



Visiting family or friends (short term Schengen visa, category C)

General Information:

A Schengen visa permits free travel within all member states of the Schengen agreement, if not stated otherwise on the visa. The Schengen countries include:

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

The maximum duration of stay is 90 days within a period of 180 days. Schengen visas may be issued for the purpose of tourism, business trips or private visits. Visas for stays of more than 90 days or for the purpose of taking up an employment are not covered by the Schengen regulation. An overview of which nationality requires a visa can be found [here](#).

Competent Embassy:

The Embassy of the country of your main travel destination is the competent authority to deal with the application. If a main travel destination cannot be ascertained, the application should be submitted to the Embassy of the country of first entry to the Schengen area.

Appointment:

Please call or send an email to make an appointment.

Arranging appointment by calling is faster than mailing. All appointments are free of charge.

Required documents (per person):

1. **[Online visa application form](#)**
duly filled in, printed, dated and signed by the applicant, for minors signatures of parents or legal guardians are required. The online application should be printed once you make online application at www.swiss-visa.ch.
2. **Passport and one photocopy of the passport in original size of personal data page and previous Schengen visas** (if applicable)
valid at least three months beyond the date of the planned departure from the Schengen area and with at least two blank pages
3. **One color passport-size photograph**
recently taken, size 35 mm x 45 mm, light background, no headgear (with the exception of religious coverings, provided the face is free) – must meet [Schengen requirements](#)
4. **Korean Alien Registration Card and a copy of the card (front and back)**
must be valid at least three months after the travel dates
5. **Letter of invitation from the host in Switzerland**
The host must send the invitation directly to the Embassy (seoul.visa@eda.admin.ch)
The invitation letter should include your name, nationality, passport number, length of your stay, relation to your host (friend, family member, etc.), plus name, address and contact information of the host. It can contain further elements, e.g. that the host will provide accommodation (board and/or lodging) to the applicant, as well as all other appropriate information determining the

circumstances and the reasons for the stay in Switzerland. **A copy of the host's Swiss passport or Swiss residence permit should be attached to the email.**

6. **For employees:** employment certificate

For self-employed: business registration and tax return forms

For university and school students: enrollment certificate

7. **Confirmed round-trip flight reservation**

8. **Accommodation booking for the whole stay in Schengen territory**

(if not staying with the host)

9. **Proof of financial means**

- bank books/bank transactions of the last 3 months (3개월간 입출금내역서) **and**

- Pay slips of the last 3 months

10. **Travel insurance**

Only insurance policies from insurance companies located in Korea or Switzerland will be accepted. Please refer to recommended [insurance companies](#).

Accident/health insurance must cover the minimum amount of EUR 30.000 for each event per person (coverage: emergency treatment, ambulance transportation, repatriation for medical reasons, transportation of the body in case of death back to applicant's home country).

The insurance has to cover the entire stay in Schengen territory and to be valid in all Schengen states.

The Embassy will not accept any application unless the file is complete.

The Embassy reserves the right to ask for further documents or information if necessary.

Visa applications can be submitted at the earliest 6 months and not later than 15 days before departure.

Process

As a general rule, a decision is taken by the Consulate **within 15 days**. This period may, in individual cases, be extended.

Some Schengen States require that they be consulted on visa applications submitted to other Schengen States by citizens of certain countries. The consultation process may take up to 14 calendar days. Such consultation is currently required for nationals of the countries listed here:

[List of countries](#)

Fee

The [visa fee](#) has to be paid in **cash** or by **credit card** the local currency **KRW**. It is not refundable and if you withdraw the application or it is rejected the fee will not be returned.

For spouses and children of Swiss or EU/EFTA nationals, and for the children under six years of ages, the visa fee is waived.

The submission of a complete file does not guarantee the granting of a visa. In case of a refusal, the Embassy of Switzerland is not liable for any costs that might have occurred in the application process.

Seoul, May 2025