

- proof of lawful stay, if the applicant is not a citizen of the country where he/she is applying for the visa.

To fulfil the requirements of the visa application, the applicant, besides meeting these general requirements, shall also supply proof of financial means to cover expenses, and proof of the purpose of the visit.

The consul may ask for other documents or information in addition to the documents attached to the visa application.

Under the regulations the decision making process on the visa application shall not exceed 30 days.

REFUSAL OF APPLICATION

Where a ban on entry applies or there are doubts concerning the application the consulate will refuse the visa application. Presentation of counterfeit documents is a reason for refusal in itself.

Notification on the reason for refusal is given by the consulate only to the applicant (i.e. not to representatives). At the applicant's request the notification can also be issued in written form..

There can be no appeal against a negative decision, however a complaint concerning the procedure can be lodged.

SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS)

Before a visa is issued, a compulsory check is carried out in the Schengen Information System. If the applicant's name is on the entry ban list, he/she can be granted a visa only in exceptional cases.

In accordance with general data protection principles any person has the right:

- to have access to data entered in the Schengen Information System which relate to them
- to have factually inaccurate data relating to them corrected or unlawfully stored data relating to them deleted to bring before the courts or the authority competent under national law an action to correct, delete or obtain information or to obtain compensation.

Upon Hungary's accession to the Schengen Area any person requesting to know any information collected on them in the SIS or any person who wishes to have data entered in the SIS which relates to them corrected or deleted must contact the SIRENE Office of the Hungarian National Police or the Data Protection Commissioner of Hungary. Should he/she consider the information provided by the SIRENE Office unsatisfactory, the Data Protection Commissioner can be contacted.

Contact information:

SIRENE Office of the Hungarian National Police
H-1139 Budapest, Teve utca 4-6.
www.police.hu

Office of the Data Protection Commissioner of Hungary
H-1051 Budapest, Nádor utca 22.
www.obh.hu

FOR FURTHER DETAILED
 INFORMATION ON THE ISSUING
 OF VISAS PLEASE CONSULT THE WEBPAGE
 OF THE HUNGARIAN MINISTRY
 OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 (WWW.MFA.GOV.HU)
 OR THE WEBPAGES
 OF THE HUNGARIAN CONSULATES.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY



General information on the rules for the issuing of visas after Hungary's accession to the Schengen Area



MEMBER STATES OF THE SCHENGEN AREA

From 21st December 2007 the Schengen Area will consist of 24 countries. This includes 22 of the 27 member states of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) plus Norway and Iceland. The members of the European Union which are not part of the Schengen agreement are Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

VISA FREE ENTRY

Citizens of the EU and EEA-member states as well as citizens of the following countries may travel to Hungary without a visa:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong (the exemption applies only to holders of a "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" passport), Iceland, Israel, Japan, Macao (the exemption applies only to holders of a "Regio Administrativa Especial de Macau" passport), Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Salvador, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vatican, Venezuela.

Following Hungary's accession to full membership of Schengen:

- visas and residence permits issued by any of the Schengen Member States are valid also for Hungary, while
- visas issued by Hungarian representations abroad and residence permits issued by Hungarian national authorities are also valid for the entire Schengen Area.

ENTRY CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGNERS UNDER VISA OBLIGATION

The Schengen visa and entry regulations are only applicable

for a stay not exceeding 90 days. Rules for long stays of over 90 days are determined by the national regulations of the member states concerned. The rules for the issuing of Schengen visas at the diplomatic posts of the various states are generally harmonized, visa fees are uniform.

It is important to note that a visa is only a preliminary permission for entry, which does not authorize its bearer automatically to enter the country. The traveller may be requested to provide proof that the conditions of entry and stay in Hungary have been met and, if the person is not able to satisfy the request, he/she may be turned away at the border.

The general visa regulations may be relaxed on the basis of visa facilitation agreements. The European Union has entered into such an agreement with Russia and as from 1 January 2008 similar agreements are expected to come into force with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.*

WHERE TO SUBMIT VISA APPLICATIONS?

Although a Schengen visa allows free travel in the whole Schengen Area, visa applications should be submitted at the representation of the country which is the main destination of the visit. In the case of trips covering several Schengen Member States the appropriate representation is that of the country of first entry.

In accordance with the Schengen rules border posts generally do not issue visas, except for family members of EEA citizens and under exceptional circumstances for nationals of other countries.

WHO CAN SUBMIT A VISA APPLICATION?

Consulates are competent to decide on visa applications submitted by the following persons:

- nationals of the host country
- persons staying in the host country legitimately and continuously
- persons with no Hungarian foreign representation in their country.

VISA FEES FROM 21ST DECEMBER 2007

Application for an airport transit visa, transit visa or short-term entry visa	60 EUR *35 EUR
Application for a residence visa	60 EUR
Application for a seasonal work visa	40 EUR

Visas issued free of charge

- children under the age of 14 and entered into the passport of the parent
- family members of EEA citizens
- children under the age of 6, travelling with their own passports
- members of children's groups consisting of more than 5 children

If the application for a visa is refused, the fee will not be reimbursed.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR VISA APPLICATIONS

I. General requirements:

- Valid passport, the validity of which has to exceed that of the requested visa by at least 3 months;
- 1 passport-size colour photo not older than 6 months;
- a fully and legibly completed, signed application form;

the application forms are available free of charge at the consular departments of the foreign representations or can be downloaded from the website of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.mfa.gov.hu). Schengen application forms are uniform therefore an application form issued by any one of the Schengen Member States can be used when applying for a Hungarian visa.

- health insurance (a travel insurance providing cover for at least 30000 € for financing urgent health services and homeward transportation for medical reasons, valid for the whole period of stay and for the territory of every Schengen Member State)