



Family reunion visa

in 15 steps

Steps:

1.	Who needs a family reunion visa?	2
2.	Who does not need a family reunion visa?	2
3.	When should supporting documents be submitted to the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm?	2
4.	Which supporting documents must be submitted?.....	2
5.	How to submit the supporting documents?	3
6.	How much does it cost? When and how to pay?	3
7.	After receiving the supporting documents, visa and postal fees (if applicable), what does the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm do?	4
8.	When will the competent cantonal migration authority take a decision?	4
9.	How will the applicant be informed that the application has been accepted?	4
10.	What must the spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland do after receiving the authorisation from the competent cantonal migration authority?	4
11.	What must the applicant do after receiving the authorisation from his/her spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland?	4
12.	After receiving the passport and the photocopy of the authorisation, how long will the Regional Consular Center need to issue the visa?	4
13.	The applicant received his/her passport with the entry visa. What shall he/she do next?	5
14.	Is a non-EU/EFTA national who applied for a family reunion visa allowed to enter Switzerland without a visa?	5
15.	Do EU/EFTA citizens as well as citizens of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Great-Britain, Japan, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Singapore and Vatican City need a visa to enter Switzerland?	5

1. Who needs a family reunion visa?

Non-EU/EFTA nationals living in a Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway or Sweden) or a Baltic (Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania) country who do not hold a recognized and valid residence permit or a valid national visa D issued by another Schengen State at the time of the planned entry into Switzerland.

The intended stay in Switzerland must exceed 90 days.

2. Who does not need a family reunion visa?

If, at the time of the planned entry into Switzerland, a non-EU/EFTA national still has [a recognized and valid residence permit](#) or a valid national visa D issued by another Schengen State, he or she no longer needs an additional visa D issued by the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm. The person can go directly to Switzerland without authorisation/visa. [The recognized passport](#) must be valid at least 3 months at the planned date of entry.

The granting of a residence permit is primarily the responsibility of the cantonal migration authorities. The foreigner must therefore submit an application for a residence permit to the cantonal migration authority of his future place of residence in Switzerland. The cantonal authority has the right to ask the foreigner to wait abroad for a reply to his application. If the conditions for admission are clearly fulfilled, the cantonal authority may also allow the applicant to wait in Switzerland for a reply.

Some foreign nationals do not need a visa, see step 15.

3. When should supporting documents be submitted to the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm?

Supporting documents should be submitted between 3 to 6 months before the scheduled entry into Switzerland.

4. Which supporting documents must be submitted?

- 3 National (type D) visa application forms**, duly filled in and signed by the applicant;
- For minors only:**
Both parents need to sign the application forms and add photocopies of their passports. If one parent is unable to sign the forms, he/she must submit a letter of agreement together with a copy of his/her passport;
- 2 photocopies of passport** (pages with photo, personal data and signature only)
The passport has to be issued within the last 10 years, with at least three months validity after the scheduled arrival and with at least 2 blank pages;
- 3 identical recent passport photos** (please consult the requirements [here](#));
- 2 photocopies of the residence permit** issued by a Nordic or a Baltic country which will be expired at the planned date of entry;
- If the applicant joins a spouse: **original marriage certificate or same sex partnership certificate**, officially translated in German, French, Italian or English + **two copies** (original will be returned);
- If the applicant is a minor child: **original birth certificate** officially translated in German, French, Italian or English + **two copies** (original will be returned);
- 2 copies of the passport of the spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland;**

- 2 copies of the Swiss residence permit of the spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland** (if not Swiss national);
- Police Clearance Certificate** issued by the Nordic or Baltic country of residence. The Certificate must not be older than 3 months (original and 1 copy);
- Proof of language competency (A1)** of the language spoken at the future place of residence in Switzerland. A list with the recognized language certificates is published on the website of fide (see “Liste der anerkannten Sprachzertifikate” resp. “Liste des certificats de langue reconnues”, resp. “Lista delle certificatione linguistiche riconosciute”). Alternatively, a proof of enrolment in a language course that will allow this level to be acquired can be accepted. Persons under 18 years old do not have to submit any proof of language competency. If the applicant cannot provide the proof, he/she should mention the reasons on a paper. For specific question, contact the competent cantonal migration Office.

The Regional Consular Centre does not make copies of documents on behalf of the applicant. Incomplete visa application will not be accepted and returned to the applicant.

5. How to submit the supporting documents?

Supporting documents can be submitted by post or a courier service (DHL, Fedex, etc.) of your choice.

By post, use the following address:

Embassy of Switzerland, Regional Consular Center, Box 26143, 100 41 Stockholm

By courier service (do not select service point delivery), use the following address:

Embassy of Switzerland, Regional Consular Center, Valhallavägen 64, 114 27 Stockholm

The visa applicant or a third person can also submit the supporting documents directly to the Regional Consular Center, Valhallavägen 64, in Stockholm during the opening hours from Monday to Friday, between 09:00 and 12:00 (except public holidays). No appointment is required.

Supporting documents **cannot** be sent by email.

6. How much does it cost? When and how to pay?

Visa and postal fees are published on our website.

Exemption of visa and postal fees:

- Spouse of a Swiss national or an EU/EFTA citizen;
- Child of a Swiss national or an EU/EFTA citizen;

Right after sending the documents, payment must be made (if no exemption applicable) into the following account:

International payment:
Embassy of Switzerland in Stockholm
Bank: Nordea, 105 71 Stockholm
IBAN: SE48 9500 0099 6042 0457 1527
BIC: NDEASESS

Payment within Sweden:
Embassy of Switzerland in Stockholm
Plusgiro 45 71 52-7

The **amount must be transferred in Swedish Crowns (SEK)**. The option “**all fees paid by the sender**” must be chosen in order to avoid any additional fees for the Regional Consular Center.

Add the following reference on bank transfer: “131.12 + applicant’s family and first name”.

Payment by credit card at the counter of the Regional Consular Center if supporting documents are submitted directly by the applicant or a third person. See step 5 for opening hours.

7. After receiving the supporting documents, visa and postal fees (if applicable), what does the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm do?

Within a week, the visa application form will be registered in the visa electronic system and an application number, called Orbis number (CHE-A-XXXXXXX) will be sent by email to the applicant. At the same time, supporting documents will be sent in paper form by diplomatic courier to the competent cantonal migration authority as the Regional Consular Center is not competent to take a decision.

8. When will the competent cantonal migration authority take a decision?

The competent cantonal migration authority will take a decision between 8 to 12 weeks after registration of the visa application form in the visa electronic system.

9. How will the applicant be informed that the application has been accepted?

The competent cantonal migration authority will send to the spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland an authorisation called:

in German: Ermächtigung zur Visumerteilung (Einreiseerlaubnis)

in French: Autorisation habilitant les représentations Suisses à délivrer un visa (AE)

in Italian: Autorizzazione per il rilascio del visto d'entrata, alle rappresentanze svizzere

10. What must the spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland do after receiving the authorisation from the competent cantonal migration authority?

The spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland should send a copy of the authorisation to the applicant.

11. What must the applicant do after receiving the authorisation from his/her spouse or father/mother living in Switzerland?

The applicant must send/bring his/her passport together with a photocopy of the authorisation to the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm. See step 5 for all options.

12. After receiving the passport and the photocopy of the authorisation, how long will the Regional Consular Center need to issue the visa?

It will take between 2 and 4 days before the passport with the affix visa will be sent back to the applicant by post (registered mail). An email sent by Postnord will inform the applicant as soon as the passport is on its way. It will take approximately 2 to 4 days for Postnord to deliver the passport back to the applicant. The Regional Consular Center is not responsible for any delays in the delivery of mail.

If the applicant or a third person bring the passport together with a photocopy of the authorisation to the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm the visa will usually be issued on the same day at latest 16:00. See step 5 for opening hours.

13. The applicant received his/her passport with the entry visa. What shall he/she do next?

The entry visa allows the bearer to travel through the Schengen states and enter Switzerland during the visa validity. **Within the first 14 days following the initial entry to Switzerland**, the visa bearer will have to declare his/her arrival at the cantonal Migration Office or Town Hall at the place of residence called as follow in national languages:

German speaking region: Migrationsamt/Einwohnerkontrolle;

French speaking region: Service de la population/Contrôle des habitants ;

Italian speaking region: Ufficio degli stranieri/Controllo degli abitanti.

The permit to stay in Switzerland will be issued by the cantonal Migration Office upon notification of arrival.

14. Is a non-EU/EFTA national who applied for a family reunion visa allowed to enter Switzerland without a visa?

A non-EU/EFTA national will not be allowed to enter Switzerland without the visa he/she applied for.

15. Do EU/EFTA citizens as well as citizens of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Great-Britain, Japan, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Singapore and Vatican City need a visa to enter Switzerland?

These citizens do not need a visa to enter Switzerland. The cantons are responsible for issuing permits. For detailed information on the application procedure (where to apply in Switzerland, which form to fill out, how long it will take, etc.), contact directly the competent cantonal authorities.

This document is published on our website where you can access the hyperlinks:
www.eda.admin.ch/stockholm -> Visa and entry to Switzerland -> Visa – entry to and residence in Switzerland -> National visa for a stay of more than 90 days -> Which documents I should submit with a national visa application -> Documentation to submit with a national visa application

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