

MEDIA INFORMATION

Türkiye | 10 April 2026

VFS Global alerts residents of Türkiye against visa frauds, advises to apply early to avoid delays

- ***Visa appointments are absolutely free and available only on www.vfsglobal.com***
- ***VFS Global has no role or influence on the decision of your visa application***
- ***VFS Global does not work in association with any third-party entities***
- ***VFS Global does not control appointments availability. These are governed and controlled by our client governments.***
- ***Security measures implemented to safeguard applicants***

With the surge in outbound travel demand from Türkiye, visa applications submitted for various countries are at volumes higher than ever before. With this increased demand for visa application appointments, scammers pose as employees or associates of the organisation; or agents and intermediaries who sell appointments, issue fake appointment letters, or claim to influence positive visa decision, etc. to embezzle innocent visa applicants.

It is important to note that VFS Global does not control appointments availability. These are governed and controlled by our client governments. The availability of visa appointments, mandatory documentation, and the visa application decision are entirely at the discretion of the respective governments. Processing times are also under their control. VFS Global has no role whatsoever.

Commenting on the matter, **Sertan Aslanturk, Regional Head – Türkiye and Azerbaijan, VFS Global**, said, *“We urge all travellers to apply for their visas early, well before their planned dates. Delaying your application not only increases the risk of delays but also exposes applicants to fraudulent entities seeking to exploit their urgency. At the same time, we have proactively strengthened our appointment system with multiple security layers — from domain and IP restrictions to enhanced OTP verification — to ensure applicants can access appointments safely and securely. These measures reflect our commitment to protecting travellers and maintaining the integrity of the visa application process”.*

To better protect applicants and ensure secure access to visa appointments, we have introduced several security measures across select locations, locally and globally, where approved by the governments we serve. These actions help us continue to provide a safe, efficient, and reliable visa application process:

1. **Email Domain Restrictions:** Blocking suspicious email domain names based on continuous monitoring.
2. **Appointment Limitations per E-mail:** Allowing a maximum of 3 or 5 appointments per registered email address.
3. **IP Restrictions:** Automatically blocking suspicious or multiple-access IP addresses.
4. **VPN Access Restriction:** Full restriction on VPN access to prevent masking attempts.

5. **Waitlist Feature:** Ensuring better management of appointment requests.
6. **Enhanced OTP Verification:** Reinforcing security with additional one-time password (OTP) verification layers in the process.

Here's a quick guide for visa applicants to mitigate frauds:

1- Apply early

It is recommended to apply for visas as early as booking flights and accommodation. 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 are free

We do not charge any payment for scheduling visa appointments for countries we serve. Appointments are free and can be booked only on www.vfsglobal.com. There could be a nominal service fee to prepay for select countries.

3- VFS Global has no role or influence on the decision of your visa application

The decision on visa applications, the visa tenure, and timelines to process them lie solely in the hands of the concerned Embassies or Consulates. VFS Global simply handles the administrative and non-judgmental aspects of the visa application process. VFS Global or any third-party entity has no role or influence on the decision of your visa application.

4- VFS Global does not work in association with any third-party entities

Applicants should beware of scammers and fraudulent entities who claim to be associated with us in any capacity or pose as VFS Global to guarantee appointments or positive visa decision to dupe them.

VFS Global caters to 29 sovereign governments in Türkiye, namely Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and Ukraine. VFS Global's role in the visa application process is limited to front-end administrative tasks only, which include collecting visa application forms, required documentation as per the checklist, and enrol biometrics, if applicable. VFS Global has no role in the decision-making process of granting or refusing a visa.

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.



Partnering Governments. Providing Solutions.



With a responsible approach to technology development, adoption and integration, the company prioritises ethical practices and sustainability while serving as the trusted partner to 71 client governments. Operating over 4,000 Application Centres in 167 countries, VFS Global has efficiently processed more than 537 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 335.46 million transactions by VFS Global and 201.85 million transactions by CIX Citizen Experience*