

MEDIA INFORMATION

Türkiye | 16 February 2026

## VFS Global urges Turkish travellers to apply for visas in advance ahead of peak travel season and beware of fraud

- *Visa appointments can be booked only through official channels such as VFS Global or Embassy websites*
- *VFS Global or any third-party entity cannot guarantee you a visa; decisions are the sole prerogative of Embassies / Consulates*

Ahead of the peak travel season, VFS Global, the global leader in trusted technology services, shared an advisory for visa applicants in Türkiye to avoid visa related fraud and apply for visas in advance.

**Mr. Sertan Aslantürk, Country Head for Türkiye and Azerbaijan, VFS Global,** said: “We strongly urge travellers to submit their visa applications as early as possible. Last-minute applications not only risk travel delays but also create opportunities for fraudsters to exploit an applicant’s sense of urgency. It is vital to remember that visa appointments are free and must only be booked through our official website. VFS Global does not partner with external agents for appointments, nor do we influence visa decisions. We advise all applicants to exercise extreme caution and avoid any unverified individuals claiming to represent us.”

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](http://www.vfsglobal.com) or government portals. There could be a nominal service fee to prepay for select countries. We do not offer “priority access” or sell any appointment slots.

**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](http://www.vfsglobal.com)) or at our Visa Application Centre.

If visa applicants have been approached by someone selling appointments or claiming insider access, report it to us immediately by visiting <https://secure.ethicspoint.eu/domain/media/en/gui/108559/index.html>. Applicants can also visit our anti-fraud resource page at <https://www.vfsglobal.com/en/donotfallforfraud/> to learn more and protect themselves and their loved ones. If applicants become a victim of visa/immigration fraud, report it to police.

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

VFS Global is also an official partner of Directorate General of Immigration for e-VoA related services

**Enjoy our optional value-added services for a seamless visa experience such as:**

- **Visa At Your Doorstep:** Apply for your visa and enrol biometrics from the location of your choice.
- **Premium Lounge:** Get an end-to-end personalised visa submission experience from the comfort of a lounge.
- **Keep My Passport When Applying:** Convenient service for UK visa applicants to hold on to their passports till the visa decision comes.
- **Prime Time:** Apply for your visa beyond normal working hours or even on weekends.
- **Prime time passport collection:** applicable only for USA where applicant can pick their passport beyond normal working hours in Istanbul and in Ankara
- **Courier Service:** We deliver your passport and documents. It's quick, safe, and convenient.

**End**

**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 69 client governments. Operating over 4,000 Application Centres in 166 countries, VFS Global has efficiently processed more than 528 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.

Partnering Governments. Providing Solutions.



*\*Comprised of 332 million transactions by VFS Global and 196 million transactions by CiX Citizen Experience*

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