

## SCHENGEN VISA INFORMATION

Many European countries have joined together to form the “Schengen” area, for which you only need to obtain one visa, rather than one for each of the participating countries.

**Schengen Countries:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. For an up-to-date list of Schengen countries please visit the [European Commission website](#).

Please note that the UK and Republic of Ireland are not part of the Schengen area.

### Who needs to apply?

If you are a non- EEA national and wish to visit other European countries while you are a student in the UK, you may need to apply for a “Schengen” visa. To check whether this requirement is relevant for you please visit the European Commission official [website](#).

### Schengen visa types

There are three different types of Schengen visas: Airport transit visa, Transit visa, and Short-stay visa. For more information on these categories please visit the European Commission [website](#).

Short-stay tourist visa is the most common category for students wanting to travel within the Schengen area. The information in this document relates to short-stay tourist visas.

### How to decide which Embassy to apply to?

If you are visiting only one country in the Schengen area, you should submit your visa application to the embassy/visa application centre of that country.

If you are visiting several countries in the Schengen area, you should submit your visa application to the embassy of the country that is your “main” destination. This is the country you are planning on spending most of your time in.

If you do not have a “main” destination and you are planning on visiting several countries, you should submit your visa application to the embassy of the country where you will first enter the Schengen area.

Please find the full list of Foreign Embassies in the UK [here](#).

### When to apply?

To allow enough time for your visa application to be processed it is recommended that you apply 2-3 months before the intended visit to Schengen area. Please note that applications cannot be submitted earlier than three months before the start of the visit.

You need to be aware that many countries require your UK visa and your travel document to be valid 3months after your return from the Schengen area.

### How to apply for a Schengen visa?

You will need to check the requirements at the relevant Embassy. You may be required you to book an appointment to submit your Schengen visa application form and supporting documents in person.

### **What documents do I need to submit with my application?**

Please note that you will need to submit original documents + photocopies. Please check with the relevant embassy for more information on the documentary requirements.

1. Completed and signed Schengen visa application form + visa application fee.
2. Passport-sized photographs (please see the relevant embassy's photo specification)
3. Valid travel document e.g. passport (must be valid at least three months after the intended date of departure) with enough pages for a visa sticker and stamps.
4. Visa application fee (check the amount at the relevant embassy).
5. Proof of purpose of your planned visit: If you are visiting a friend or attending a conference you will need an invitation letter. Sometimes invitation letters need to be verified by a local town hall/police. This will be explained on the Embassy's website. Bookings and reservations for accommodation may need to be shown, especially if you are not visiting a host. Check with the relevant embassy to see what type of evidence they accept.
6. Evidence of return journey.
7. Proof of financial means in the country of residence (i.e. the UK). You are required to show that you can support yourself during your visit. The evidence can be e.g. recent bank statements or credit card statements (covering the past three months). For a full list of acceptable types of evidence and how much money you are required to show check the relevant embassy's website.
8. Evidence of student status: You can download/print your student status letter via Chiview. If you require the letter to be stamped, please visit our Student Records or International Advice office with your printed letter. For semester dates, please check our [website](#), or if your programme dates do not appear here, ask your academic department for a semester dates document to include with your application.
9. Check your UK visa validity. Your UK visa must have at least three months left at the end of your trip (when you return to the UK).
10. Proof of valid Medical insurance covering the period of the trip with a minimum coverage of 30,000 Euros.

This document is for guidance only. We strongly recommend that you check the full requirements with the relevant [embassy](#) and the [European Commission website](#).

For further information:

[UKICSA Schengen Visa FAQ sheet](#).

[EU Entry/Exit System - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Travelling to the EU and Schengen area - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Chichester International Advice [international@chi.ac.uk](mailto:international@chi.ac.uk) Updated October 2024