I want to visit Europe, do I need a visa?

- EEA (European Economic Area) nationals Do **NOT** require a Schengen visa for travel in Europe.

If you are unsure if you are from an EEA country check the website: www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/eucitizens/

- Non-EEA Nationalities **MUST** check with European embassies to see if they are required to obtain a Schengen visa.

...Certain non-EEA nationalities are **EXEMPT** from needing a visa to travel through Europe. Check with embassy before travel to verify you do not need a visa and to check how long you are allowed to stay in each country. You may still need to take out valid medical insurance. You must not engage in non-tourist activity.

What is a Schengen visa?

A Schengen visa allows the holder to travel freely within 25 European countries known as the Schengen space using only one visa.

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

No.

What European countries are part of the Schengen Visa Space?

Austria: www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassylondon.html
Belgium: http://www.diplomatie.be/London/
Czech Republic: www.mzv.cz/london
Denmark: www.amblondon.um.dk/en
Estonia: www.estonia.gov.uk
Finland: www.finemb.org.uk/en
France: www.ambafrance-uk.org
Germany: www.london.diplo.de
Greece: www.greekembassy.org.uk
Hungary: www.mfa.gov.hu
Iceland: www.iceland.org/uk
Italy: http://www.amblondra.esteri.it
Lithuania: www.lithuanianembassy.co.uk/lit/English
Luxembourg: www.luxembourg.co.uk/schengen.html
Malta: www.foreign.gov.mt/
Netherlands: www.netherlands-embassy.org.uk
Norway: www.norway.org.uk
Poland: www.polishembassy.org.uk
Portugal: Main switchboard 020 7235 5331
Slovakia: www.slovakembassy.co.uk
Slovenia: http://london.embassy.si
Spain: www.conspalon.org
Sweden: http://www.swedenabroad.com/london
Switzerland: http://www.swissembassy.org.uk

Ireland is not on the Schengen visa list, can I visit it using my UK visa?

Your UK visa entitles you to travel to Northern Ireland but **NOT** the Republic of Ireland.

For visa information on entering the Republic of Ireland please visit the website below: www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8777

How can I visit a country that is not part of the Schengen Visa Space?

If you are travelling to countries outside of the Schengen space, you should contact that country’s embassy in the UK for information about immigration procedures there.

For a list of foreign embassies in the UK go to: www.fco.gov.uk

Which Schengen visa do I need?

There are 3 different types of Schengen visa:
Airport transit – through international transit zone in an airport.

Transit – no more than 5 days (on land) through Schengen state to non-Schengen state.

Short stay; single/multiple entry – up to 90 days (maximum 90 days within 180 day period) for tourism, business, family visits.

Which country should I apply through for my visa?

- If visiting only 1 Schengen country: apply to the embassy of that country.
- If visiting several countries: apply to the embassy of your main destination (the country you will spend the most time in).
- If you are visiting several countries for equal amounts of time: apply to the country which you will be visiting first.

How do I apply for the visa?

Each country’s embassy has information and Schengen visa application forms to download from their website. If the form is not available on the website you can telephone the embassy to ask them to send you a form. The embassy website will instruct you how to apply for and submit your application form.

When do I apply?

You should generally apply for your Schengen visa 2 months before you intend to travel to Europe. Check with embassy websites for when to apply.

Passport and UK visa validity

- There must be at least 1 or 2 blank page(s) in your passport before applying for Schengen visa.
- Your passport must be valid for at least 3 months on returning to the UK from Europe.
- Most countries require you to have at least 3 to 6 months remaining on your current UK visa at the time of re-entering the UK on returning from Europe.
- Your current UK visa or stamp must state ‘Leave to remain in the UK’.
- If applicable, complete UK visa extensions before applying for Schengen visa.

Visa fee

Visa fee differs between countries. Fee is non-refundable.

Tips

- Supporting documents may not be returned to you.
- Carry photocopies of all supporting documents when you travel.
- Photocopy passport, visa & supporting documents before submitting your application.
- You cannot take up employment or establish a business/trade/profession with Schengen visa.
- Embassy details & travel advice can be found at the FCO website: http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/

How long will my application take?

The visa processing time can vary for each embassy but most visa applications are processed within 3 weeks. Check with the embassy that you will be applying through for an up-to-date time frame.

What supporting documents do I need to send with my application?

Check the embassy website or application form for detailed information on the documents you will need to send along with your application form.

Below is a general list of documents you will need to produce:

- Passport sized photo(s) – see application form for number of photos required
- Original passport with current UK visa
- Proof of purpose of visit (travel tickets, invitation letter)
- Evidence of sufficient funds (bank statements)
- Accommodation details for Europe
- Visa fee (check amount and method of payment on embassy website)
- Evidence of student status (a confirmation of enrolment letter from your faculty)
- Medical insurance for the length of your trip.

IMPORTANT

Always contact & check with embassies for current visa information and ruling.