

MEDIA INFORMATION

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VFS Global Continues its Long-standing Commitment to Türkiye through Enhanced Services and Key Operational Milestones

VFS Global, the world's leading provider of trusted technology and outsourcing services for governments and citizens, continues to focus on the expansion of its operations and infrastructure in Türkiye. Since establishing its presence in the country in 2010, VFS Global has consistently invested in the local economy and travel sector, facilitating seamless global mobility for residents of Türkiye

As part of this ongoing commitment, VFS Global has recently achieved several major milestones, including:

- **A Growing Partnership:** In a significant step forward for its local operations, VFS Global was recently entrusted with managing Türkiye visa services across 14 countries. This partnership underscores the company's role in supporting Türkiye's position as a welcoming global destination and reflects a shared commitment to excellence in traveler services.
- **Enhancing the Applicant Journey: France, Switzerland's and UKVI:** In a strategic move to improve the applicant experience, VFS Global has recently enhanced its facilities for several key partner governments. This includes the relocation and upgrade of the France and Switzerland Visa Application Centres in Ankara and Istanbul to more spacious and seamless environments designed for world-class service. Furthermore, the company has formally inaugurated its new state-of-the-art UK Visa Application Centre in Istanbul. This facility supports the mandate awarded to VFS Global to provide UK visa services across 142 countries, including Türkiye, and follows a year where approximately 190.000 UK visas were processed for Turkish nationals.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** To better serve the growing number of travellers, VFS Global has expanded its presence with modern facilities designed for comfort and efficiency. The newly enhanced France Visa Application Centres in Ankara and Istanbul, alongside the dedicated UK Visa Application Centre in Istanbul, offer 4430 sqm of state-of-the-art space focused on providing a seamless experience for every applicant.
- **Tech Innovation and System Improvements:** VFS Global is at the forefront of digital transformation in the visa industry. Recent improvements to the appointment booking system have focused on enhancing security, reducing wait times, and providing a more intuitive user interface for applicants. These updates are part of a broader effort to leverage advanced technology, including Generative AI, to streamline administrative tasks and increase overall productivity.
- **A Significant Local and Global Employer:** VFS Global's growth in Türkiye is underpinned by its investment in local talent. The company is a major contributor to the Turkish workforce, currently employing around 1200 Turkish nationals within the country and beyond borders within VFS Global's global network to manage its expanding operations. This commitment reflects the high

caliber of professional expertise Türkiye provides to the international visa and consular services sector.

Commenting on these developments, Mr. **Sertan Aslantürk, Country Head for Türkiye and Azerbaijan, VFS Global**, said: "Our journey in Türkiye since 2010 has always been about building trust and providing the best possible service to travelers. By investing in modern facilities and our talented local team, we look forward to continuing our support for the Turkish community for many years to come".

VFS Global caters to 28 sovereign governments in Türkiye namely Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA, and Ukraine, through a network of 18 visa application centres in 11 cities: Ankara, Istanbul, Edirne, Bursa, Izmir, Ankara, Adana, Antalya, Gaziantep, Trabzon and Diyarbakir.

As a trusted partner to 28 foreign governments in Türkiye, VFS Global would like to remind applicants across the country the following points:

1. Apply for your visa as early as possible

It is recommended to apply for visas as early as booking flights and stay. Most countries accept visa applications up to 90 days (3 months) before your date of travel. According to the revised Schengen Visa Code, effective 09 February 2020, you can apply for a Schengen visa up to 6 months before your date of travel.

2. Visa appointments through VFS Global are absolutely free of cost

They must be booked directly through our official website www.vfsglobal.com or government portals. VFS Global does not charge any fee for booking appointments. However, some governments require pre-payment of the service fee at the time of booking the appointment. This payment will be reimbursed or deducted during the application process. This step is only to ensure genuine travellers use appointment booking and the system is kept safe from misuse by fraudulent entities.

3. VFS Global does not work in association with any third-party entity for appointment allocation

Please beware of scammers and fraudulent entities who claim to be associated with us in any capacity or pose as VFS Global claiming to offer guaranteed appointments.

4. VFS Global staff or any third-party entity cannot influence your visa decisions

The decision on accepting or refusing your visa application, the visa tenure, and timeline to process your application lie solely in the hands of the respective embassies or consulates.

5. VFS Global never asks you to share your personal information or make an upfront payment via any social media message, email, SMS, or calls.

If applicants have been asked to make payments to personal accounts to expedite visa application process, applicants may be interacting with a scamster. Payments should only be made through our official website (www.vfsglobal.com) or at our Visa Application Centre.

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About VFS Global

As the global leader in trusted technology services, empowering secure mobility for governments and citizens, VFS Global embraces technological innovation, including Generative AI, to support governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. The company manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to applications for visa, passport, and consular services for its client governments, increasing productivity and enabling them to focus entirely on the critical task of assessment.

With a responsible approach to technology development, adoption and integration, the company prioritises ethical practices and sustainability while serving as the trusted partner to 70 client governments. Operating over 4,000 Application Centres in 167 countries, VFS Global has efficiently processed more than 533 million transactions* since 2001.

Headquartered in Zurich and Dubai, VFS Global is majority owned by Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager, along with minority shareholders including Swiss-based Kuoni and HUGENTOBLER Foundation, Singapore based Temasek and UAE based Dubai Holdings.

** Comprised of 333.5 million transactions by VFS Global and 199.5 million transactions by CiX Citizen Experience*

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