transit through the territory of all the Schengen Member States and to travel between them without any borders. Entry to and departure from the Schengen zone is possible through any Member State.

If you intend to stay for more than 90 days (e.g. full-term university studies, residence, employment, commercial establishment, diplomats on posting) you cannot get a Schengen visa: You need to apply for a long-stay visa that can only be issued by your country of destination.

There is no legal entitlement to be issued a visa, and the possession of a visa does not confer you an automatic right of entry. The ultimate decision regarding admission to the Schengen territory lies with the Border Authorities upon arrival.

Which countries can I travel to?

Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia

Who can apply for a Schengen visa in Saudi Arabia?

Saudi Arabian nationals and third-country nationals who are legally resident in the Kingdom can apply in Saudi Arabia.

At which embassy or consulate do I need to apply for the visa?

It is essential that you apply for your visa at the correct embassy or consulate and not simply at an embassy or consulate of your convenience. Otherwise there is a serious risk that you will be refused entry at the border.

If you are planning to visit only one country you need to apply with that Member State's embassy or consulate.

If your visit includes more than one country, you need to apply with the Member State that is the main destination of your visit: either the one where you are going to stay longest or the one where the main purpose of your visit lies. Examples¹

¹ Examples for main destination: (1) You wish to travel for holiday purposes to country A (for seven days) and B (for four days) via an airport in C (no stay but stop-over): In this case the embassy / consulate of A has to deal with the application because country A is the main destination in terms of purpose and length of stay.

If no main destination can be determined (because you are travelling to several countries for the same periods of time or for various purposes), the Member State whose external border you intend to cross first for entering the Schengen zone (e.g. the first airport) is responsible for your visa application.

Where do I need to go to lodge my visa application?

Applications can be either lodged through an external service provider (visa application centre) or directly at the embassy or consulate. This depends on each country, so please check the web site of the Member States through the links below.

What is the fee for a Schengen visa?

The visa for adults costs 60 Euros (or the equivalent in Saudi Riyals). The visa for children under six years is free. Children from the age of six years and below the age of 12 years pay 35 Euros. For exemptions check the website of the Member State through the links below. If applications are processed through a visa application centre, an additional service fee applies.

How long before my intended stay do I need to apply for the visa?

Latest, you need to apply at least working 15 days before your planned departure. However, in order to make sure that you obtain your visa in time, you should lodge your application as early as possible. This is particularly advised if you are planning to travel during the summer holidays and around Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha. Applications can be lodged as early as three months before the start of the intended stay.

Do I need an appointment for lodging my visa application?

Applicants may be required to fix an appointment for the lodging of an application. This depends on each Member State, so please check the websites below.

Do I need to come in person for the application?

For all first-time visa applications you need to come in person as your fingerprints need to be taken. They will be registered for five years. In individual cases you may be additionally called for an interview during the examination of your application.

Which documents do I need to submit for my application?

Please check the list of documents to be submitted upon application on the web site of the embassy or consulate. In individual cases, you may be requested additional documents during the examination your application.

(2) You wish to go to country D for business (two days) and decide to visit relatives in E on the same occasion (six days). You will arrive at and leave through the airport in country F: The main purpose of your trip is the business appointment, and thus the embassy / consulate of D has to deal with the application.

(3) You wish to go to country E for a family visit (four days) and have additionally organised a meeting with a business partner in D (two days). You will arrive at and leave from the airport in country F: The main purpose of your trip is the private function, and thus the embassy / consulate of E has to deal with the application.

Which documents do I need to carry during my trip?

Mere possession of a Schengen visa does not mean that the holder is guaranteed the right to enter the Schengen Area. The ultimate decision about admission lies with the border authorities. At the border, you may be requested to produce documents justifying the main destination, purpose and conditions of the intended stay, your health insurance coverage and that you have sufficient means of subsistence.

Links to the websites of the Schengen Member States in Saudi Arabia

AUSTRIA <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/riyadh.html>

BELGIUM www.diplomatie.be/riyadh

CZECH REPUBLIC www.mzv.cz/riyadh/en

DENMARK: <http://saudiarabien.um.dk/>

ESTONIA Represented by Austria

FINLAND Represented by Sweden

FRANCE www.ambafrance-sa.org

Consulate General in Jeddah: <http://www.consulfrance-djeddah.org>

GERMANY www.riad.diplo.de

Consulate General Jeddah: www.djidda.diplo.de

GREECE www.mfa.gr/riyadh

Consulate General Jeddah www.mfa.gr/jeddah

HUNGARY www.mfa.gov.hu/emb/riyadh

ICELAND Represented by Denmark

ITALY www.ambriad.esteri.it

Consulate General Jeddah www.consgedda.esteri.it

LATVIA Represented by Germany

LIECHTENSTEIN Represented by Switzerland

LITHUANIA <http://eg.mfa.lt>

LUXEMBOURG Represented by Belgium

MALTA <http://www.mfa.gov.mt/Default.aspx?MDIS=138>

NETHERLANDS <http://saudiarabia.nlembassy.org>

NORWAY <http://www.al-norwige.org.sa/Embassy/>

POLAND <http://riyad.msz.gov.pl/en>

PORTUGAL

SLOVAKIA Embassy in Cairo: <http://www.mzv.sk/kahira>

SLOVENIA Represented by Austria

SPAIN www.maec.es/embajadas/riad

SWEDEN www.swedenabroad.com/riyadh

SWITZERLAND www.eda.admin.ch/riyadh