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8-800-505-50-10

FREE from any landline phone in Ukraine

527 FREE from life:), Kyivstar and MTS mobile phone numbers

www.migrantinfo.org.ua

Ensure your safety in advance

Learn about your rights when studying,
working, travelling or living abroad

Contacts

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ABOUT THE SCHENGEN VISA



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This publication is produced within the framework of the
Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme
funded by the European Commission



Capacity Building
in Migration Management
Programme

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Basic facts about the Schengen visa

There are currently **24 European countries** that belong to the Schengen zone: **Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden**

• A Schengen visa generally covers **entry and travel in all of the countries that have signed the Schengen Agreement**, although there are exceptions in which the visa may restrict your travel to certain Schengen countries

• There are **three types of the Schengen visas**:

- Airport transit visa (type “A”): for stopover or transfer at an airport of a Schengen state
- Transit visa (type “B”): for transit through the territory of one or more Schengen states
- Short-term visa (type “C”): for staying in one or several Schengen states

• A Schengen visa allows stays which do not exceed **three months over a six-month period**

• **For longer periods of time abroad, national visas (type “D”) and residence permits are required for Schengen countries**

• **Schengen visas can be valid for single entry or multiple entries.** If you plan to leave the Schengen area during your travels, you should apply for the multiple-entry Schengen visa

• **Applications for the Schengen visa must be made at the consulate of the country that is your main destination.** If your main destination is unclear (you plan to visit several Schengen countries and stay approximately the same period of time in each of them), the country you first enter is responsible for handling your visa application

• A **uniform visa application** form is used by all Schengen countries

• **SCHENGEN VISAS DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO WORK OR TO CARRY OUT ANY OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES DURING YOUR STAY**

How should I apply for a Schengen visa?

Contact the respective embassy/consular section and clarify information about:

- **specific documents** to be provided for the type of visa you need
- **procedure of submission** of your visa application. Please note that the embassies of Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain have introduced a new procedure for handling visa applications through intermediaries. In accordance with the new procedure, you should submit your visa application with all the supporting documents to special visa centres. The services of such visa centres cost 170 UAH. The embassies of Germany and France are partly using the services of such visa centres (they are responsible for assigning the date of your interview at the Embassy)

Complete and sign your visa application form, and attach your recent photograph. Schengen visa application forms are *free* and are distributed at the relevant embassies. You may also download application forms from the websites of the embassies or consular departments

Present a valid passport (validity must extend until at least 3 months after the end of planned travel)

Present documents that describe the purpose and circumstances of your visit (an official letter, a written request, etc.)

Demonstrate sufficient means of subsistence for the proposed journey and for the return trip to Ukraine (for example, bank statements, proof of income or an invitation letter or sponsorship declaration from your relatives/friends in a Schengen country)

You may be asked for a **copy of your travel itinerary** with a confirmed reservation or other proof of your **means of transport**

Arrange and present medical insurance that should be valid in all countries of the European Union for the whole duration of the stay (number of days) and the validity period of the visa (insurance must cover a minimum of € 30 000). Specify at the embassy which companies are in the official list of registered and approved travel medical insurance companies for Schengen countries. Only travel medical insurance from these companies will be accepted

Pay the consular fee (handling fee for submitting visa application)

Any embassy reserves the right to request any other supporting documents.

A decision on a visa application shall be taken within **10 calendar days** of the date of receipt of the completed visa application and supporting documents (this period may be extended up to 30 days when further review is needed).

Visa handling fee for Ukrainian citizens

The fee for processing **all types of Schengen visa applications**, irrespective of the number of entries, is € **35**.

An extra fee of € **70 on urgent requests** (3 days before departure) may also be incurred. This does not apply to members of official delegations, members of national and regional Governments and Parliaments, Constitutional Courts and Supreme Courts, cases related to humanitarian or health reasons (disabled persons and those to receive urgent medical treatment), journalists and pensioners.

CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE THAT ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE VISA FEE

• **close relatives** - spouses, children (including adopted), parents (including custodians), grandparents and grandchildren, visiting citizens of Ukraine legally residing in the territory of the Member States

• **members of official delegations** who, following an official invitation addressed to Ukraine, shall participate in meetings, consultations, negotiations or exchange programmes, as well as in events held in the territory of one of the Member States by intergovernmental organizations

• **members of national and regional Governments and Parliaments, Constitutional Courts and Supreme Courts**, if they are not exempted from the visa requirement by the Agreement between EC and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas

• **pupils, students, post-graduate students and accompanying teachers** who undertake trips for the purposes of study or educational training

• **disabled persons and the person accompanying them**, if necessary

• **persons who have presented documents proving the necessity of their travel on humanitarian grounds**, including to receive urgent medical treatment and the person accompanying such person, or to attend a funeral of a close relative, or to visit a seriously ill close relative

• **participants in international sporting events** and persons accompanying them in a professional capacity

• **persons participating in scientific, cultural and artistic activities** including university and other exchange programmes

• **participants in official exchange programmes organised by twin cities**

• **journalists**

• **pensioners**

• **drivers conducting international cargo and passenger transportation services** to the territories of the Member states in vehicles registered in Ukraine

• **members of train, refrigerator and locomotive crews in international trains** travelling to the territories of the Member States

• **children under the age of 18 and dependant children under the age of 21**

What is the Schengen Information System (SIS)?

The **Schengen Information System** was introduced as a result of the agreements between Schengen countries on police cooperation and assistance for purposes of prevention and search for punishable facts, and also for the purposes of preventing illegal migration from third countries to Schengen zone countries.

Information on every applicant for the Schengen visa is checked in the SIS database. A **Schengen visa may be denied if the applicant is a person for whom an alert has been issued in the SIS**. In such situations, the Schengen visa is issued only in exceptional cases.

Visa warning

Embassies ask that all individuals applying for a visa give complete and correct information about themselves on the visa application form. Do not fall prey to outside parties who want to convince you that there are “right” answers to visa applications. Though you may be reluctant to answer visa questions honestly, despite what “consultants” may say, **truth is your greatest defence**. If you are caught lying on your visa application, there is a good chance that you will be refused entrance to your presumptive destination country. Remember that the information you provide during your visa application is investigated by the embassy officials and the only right answers are the truthful ones.

