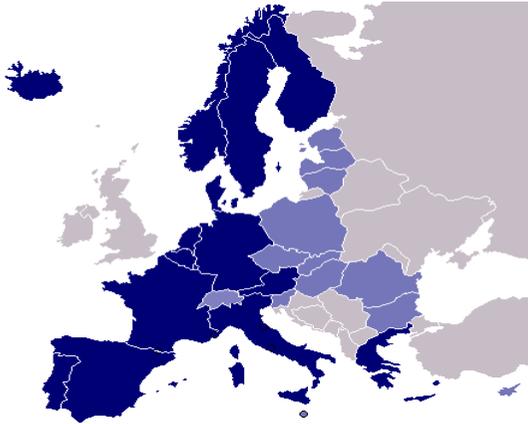




Visiting Europe - the Schengen Visa

This leaflet is for those who have a student visa and wish to visit Europe



Can I travel to Europe on my Tier 4 student visa?

No

What is a Schengen Visa?

A Schengen visa allows you to visit any of the 26 Schengen countries in Europe. These 26 countries together are known as the 'Schengen area'.

Austria	Greece	Netherlands
Belgium	Hungary	Norway
Czech Republic	Iceland	Poland
Denmark	Italy	Portugal
Estonia	Latvia	Slovakia
Finland	Liechtenstein	Slovenia

France	Lithuania	Spain
Germany	Luxembourg	Sweden
	Malta	Switzerland

Do I need a Schengen visa to travel in Europe?

Most non-European nationals will need a Schengen visa to visit Europe. The following nationalities do not need a Schengen visa provided that they will be visiting only for tourism and have valid medical insurance. If your nationality is not on this list, you **will** need a Schengen visa.

Albania	El Salvador	Nicaragua
Andorra	EU nationals	Panama
Antigua and Barbuda	Guatemala	Paraguay
Argentina	Honduras	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Australia	Hong Kong	San Marino
Bahamas	Israel	Serbia
Barbados	Japan	Seychelles
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Macau	Singapore
Brazil	Macedonia	South Korea
Brunei	Malaysia	Taiwan
Canada	Mauritius	United States
Chile	Mexico	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Monaco	Vatican City
Croatia	Montenegro	Venezuela
	New Zealand	

Ireland is not on the Schengen visa list – can I visit it using my current visa?

Your visa entitles you to travel to Northern Ireland but not the republic of Ireland. Please see here for more information:

<http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8777>

What type of Schengen visa do I need?

Short stay visa

If you wish to visit a Schengen country for a holiday, to see the sights and experience the culture, you will need a short stay visa. This visa will allow you to visit any

country in the 'Schengen Area'. This visa can be given as a 'single' or 'multiple' entry visa.

Single entry visa

The single entry visa will allow you to travel to the 'Schengen area' and visit any of the countries within it. However, you can only enter the 'Schengen area' once with this visa. When you leave the 'Schengen area' (for instance, by returning to the UK) you will not be able to travel to the 'Schengen area' again using that visa.

Multiple entry visa

The multiple entry visa will allow you to travel to the 'Schengen area' and visit any of the countries within it. However with this visa you can leave the 'Schengen area' and then return to it using the same visa (if it has not expired). This visa is useful if you will travel within Europe a lot but need to leave the 'Schengen area' for reasons such as work or study.

Transit visas

The two transit visas are usually only used when entering the Schengen country briefly to pass through into another country outside of the Schengen area. Airport transit allows you through international transit zones in an airport while Transit allows for no more than 5 days on land through a Schengen state to a non-Schengen state.

Which country should I apply through for my visa?

Travelling to one country

If you are travelling to just 1 country, you must submit your application to that country's Embassy in the UK.

Travelling to two or more countries

If you are travelling to more than one country, you should submit your application to the Embassy of the country where you will spend the majority of your time.

If you plan to spend an **equal amount of time in several countries**, you should submit your application to the Embassy of the country you will visit **first**.

When should I apply?

It is important that you apply for your Schengen visa in advance of your travel. You must apply so that the Embassy has enough time to process your application and

Most Schengen Embassies can process applications within 15 working days but in peak periods this can be extended. Schengen Embassies will not accept an application more than 3 months before the intended date of travel.

It is therefore recommended that you apply 4-6 weeks before you intend to travel but please check with the individual Embassy for any delays or their recommendation.

What documents do I need?

Including documents to support your Schengen visa application is important. Below you will find a list of the most common documents to submit but we advise that you check the required documents on the Embassy website of the country you wish to visit as these can vary.

1. A completed application form (available from the embassy website)
2. The application fee (check amount and methods of payment on embassy website)
3. Your passport (Your passport must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the expiry date of your requested Schengen visa, with two blank visa pages).
4. British residency permit or visa
Your British residence permit (stamped in passport or in the form of a Biometric Residence Permit card) must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the expiry date of

your requested Schengen visa.

5. Photographs (see application form for the number of photos required)

6. Evidence of student status (A certificate of enrolment from Student Administration, 2Z, Cottrell building).

7. Proof of financial means of support

You must be able to show you have sufficient funds to cover your stay in the Schengen area. You should have 3 months' worth of bank statements available when you make your application. The amount of money recommended per day varies depending on the Embassy you apply to. On average, it is recommended you have approximately €50 per day but we recommend checking the requirements of the country you wish to visit by reviewing their Embassy's website.

8. Travel insurance

It is recommended that you provide your insurance certificate, a receipt for payment and the Terms and Conditions of the policy. Quotations alone are not accepted. The insurance must be registered in the UK or the Schengen country you are visiting.

9. Accommodation

If you are staying in a hotel:

Evidence of your accommodation must cover your entire stay in the Schengen area. A reservation confirmation is acceptable, if it is issued directly by the hotel. It should state the full name of the applicant, the dates of check-in and check-out, the hotel address and contact details.

Some Embassies will require you to have booked and paid for accommodation, others will only require a reservation. Please check the requirements of the country you wish to visit by reviewing their Embassy's website.

If you are staying with family or friends:

You must obtain and submit a letter of invitation from

your family or friend. Some Embassies provide a template or example of this letter for your family or friend to use. This original letter must be submitted with a copy of the person's ID or passport.

Some countries will require the letter of invitation to be approved or verified by the authorities in the Schengen country. Please check the invitation letter requirements of the country you wish to visit by reviewing their Embassy's website.

10. Transport

Evidence of a return ticket is needed. If you are travelling by car on the Eurotunnel, a return Eurotunnel ticket reservation must be shown.

11. An itinerary of your stay in the Schengen area.

This is usually only needed if you will visit more than 1 Schengen country. However, it is recommended that you provide it in any Schengen visa application.

This should explain where you intend to go (the countries and cities you will visit), the dates of your visit, how you will travel to and from the Schengen country, as well as any travel plans within the country, and where you intend to stay.

Embassy details & web addresses

The web addresses/links below will take you to the Schengen area of the embassy's website. You will find further information about the application process & links to the application form. Please note, the process does differ from country to country.

Disclaimer: The University of Stirling does not take responsibility for the content of external websites such as those listed below. The following websites are recommended as sources of information due to their connection with the relevant Embassy or government and all responsibility for their content lies with them.

Austria
<http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/london>

Belgium
<http://www.diplomatie.be/London/>

Czech Republic
http://www.mzv.cz/london/en/visa_and_consular_information/visa_information/visa_up_to_90_days.html

Denmark
<http://storbritannien.um.dk/en/travel-and-residence/short-stay-visas/where-to-apply-and-visa-application-form/>

Estonia
http://www.estonia.gov.uk/visas_passports/visa_types

Finland
<http://www.finemb.org.uk/public/default.aspx?nodeid=37221&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>

France
<http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/-/Visa,805->

Germany
http://www.london.diplo.de/Vertretung/london/en/06/Visabestimmungen/Documents_for_Schengen_seite.html

Greece
http://www.greekembassy.org.uk/pages_en/visas.html

Hungary
http://www.mfa.gov.hu/kulkepviselet/UK/en/en_Konzuli_info/visa_information.htm

Iceland
http://www.utl.is/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36&Itemid=38&lang=en

Italy
http://www.esteri.it/visti/index_eng.asp

Latvia
<http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/pakalpojumi/vizas.html>

Lithuania
<http://www.lithuanianembassy.co.uk/index.php?2139425644>

Luxemburg
<http://londres.mae.lu/en>

Malta
<http://www.foreign.gov.mt/default.aspx?MLEV=53&MDIS=534>

Netherlands
<http://dutch.embassy.uk.com/>

Norway
<http://www.norway.org.uk/Embassy/>

Poland
<http://www.londynkg.polemb.net/index.php?document=63>

Portugal
http://portugal.embassyhomepage.com/portugal_visa_application_form_portugal_visa_service_portugal_hotels_lisbon_flights_portugal_travel_insurance_portuguese_embassy_uk.htm

Slovakia
http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular_info/visa

Slovenia
<http://london.embassy.si/index.php?id=1784&L=1>

Spain
<http://www.conspalon.org>

Sweden
http://www.swedenabroad.com/Page_23300.aspx

Switzerland
http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rep/eur/vkos/rkcpr/vis_NEU/visneu/schvis.htm

General Information can be found here:
<http://www.theschengenvisa.co.uk/home>