



Pretoria, 02.03.2026

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT

Processing time is approximately 8 – 12 weeks.

The visa application must be submitted to the [Regional Consular Center Southern Africa](#) in Pretoria.

Only with prior appointment. To book an appointment, please send an email to the visa section at: pretoria.visa@eda.admin.ch with the following details:

- Name, surname, date of birth, passport number and nationality.

Each application must be complete with photocopies of all the required documents (including passport). Note that no copies will be made by the Embassy on your behalf and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

If your documents are not in a Swiss language (German, French, Italian), English or Spanish, they need to be translated in one of the aforementioned languages.

- 3 completed **D visa application forms** duly filled in by computer, dated and signed

Minors: (under the age of 18)

Both parents must sign the visa application form. In addition, submit the following:

- a) certified copy of the **minor's unabridged birth certificate** (containing fathers and mother name)
 - b) certified copies of **ID Card/passport of both parents** (signature needs to be visible)
 - c) certified copies of **Schengen Visa of both parents** (if applicable 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
- 3 passport-size colour photographs, not older than 6 months (background has to be light and plain). For more details, please refer to this [link](#).
 - Valid national passport, with at least 3 months validity after the scheduled return from the Schengen States and with at least 2 blank pages.
 - 1 original + 2 photocopies of the **unabridged marriage certificate** / unabridged civil union certificate (long version).
 - If the application is a minor: 1 original + 2 photocopies of the **unabridged birth certificate** (long version) not older than 6 (six) months.
 - 2 copies of the passport of the spouse/fiancé(e)/parent(s) (residing in Switzerland).
 - 2 copies of Swiss permit C / B / L of spouse/fiancé(e)/parent(s), if not Swiss.

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- 1 original + 2 copies of the **Police clearance certificate** for applicants over 18 years from the country of residence, not older than 6 (six) months.
- 2 copies of the passport (photo, personal data and signature page only).
- 2 copies of the valid Residence Permit of the country of residence (if applicable).
- 2 copies of the following for **Adults: Proof of language competency (A1)** in the language spoken at the future place of residence in Switzerland **or** confirmation of enrolment in a language course that will allow this level to be acquired. The Swiss representations do not conduct language tests. Please consult the [factsheet](#) on proof of language skills and [FAQ](#) for further details.
- [Visa fee](#)
- Spouses/Children of Swiss or EU/EFTA-Nationals are exempted from the visa fee.**

IMPORTANT:

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. If necessary, you may be requested to bring additional documentation and to appear in person.

The application of a spouse of a Swiss National can only be processed once the marriage has been registered in Switzerland or the documents for a marriage preparation in Switzerland have been submitted to the Embassy.

Kindly note that we need your original passport in order to register your application. Once this has been done the same can be returned to you in order that you are not without passport for the whole processing time. Once the authorization has been received, you can then resubmit your passport in order to issue the visa. Processing time is 2-5 full working days.

The entry visa will allow you to travel through the Schengen states and enter Switzerland during its validity. **Within the first 14 days of your initial entry you will have to declare your arrival at the Residents' Registration Office at your place of residence** (German: Einwohnerkontrolle, French: Contrôle des habitants; Italian: Controllo degli abitanti).

The residence permit will be issued upon notification of your arrival in Switzerland.