

Central Visa Unit (Identity Malta)

The Central Visa Unit (CVU) is the government's immigration central authority responsible for the implementation of national visa policies and the provisions under the Schengen acquis (as far as visa matters are concerned). The responsibility of issuing a visa is shared with Malta's Diplomatic Missions abroad.

The CVU is committed to facilitate the issuance of a visa to all those who have a valid reason to visit Malta.

What is a Visa?

A visa is an authorisation in the form of a sticker affixed to a passport which authorizes the bearer to stay in or travel through Malta during a limited, specified, period. The possession of a visa does not give the third country national the automatic right of entry, as bearers must prove that they will meet the conditions of entry.

Notwithstanding the possession of a visa, border control authorities may refuse entry or annul the visa if it is established that:

- the bearer is not in possession of adequate means of subsistence;
- the data submitted during the visa application produced was incorrect or falsified;
- the bearer is unable to provide details regarding the circumstances of his/her stay in Malta.
- Border control authorities may refuse entry also for reasons of security or public policy. Malta mainly issues two (2) types of visas:
 - The Schengen Visa (short stay), which is issued for a period not exceeding 90 days and is regulated by the EU's harmonized provisions; &
 - The National Visa (long stay / D-Visa), which is issued for a period exceeding 90 days, but no longer than 365 days, and in accordance with national rules.

Schengen Visa

The Schengen area and cooperation originate from the Schengen Agreement of 1985.

It represents a territory where the free movement of persons is guaranteed. The signatory States to the agreement have abolished all internal borders in lieu of a single external border. Therefore, common rules and procedures are applied to visas for short-stays, asylum requests and border controls. Simultaneously, cooperation and coordination between Police services and judicial authorities guarantee security. Schengen cooperation was incorporated into the European Union legal framework by the Treaty of Amsterdam of 1997.

A Schengen visa is an authorization issued by a Schengen State with a view to:

- transit through or an intended stay in the territory of the Schengen States of a duration of no more than 90 days in any 180 days period ("short stay visa"),
- transit through the international transit areas of airports of the Schengen States ("airport transit visa").

Schengen Member States

To date, a total of 26 countries adhere to the Schengen Agreement; 22 EU Member States and another four (4) Associated States (Non-EU Member States) have abolished border control and have fully implement the Schengen acquis in relation to the issuance of a visa. The 26 Schengen Member

States are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland*, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein*, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway*, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland*

(* Non EU Member States)

While four (4) EU Members States – Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania – are not yet fully-fledged members of the Schengen area and another two (2) – Ireland and the United Kingdom – maintain autonomous visa, immigration and asylum policies and do not participate in Schengen cooperation.

Key Rules

- The key rules adopted within the Schengen framework include:
- Removal of checks on persons at the internal borders;
- A common set of rules applying to people crossing the external borders of the EU Member States;
- Harmonisation of the conditions of entry and visas rules for short stays;
- Enhanced police cooperation (including rights of cross-border surveillance and hot pursuit);
- Stronger judicial cooperation through a faster extradition system and transfer of enforcement of criminal judgments;
- Establishment and development of the Schengen Information System (SIS).

Visa Code

The Visa Code establishes the procedures and conditions in issuing visas for short stays (maximum of 90 days during any 180 days) in and transit through EU Member States applying the Schengen acquis in full, and the associated states. Therefore, any visa applications to enter Malta for short stays shall conform to the procedures established by the said Visa Code.

Visa Application

Visa applications must be in writing and should give all the details required on the Visa Application Form (this can be downloaded from this website or acquired from one of Malta's Diplomatic Missions abroad).

- The Visa Application Form must be signed by the applicant, and should include:
- Passport (validity of which must not be less than 6 months); and
- One (1) passport-size photograph (in colour, taken against a white background and the face should be clearly visible);

Time limit for processing a visa application

In most cases, applications are reviewed within seven (7) to fifteen (15) days. In individual cases, where further scrutiny of the application is necessary, the deadline may be extended up to a maximum of 45 calendar days after the application has been considered admissible.

It is recommended not to file a visa application later than fifteen (15) days prior to a planned trip, or otherwise it cannot be guaranteed that the application will be processed in time. Holders of multiple-entry Schengen short-stay visas can lodge a visa application before this visa has expired,

provided it has been valid for at least six (6) months. Visa applications of family members of EU citizens will be reviewed in the shortest possible period of time.

Supporting documents

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION, DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF VISA REQUESTED AND/OR ACCORDING TO THE MISSION/REPRESENTATIVE, SHALL INCLUDE:

- The purpose of the visit;
- Means of transport and for the return journey;
- Means of subsistence (support) during the journey and stay;
- Accommodation arrangements.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION, DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF VISA REQUESTED AND/OR ACCORDING TO THE MISSION/REPRESENTATIVE, SHALL INCLUDE:

- A letter of invitation;
- A summons;
- Certificate of enrolment;
- An organised trip.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REGARDING MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND RETURN SHALL MEAN:

In support of an application for a short-term or travel visa, applicants must show that they are in possession of adequate and valid individual or group Travel Medical Insurance, which covers any expenses which might arise in connection with repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical attention and/or emergency hospital treatment. The insurance must be valid throughout the Schengen Member States and should cover the entire period of the person's stay. The minimum coverage is €30,000.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REGARDING MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND RETURN SHALL MEAN:

- A valid return ticket; or
- A certificate of a reserved and prepaid journey.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REGARDING MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE INCLUDE:

- Cash in convertible currency;
- Traveller's cheques;
- Cheque books for a foreign currency account;
- Credit cards;
- Or any other means that guarantees funds in hard currency.
- The level of means of subsistence shall be proportionate to the length and purpose of the stay.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH REGARDS TO THE ACCOMMODATION INCLUDE:

- Hotel reservation or reservation for a similar establishment;
- Documents proving the existence of a lease or a title deed in the applicant's name to a property situated in the country to be visited;
- Where a third-country national states that he/she shall stay at a person's home or in an institution, the applicant must present a written declaration (Declaration of Proof) by the host, vouching for his/her commitment to accommodate the third-country national. The

Diplomatic Mission and Consular posts will verify such declarations, where such checks are necessary;

- Or present a certificate in the form of a harmonised form, which must be filled in by the host/institution and stamped by the competent authority in Malta (according to the provisions laid down in its national legislation), vouching for the host's commitment to accommodate the third-country national.

TRAVEL MEDICAL INSURANCE

In support of an application for a short-term or travel visa, applicants must show that they are in possession of adequate and valid individual or group Travel Medical Insurance, which covers any expenses which might arise in connection with repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical attention and/or emergency hospital treatment. The insurance must be valid throughout the Schengen Member States and should cover the entire period of the person's stay. The minimum coverage is €30,000.

DECLARATION OF PROOF

Applicants, who are being invited from a reference host person in Malta, must present a Declaration of Proof, whereby, the Maltese host will declare that he/she are able to accommodate the applicant and/or being able to bear the applicant's living costs and repatriation.

The Declaration of Proof form must contain information about the purpose of the applicant and indicate, in particular, the following:

- Whether its purpose is proof of sponsorship and/or of accommodation;
- Whether the host is an individual, a company or an organisation;
- The host's identity and contact details;
- The invited applicant(s);
- The accommodation's address;
- The length and purpose of stay;
- Possible family ties with the host.

It should therefore contain complete and relevant information about the host person extending the invitation, the applicant (as the invited person) and their relationship (including any family relationship), along with the purpose of stay to be covered by visa. The invitation should also state whether the host person extending the invitation will also be the financial guarantor for the applicant.

By completing and signing the Declaration of Proof, the reference host person guarantees to be financially responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with the applicant's stay in Malta and repatriation, if the applicant fails to return to his/her country of origin before the expiry of the visa applied for.

The Declaration of Proof is to be certified, witnessed and stamped by a legal representative. If any information provided is found to be false or incorrect, the host person, whether an individual, a company or an organisation, is liable to criminal responsibility under the Laws of that particular Member State. In Malta, Articles 188 and 189 of the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta) and Article 32 of the Immigration Act (Chapter 217 of the Laws of Malta) will apply along with any other law or regulation which may be in force at the time of the unlawful declaration.

Who Requires a Visa?

Bound by Regulations, the list of third-countries whose nationals are subject to the visa requirement when traveling to Malta and/or any other EU Member State are:

AFGHANISTAN	ALGERIA	ANGOLA
>ARMENIA	AZERBAIJAN	BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH	BELARUS	BELIZE
BENIN	BHUTAN	BOLIVIA
BOTSWANA	BURKINA FASO	BURMA/MYANMAR
BURUNDI	CAMBODIA	CAMEROON
CAPE VERDE	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	CHAD
CHINA	COMOROS	CONGO
COTE D'IVOIRE	CUBA	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
DJIBOUTI	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	ECUADOR
EGYPT	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	ERITREA
ETHIOPIA	FIJI	GABON
GAMBIA	GHANA	GUINEA
GUINEA-BISSAU	GUYANA	HAITI
INDIA	INDONESIA	IRAN
IRAQ	JAMAICA	JORDAN
KAZAKHSTAN	KENYA	KOSOVO

KUWAIT	KYRGYZSTAN	LAOS
LEBANON	LESOTHO	LIBERIA
LIBYA	MADAGASCAR	MALAWI
MALDIVES	MALI	MAURITANIA
MONGOLIA	MOROCCO	MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA	NAURU	NEPAL
NIGER	NIGERIA	NORTH KOREA
OMAN	PAKISTAN	PALESTINE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	PHILIPPINES	QATAR
RUSSIA	RWANDA	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
SAUDI ARABIA	SENEGAL	SIERRA LEONE
SOMALIA	SOUTH AFRICA	SOUTH SUDAN
SRI LANKA	SUDAN	SURINAME
SWAZILAND	SYRIA	TAJIKISTAN
TANZANIA	THAILAND	TOGO
TUNISIA	TURKEY	TURKMENISTAN
UGANDA	UZBEKISTAN	VIETNAM
YEMEN	ZAMBIA	ZIMBABWE

Third-country nationals who must be in possession of an airport transit visa when passing through an EU Airport International Transit Areas are:

Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Eritrea	Ethiopia	Ghana
Iran	Iraq	Nigeria
Pakistan	Somalia	Sri Lanka

Where To Apply

Visa applications may only be lodged, examined and decided upon by the Consulate in whose jurisdiction the applicant legally resides. A visa application lodged by a third-country national, legally present but not residing in its jurisdiction, may be accepted if the Central Visa Unit considers that the justification provided by the applicant on the submission of application to a particular Consulate of Malta, is both coherent and credible.

In those countries where Malta is served by a Visa Application Centre, applications are to be submitted through these centres:

ALGERIA	Malta Visa Application Centre	Algiers
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Oran
AUSTRALIA	Malta High Commission	Canberra
	Consulate General of Malta	Melbourne
	Consulate General of Malta	Sydney
AUSTRIA	Embassy of Malta	Vienna
BELGIUM	Embassy of Malta	Brussels
CANADA	Consulate General of Malta	Toronto
CHINA	Embassy of Malta	Beijing

CHINA	Consulate General of Malta	Shanghai
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Beijing
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Changsha
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Chengdu
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Chongqing
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Fuzhou
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Guangzhou
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Hangzhou
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Jinan
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Kunming
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Nanjing
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Shanghai
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Shenyang
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Wuhan
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Xian

GERMANY	Embassy of Malta	Berlin
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GREECE	Embassy of Malta	Athens
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EGYPT	Embassy of Malta	Cairo
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	Malta Visa Application Centre		Alexandria
	Malta Visa Application Centre		Cairo
FRANCE	Embassy of Malta		Paris
INDIA	Malta High Commission	New Delhi	
	Malta Visa Application Centre	New Delhi	
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Chennai	
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Kolkata	
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Chandigarh	
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Bangalore	
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Mumbai	
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Kathmandu, Nepal	
IRELAND	Embassy of Malta		Dublin
ISRAEL	Embassy of Malta		Tel Aviv
ITALY	Embassy of Malta		Rome
KUWAIT	Embassy of Malta		New Mishref
NETHERLANDS	Embassy of Malta		The Hague
PALESTINE	Representative Office of Malta		Ramallah
POLAND	Embassy of Malta		Warsaw

PORTUGAL	Embassy of Malta	Lisbon
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Embassy of Malta	Moscow
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Malta Visa Application Centre	Kazan
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Krasnodar
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Krasnoyarsk
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Nizhny Novgorod
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Novosibirsk
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Rostov-on-Don
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Samara
	Malta Visa Application Centre	St. Petersburg
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Yekaterinburg
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Kaliningrad
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Irkutsk
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Ufa
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Khabarovsk
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Vladivostok
Malta Visa Application Centre	Omsk	

	Malta Visa Application Centre	Murmansk
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Perm
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Saratov
SAUDI ARABIA	Embassy of Malta	Riyadh
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Riyadh
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Jeddah
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Al Khobar
SPAIN	Embassy of Malta	Madrid
SWITZERLAND	Permanent Mission of Malta to the UN	Geneva
THE PHILIPPINES	Malta Visa Application Centre	Manila
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Cebu
TUNISIA	Embassy of Malta	Tunis
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Tunis
TURKEY	Embassy of Malta	Ankara
	Consulate General of Malta	Istanbul
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Ankara
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Antalya
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Bodrum

	Malta Visa Application Centre	Bursa
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Edirne
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Gaziantep
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Izmir
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Altunizade
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Trabzon
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Harbiye
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	Embassy of Malta	Abu Dhabi
	Consulate General of Malta	Dubai
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Dubai
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Abu Dhabi
UNITED KINGDOM	Malta High Commission	London
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Edinburgh
	Malta Visa Application Centre	Manchester
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Embassy of Malta	Washington
	Permanent Mission of Malta to the UN	New York

Where Malta has no Diplomatic Mission or Consular post, third-country nationals are obliged to apply for a visa at the following EU Diplomatic Missions and Consular posts, which issue visas in representation of Malta:

AFGHANISTAN	Embassy of Italy	Kabul
ALBANIA	Embassy of Austria	Tirana
ANDORRA	Embassy of Spain	Andorra
ANGOLA	Embassy of Italy	Luanda
ARGENTINA	Embassy of Austria	Buenos Aires
ARMENIA	Embassy of Italy	Yerevan
AZERBAIJAN	Embassy of Italy	Baku
BAHRAIN	Embassy of Italy	Manama
BANGLADESH	Embassy of Italy	Dhaka
BENIN	Consulate of France	Cotonou
BELARUS	Embassy of Italy	Minsk
BOLIVIA	Embassy of Italy	La Paz
BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA	Embassy of Austria	Sarajevo
BOTSWANA	Embassy of Germany	Gaborone
BRAZIL	Embassy of Austria	Brasilia
	Embassy of Italy	San Paolo
BULGARIA	Embassy of Austria	Sofia
BURKINA FASO	Consulate of France	Ouagadougou

CANADA	Consulate General of Italy	Vancouver
	Embassy of Austria	Ottawa
CAMBODIA	Consulate of France	Phnom Penh
CAMEROON	Consulate of France	Yaounde
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Consulate of France	Bangui
CHAD	Consulate of France	N'Djamena
CHILE	Embassy of Austria	Santiago
CHINA – HONG KONG	Consulate General of Austria	Hong Kong
COLOMBIA	Embassy of Italy	Bogota
COMOROS	Embassy of France	Moroni
CONGO	Embassy of France	Brazzaville
COSTA RICA	Embassy of Spain	San Jose
COTE D'IVOIRE	Consulate of France	Abidjan
CUBA	Consulate of Spain	Havana
Cyprus	Embassy of Greece	Nicosia
DJIBOUTI	Embassy of France	Djibouti
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Embassy of Spain	Santo Domingo
ECUADOR	Consulate of Spain	Quito

EL SALVADOR		Embassy of Spain	San Salvador
ERITREA		Embassy of Italy	Asmara
ETHIOPIA		Embassy of Austria	Addis Ababa
FY REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA		Embassy of Italy	Skopje
GEORGIA		Embassy of Italy	Tbilisi
GHANA	Embassy of Italy		Accra
GUINEA	Embassy of Germany		Conakry
GUATEMALA	Embassy of Spain		Guatemala
HAITI	Embassy of Spain		Port-au-Prince
HONDURAS	Embassy of Spain		Tegucigalpa
INDONESIA	Embassy of Austria		Jakarta
IRAN		Embassy of Poland	Teheran
IRAQ		Embassy of Italy	Baghdad
JAPAN		Embassy of Austria	Tokyo
JAMAICA		Embassy of Spain	Kingston
JORDAN		Embassy of Italy	Amman
KAZAKHSTAN		Embassy of Italy	Astana
KENYA		Embassy of Austria	Nairobi

LAOS	Embassy of France	Vientiane
LEBANON	Embassy of Italy	Beirut
MALAYSIA*****	Embassy of Austria	Kuala Lumpur
MALI	Embassy of France	Bamako
MAURITANIA	Embassy of France	Nouakchott
MAURITIUS	Embassy of France	Port-Louis
MEXICO	Embassy of Austria	Mexico City
MONGOLIA	Embassy of Germany	Ulan Bator
MONTENEGRO	General Consulate of Italy	Podgorica
MOROCCO	Embassy of Italy	Rabat
MOZAMBIQUE	Embassy of Italy	Maputo
MYANMAR	Embassy of Italy	Yangon
NAMIBIA	Embassy of Germany	Windhoek
NICARAGUA	Embassy of Italy	Managua
NIGER	Embassy of France	Niamey
NIGERIA	Consulate of Italy	Lagos
OMAN	Embassy of Spain	Muscat
PAKISTAN	Consulate General of Italy	Karachi

PANAMA	Embassy of Italy	Panama City
PARUGUAY	Embassy of Spain	Ascunción
PERU	Embassy of Austria	Lima
QATAR	Embassy of Italy	Doha
ROMANIA	Embassy of Austria	Bucharest
SENEGAL	Embassy of Austria	Dakar
SEYCHELLES	Embassy of France	Victoria
SINGAPORE	Embassy of Italy	Singapore
SOUTH AFRICA	Consulate of Italy	Cape Town
	Embassy of Italy	Pretoria
SRI LANKA	Embassy of Italy	Colombo
SUDAN	Embassy of Italy	Khartoum
TANZANIA	Embassy of Italy	Dar es Salaam
THAILAND	Embassy of Austria	Bangkok
TOGO	Embassy of Germany	Lomé
UGANDA	Embassy of Italy	Kampala
UKRAINE	Embassy of Spain	Kiev
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Consulate of Italy	Chicago

	Consulate of Italy	Houston
	Consulate of Italy	San Francisco
URUGUARY	Embassy of Italy	Montevideo
UZBEKISTAN	Embassy of Italy	Tashkent
VENEZUELA	Embassy of Austria	Caracas
VIETNAM	Embassy of France	Hanoi
	General Consulate of France	Hô Chi Minh-Ville
YEMEN	Embassy of Italy	Sana'a
ZAMBIA	Embassy of Italy	Lusaka
ZIMBABWE	Embassy of Germany	Harare

******* NOTE:**

In Malaysia "Third Country Nationals" can apply directly at the VFS Office at Wisma MCA, Jalan Ampang. Kuala Lumpur. The VFC office operate on behalf of the Austrian Embassy in Malaysia.

Conditions for Issuing a Visa

- If Malta is the sole or the main destination of the visit, it is the Maltese authorities who shall examine the visa application.
- In a country where Malta has no Consular Representation, an application may be submitted with the Consul of another Member State with which Malta has a bilateral agreement with.
- Malta has also made arrangements with private external service providers so that an application may be submitted at their offices (including the capturing of biometric features).
- A uniform visa may be issued for one or multiple entries with a maximum validity of five (5) years. In certain humanitarian cases, the period of validity of a visa may be extended.
- A visa application may be lodged by the applicant at the earliest six (6) months before the intended visit. When lodging an application, the applicant must appear in person, unless this requirement has been waived. Apart from certain exceptions, the applicant must allow the collection of his/her fingerprints. Applicant will be exempted from having their fingerprints captured for a period of 59 months and need to pay the applicable fee. The visa fee may be waived or reduced in individual cases, including cultural, foreign and development policy reasons.

A visa is refused if the applicant:

- Presents a false travel document;
- Gives no justification for the purpose and conditions of the intended stay;
- Provides no proof of sufficient means of subsistence for the duration of the stay nor for the return to his/her country of origin/residence;
- Has already exhausted the 90 days of the current 180 days period;
- Is subject to an alert in the Schengen Information System (SIS) for the purpose of refusing entry;
- Is considered to be a threat to the public policy, internal security or public health of one of the Member States;
- Provides no proof of travel medical insurance, if applicable;
- Presents supporting documents or statements whose authenticity or reliability is doubtful.

In certain cases, the period of validity of a visa may be extended, while under certain circumstances, the visa may also be annulled or revoked.

Applicants who have been refused or have had their visa annulled or revoked, have the right to appeal against such decision to the Immigration Appeals Board within fifteen (15) days of the notification of such decision.

Any communication to the Immigration Appeals Board should be addressed to:

*The Secretary
Immigration Appeals Board
109, Triq Zekka
Valletta VLT 1517
Malta*

Note.

The above has been abstracted from the Visa Center Unit website. An updated version can be found on the following website.

<https://identitymalta.com/unit/central-visa-unit/#1564397063459-b6f818fe-9db5>.