Schengen Visa Checklist 2026: Every Document You Need

A step-by-step Schengen visa checklist for 2026. Documents, fees, timelines, the new EES and ETIAS rules, and how to avoid refusal.

Name: _____ Date started: _____

Identity and residency

- [ ] Passport valid for at least 3 months after you leave the Schengen area, issued within the last 10 years, with at least 2 blank pages
- [ ] Copies of old passports with previous Schengen visas, if you have them
- [ ] Residence permit for the country you are applying from, if you are not a citizen there. Most consulates want it valid for at least 3 months after your return
- [ ] Two recent photos, 35 x 45 mm, white background
- [ ] Completed and signed application form for the country you are applying to

Travel plans

- [ ] Return flight reservation
- [ ] Hotel bookings for every night, or an invitation letter if staying with family
- [ ] A day-by-day itinerary if you are visiting more than one country
- [ ] Travel medical insurance covering at least €30,000, valid in every Schengen country for your whole trip

Money and ties to home

- [ ] Personal bank statements for the last 3 to 6 months, stamped by the bank
- [ ] Salary certificate or employment letter showing your role, salary and approved leave dates
- [ ] No objection certificate from your employer, if the consulate asks for one
- [ ] Business owners: trade licence, memorandum of association and company bank statements
- [ ] Proof of other ties: property, family, children in school

For children and sponsored travel

- [ ] Birth certificate and both parents' passport copies
- [ ] Consent letter from the parent who is not travelling
- [ ] Sponsor's letter, bank statements and passport copy if someone else is paying

General information only, not legal or immigration advice. Requirements vary by country and change often.

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