



Schengen Visas

If you are an international student thinking about travelling in and out of the UK during your studies you need to start planning as soon as possible.

If you need a visa for the country you want to travel to, many embassies will not issue visas to students who are close to the end of their studies. Generally, international students in the last year of their course may want or need to travel during the Christmas and Easter vacations, as many embassies require at up to six months unexpired UK leave after you return from your trip in order to give you a visa. If you are thinking of travelling and need further information, call into the IAU before booking anything.

Schengen countries are:

- 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 • Sweden

Not UK and not Ireland.

Things you should know about Schengen Visas:

Schengen is the name of the small town in Luxembourg when 7 EU countries signed an agreement which ended internal checkpoints and controls. It means that you can buy a visa from one country and travel to all the rest.

Schengen Visa Info & Tips

- Leave travelling until the summer before you leave the UK
- First Schengen visa will usually be a single entry visa (you can only go into the country once)
- Have to apply to country of main destination (place you are staying the longest), if visiting several countries without having a main destination apply to the first country you will visit
- In the past Austria has tried to argue that they aren't the main country of destination and won't process the application, if this happens let us know.
- There is separate information for different nationalities
- It is possible to apply too early; you should apply 3 months before you travel
- Easter is a very busy time, so make sure you apply early
- Look at the embassy website in the UK for dates for national holidays, as they will be closed on these days
- Apply at embassy / consulate (unless website says by post)
- Some say apply by post, some say in person
- Make appointment to attend - if necessary. If you do make an appointment then change your mind, you must cancel the appointment, as you won't get another and they share information with each other
- To make an appointment you may have to ring an expensive telephone line, this can cost around £20 depending on which country you are applying to
- Some will let you book on line

- Some ask you to write for an appointment
- Some embassies do first come first served and not appointments, so take drinks and snacks and be prepared for a wait
- Form - make sure it is complete, they don't like it when they are only half filled in!; put UK address in the Home Address section; add hotel details of the first hotel you are going to; if you are staying in a number of places, put 'various' and include a list in with the documents; some will ask for full travel details so you will need to supply proof of booking
- Your UK visa must be IN your passport (or on your biometric identity card) and you need a spare blank page
- If you have a visa in a travel document which is not your biometric identity card (not in your passport) it must say that you have indefinite leave to remain
- Applications for education trips are free, but conferences don't count as 'educational'
- Fee is non-refundable, ensure that you have enough money with you when you attend the embassy, as they won't let you leave to go to the cash machine
- If you are from Russia, Albania or Moldova the fees are cheaper!
- Documents - Need proof of funds e.g. bank statements (not more than 30 days old) - allow £30 per day plus accommodation costs (if you are taking traveller's cheques, take these to the embassy) or you can take details of your credit card and limit, take copies with you (and originals) and take copies with you when you are travelling; you must have travel insurance bought in the UK which shows exact dates of travel. If you are asked to supply more documents you can supply them later, in some circumstances
- Take 2 photos
- Groups can apply in a 'batch' ask the IAU for more details, if applying as a group all will need individual insurance
- If you need an emergency application you can try to get a visa, but generally they don't like dealing with urgent applications, but should be OK if it is a funeral
- You can't work on a Schengen visa
- Can't stay more than 3 months
- Take copies of all documents when you travel
- Enjoy your stay!!!!!!