



Consulate General of Italy
Bengaluru

REQUISITES FOR RELIGIOUS VISA (C or D)

A religious visa (Schengen – short stay or National – long stay) entitles the holder to enter the Schengen area or reside in Italy for the purpose of carrying out religious work. Applicants must be members of a recognized religious organization, actively contributing to its religious objectives, and officially endorsed by the organization. **In order to apply, it is mandatory to submit the official document issued by the religious organization** proving the applicant's religious status and the endorsement of their travel.

Please be informed that religious visas are only granted to members of established religious bodies. Applicants who wish to participate in pilgrimages or religious events should apply for a tourist visa (for short visits, up to 90 days). Those attending novitiate courses, studying, or undergoing religious training should apply for a “study” visa.

All applications must be submitted at least 15 working days before departure. In case of National visa, processing time could take up to 90 days. **Appointments made without adhering to this timeframe and the information above will not be accepted.**

CHECKLIST			✓
1.	Passport / Travel Document	a) Issued within the previous 10 years, and the validity must not exceed 10 years. b) No handwritten passports will be accepted. Passports with any manual observations will not be accepted. c) Must have a validity of at least 3 months after the intended stay. d) Have at least 2 blank pages. e) Should be issued within the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Italy in Bengaluru (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry); otherwise, proof of address for a minimum of 6 months must be provided. In case the address shown on the passport does not lay in the mentioned States or in case of non-correspondence of the addresses shown in the documents submitted, the applicant must provide proof of residence in the jurisdiction (Aadhaar card, rental agreement, electricity bill, water bill, broadband bill, bank account, or original letter from the Congregation or Religious institution attesting the residential address) for the last 6 months prior to application submission.	
2.	Visa Application Form duly filled	a) 2 signatures of the applicant. b) 2 passport-sized photographs to be submitted c) Travel dates and duration of stay must be mentioned. d) Contact details must be mentioned clearly and must pertain to the applicant, NOT TO THE AGENT.	
3.	Letter from Indian Congregation / Religious association	An original letter from the Congregation/ Religious institution in India, printed on the official letterhead, must include the following details: a) Full name & role of the applicant within the congregation. b) Purpose of travel to Italy or the Schengen area c) Travel dates, itinerary, and duration of stay. d) Details of the sponsor of the trip. e) Name, designation, and signature of the authorised signatory.	
4.	In case of Catholic religious applicant	1. Nunciature letter: a Note Verbale from the Apostolic Nunciature in New Delhi, in original and on the official letterhead, must be submitted along with a clear, legible photocopy. The letter should confirm the duration and purpose of the applicant's religious trip to Italy or the Schengen area. 2. Vatican letter: sponsorship letter from the hosting Congregation in Italy,	

		attested by the Secretary of State – Vatican, detailing the religious nature of the event or activities that constitute the purpose of the visit. (Original and legible photocopy required).	
5.	In case of Buddhist religious applicant	1. UBI Letter: a letter from the Italian Buddhist Union confirming the invitation and purpose of the trip. The letter shall also be submitted by UBI directly via email or certified email to the Consulate General. 2. Host institution letter: sponsorship letter from the Buddhist institution/association where the applicant will be hosted during their stay in Italy. A copy of the signee ID must be attached.	
6.	Other religions	1. Letter from the Responsible of the Religious Organization in Italy confirming the invitation and the purpose of the trip. A copy of the signee ID must be attached. The letter shall also be submitted by the same directly via email to the Consulate General. 2. Host institution letter: sponsorship letter from the religious institution/association where the applicant will be hosted during their stay in Italy. A copy of the signee ID must be attached.	
7.	Financial means	In case the host or the local institution do not declare that they will financially sponsor the travel and stay, proof of sufficient financial means must be attached: - Personal Bank Statement of the last 3 months with bank stamp and seal (in every page) in original copy - ITR acknowledgement for the last 3 years or form 16A - Salary slips in case of employment; registration certificate in case of proprietorship; pension statement in case of retirement.	
8.	Applicant's Passport copy	a) Photocopy (one copy of the front page, one copy of the last page and a copy of the page where any observations are mentioned in the passport) b) Photocopies of all Schengen visas issued in the last 10 years (if any) c) Photocopy of a valid US visa (if any)	
9.	Overseas Medical Insurance	a) Covering travel period with coverage of Euros 30000 inclusive of a repatriation clause. b) Insurance for a minimum of 10 days is mandatory from the travel date.	
10.	Air Ticket	Copy of flight tickets or airline reservations (round trip in case of short stay; one way in case of long stay).	

Kindly note that applicants have no legal right to be issued a visa, but a legitimate interest to have their application processed in compliance with the Italian law and the Schengen regulations. Therefore, the consular authorities have no obligation to compensate the applicant for any financial loss or moral prejudice resulting from the processing of his/her application.

By signing here below, the applicant formally confirms:

- **to have submitted the tick-marked documents;**
- **that the purpose of his/her visit to Italy or the Schengen area corresponds to the requested visa category** (tourism, business, etc.);
- to be aware that, in accordance with the Schengen Visa Code and Italian law, the Consulate General of Italy in Bengaluru can extend the application's processing time in order to request the applicant for a personal interview and/or additional documentation.

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Acknowledgement by Applicant

Date :

Sign :