



If you are in the UK with a student visa then you may want to visit another country as part of your course or just for a holiday. It is likely that you will need to apply for a visa in order to travel.

Visiting Europe: The Schengen visa scheme

If you are visiting a country within the European Economic Area (EEA) then you may be able to apply for a Schengen visa. This is a scheme that allows you to visit and travel to and between certain countries within the EEA using just one visa.

The following countries have currently signed up to the Schengen Agreement:

Austria	France	Latvia	Norway	Sweden
Belgium	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Greece	Luxembourg	Portugal	
Denmark	Hungary	Lichtenstein	Slovak Republic	
Estonia	Iceland	Malta	Slovenia	
Finland	Italy	Netherlands	Spain	

(Please note, the UK and Republic of Ireland are not part of the Schengen Agreement).

Different types of Schengen visa:

- **Short stay visa:** For visits to countries in the Schengen area. This allows a visit of up to three months in a six month period
- **Transit visa:** You may need this if you need to travel through a Schengen country to another country outside.
- **Airport transit visa:** You may need this if you need to transfer flights in a Schengen country.

If you are a national of one of the following countries you are considered to be a 'visa free national'. This means you should be able to visit the Schengen area for up to 90 days without first obtaining a visa.

Albania*	Barbados	Colombia	Holy See (Vatican City State)	Kiribati
Andorra	Bosnia and Herzegovina*	Costa Rica	Honduras	Macao S.A.R***
Antigua and Barbuda	Brazil	Dominica	Hong Kong S.A.R***	Malaysia
Argentina	Brunei	El Salvador	Israel	Marshall Islands
Australia	Canada	Georgia	Japan	Mexico
Bahamas	Chile	Grenada		Micronesia
		Guatemala		

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Immigration and International Student Advice

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Moldova*	Palau	Saint Vincent	Taiwan**	United Arab Emirates
Monaco	Panama	Samoa	Timor Leste	United States of America
Montenegro*	Paraguay	Serbia*	Tonga	Uruguay
Nauru	Peru	Seychelles	Trinidad and Tobago	Vanuatu
New Zealand	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Singapore	Tuvalu	Venezuela
Nicaragua	Saint Lucia	Solomon Islands	Ukraine	
North Macedonia*		South Korea		

* Visa exception only applies if you hold a biometric passport

** Visa exemption only applies to holders of a "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" passport

*** Visa exemption only applies to holders of a "Região Administrativa Especial de Macau" passport

I need to apply for a Schengen visa. What do I need to think about before I apply?

You can find the contact details of embassies in London [here](#). It is always best to check with the embassy or the consulate of the country you wish to visit regarding the specific requirements, however the following points may be useful:

- Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your return.
- You must have immigration permission that allows you to re-enter the UK at the end of your trip abroad. Many embassies require you to have a certain number of months left on your visa before it expires.
- It is highly recommendable that you take out travel insurance to cover your trip. Many embassies will require you to show you have purchased comprehensive travel insurance in order to apply for the Schengen visa. Depending on how long you have been in the UK.

Where should I apply for my Schengen visa?

- If you are visiting just one country, you should apply to the embassy or consulate of that country.
- If you are visiting more than one country, you should apply to the embassy or consulate of the 'destination' country. This is where you plan to spend the most time.
- If you are visiting more than one country and you plan to spend the same amount of time in each country, you should apply to the embassy or consulate of the country you will go to first.

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What documents will I need to apply?

Please contact the consulate or embassy directly to enquire about the requirements and documents needed to support your application as these often vary for each country.

The main documents you are likely to need are:

- A completed application form (you can get this from the relevant embassy or consulate)
- Application fee
- 2 passport photographs
- Your original passport or travel document
- Evidence that you have sufficient funds to cover your trip. This could be recent bank statements or credit card statements showing the current credit limit. There is no specified amount as this may vary from country to country however you can query this with the relevant embassy or consulate.
- Travel insurance with adequate medical cover. Your insurance should be valid for the Schengen area and cover the duration of your trip. You can check the [Post Office website](#) for travel insurance deals.
- Documents to support the reason for your trip e.g. an invitation letter from the person you are planning to visit and proof of hotel reservation or flight details.
- Evidence of your student status. Please request this from the Student Centre or download the document from the [student portal](#), providing the name of the embassy or consulate.

When you travel it is important to carry with you the documents used to apply for the Schengen visa, especially a letter confirming your student status to produce to border officers when you re-enter the UK, if necessary.

How long will the application take?

Most embassies do not issue visas on the same day so you should allow plenty of time to make your application. The relevant embassy or consulate may be able to guide you on an estimated timeframe.

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