



Pretoria, 03.01.2023

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR A TOURIST VISA

The visa application must be submitted to the competent office. Please find the relevant information on the link “Where to apply”: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/south-africa/en/home/visa/entry-ch/up-90-days/where-to-apply-schengen.html>

Please note that the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa works only with the Company VFS Global (<http://www.vfsglobal.ch/Switzerland/Southafrica/>) for submitting a visa request for Switzerland. Be aware that this representation **does not** cooperate with any agents or other agencies providing their services outside this Embassy or the premises of VFS Global regarding visa applications.

- **The processing time for a Visa application is 15 consecutive days according to the Schengen Visa Codex (Chapter II Art. 9 and Chapter III Art. 23); this delay can in general not be accelerated.**
- **Applications can only be processed if all required documents have been submitted.**
- **Visa applications may be submitted up to 6 months prior to departure and must be submitted at least 15 days before departure.**

- 1 Schengen visa application form duly filled in by computer, dated and signed.
<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise/visumantragsformular.html>
Minors: (under the age of 18)
Both parents must sign the visa application form. We need the following:
 - a) **Certified copy of the minor’s unabridged birth certificate (containing fathers and mother name)**
 - b) **certified copies of ID/passport of both parents**
 - c) **certified copies of Schengen Visa of both parents (if in possession of and if travelling with the child)**
 - d) **if the minor travels alone: certified parental consent by both parents**
 - e) **if the minor travels with only one parent: the other parent must produce the certified consent. If only one parent has guardianship of the minor, the relevant court documents / or death certificate must be presented**

- 2 passport-size colour photographs, not older than 6 months (background has to be light and plain). For more details, please refer to: http://www.icao.int/Security/mrtd/Downloads/Technical%20Reports/Annex_A-Photograph_Guidelines.pdf

- Valid national passport, with at least 3 months validity after the scheduled return from the Schengen States and with at least 2 blank pages.

- Round trip flight reservation with name, dates and flight numbers specifying the dates of entry and exit from the territory of the Member States. If applicable: proof of Inter-Schengen travel (car rental/flights/train and/or bus tickets).
Important: Do not buy the actual flight ticket before the visa has been issued.

- Overseas medical travel insurance for **Schengen States** stating the following:
 - Minimum coverage of EUR 30'000
 - Medical treatments and repatriation included
 - Certificate of Insurance valid for the entire duration of the intended stay
 - Policy must state policy number, name of insured applicant, covered dates as well as scheduled benefits (please allow for extra days for the embassy to be more flexible with the duration of the visa).**Important:**
 - Conditions must be stated either on insurance document or on separate visa letter. No medical insurances connected to credit cards will be accepted.

- Photocopy of confirmed hotel bookings or tour arrangements in Switzerland and other Schengen States for the duration of the intended stay. In case of a pre-paid tour: details of the tour with a proof of payment to the tour operator.
Important: a cancelled booking may lead to refusal of visa. In case of any amendments of hotel reservation please inform the Embassy **immediately**.

- Recent original and signed letter of employment from the employer in the country of residence addressed to the Swiss Embassy stating: the monthly wages, purpose and duration of the trip to Switzerland and the continuing employment after the period of leave with the specific date of returning to work. No contracts will be accepted.

Please turn the page

- Self-employed: a certification from SA Companies and Intellectual Property Commission or SA Revenue Service.
- Scholar/Student: letter from school/college/university in South Africa certifying the student status of the applicant.
- Medical Doctors: valid licence to practice from HPSCA.
- Lawyers: proof of registration with Law Association.
- Unemployed/Retired: proof of residence required (utility bill/rental agreement/signed letter from property owner with ID copy).
- Personal** bank statements from the last 3 months (savings or cheque) baring original bank stamp and applicant details. Neither cash nor credit card statements will be accepted. Only applicable if self-employed: business bank statements from the last 3 months.
- Photocopies of all previous Schengen Visa(s) – even if in old passports.
- Photocopy of the passport page containing the personal data.
- Non-South African nationals: South African residence permit or temporary residence permit valid at least 3 months beyond the planned stay in the territory of the Member States.
- If your main travel destination is not a Schengen country, the visa of that country has to be in your passport before you apply for the Schengen visa.
- Visa fee: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/south-africa/en/home/visa/entry-ch/up-90-days/fees-schengen.html>
- If your main travel destination is Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina or Serbia**
Applicants with main travel destination Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina or Serbia, need to be in possession of a valid visa of the respected country before applying for a Swiss Schengen visa.

INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANT

- The processing time for a visa application takes 15 days according to the Schengen Visa Codex; this delay can in general not be accelerated.
- All documents must be submitted in a Swiss official language (German, French, Italian) or English.
- Only complete applications can be accepted. Submission of an incomplete visa application may lead to a visa refusal. The Embassy reserves the right to ask for additional documents and/or information.
- During the processing period the passport has to remain with the Swiss representation and no visa information (progress, input of addition documents from the applicant side, collection date, expediting, etc.) is given by phone or email to the applicant or 3rd parties, after the visa application has been submitted to VFS Global.
- False or falsified documents will lead to refusal of visa and/or further consequences (in case of any amendments of hotel reservation please inform the Embassy **immediately**).

REMARKS VFS GLOBAL

- Applicant requests a visa with extended validity
- Applicant travels alone with family members with a group
- Applicant has been advised that his documents are incomplete
- Applicant has been advised that the application was submitted less than 15 days before departure

Additional comments: _____

For the applicant: I have read and agreed to the terms and conditions

Place & Date: _____

Signature Applicant: _____

Signature VFS GLOBAL Agent: _____