

Passport validity

Before applying for a visa you must make sure that your passport is valid:

- Check the expiration date on your passport: For a short stay visa (less than 90 days), the expiration date must be no earlier than 3 months after the date of your return from the Schengen area; For a renewal of circulation visa, the expiration date must be 15 months after the day you apply for a visa; For a regular long stay visa (more than 90 days), the expiration date must be 15 months after the day you plan to leave the your country of origin.
- Make sure your passport has two or more completely blank and unmarked visa pages;
- Make sure your passport has not been altered: Check if the original laminated film (the transparent safety film that covers the passport photo) has been tampered with. If this is the case, you must ask a passport-issuing authority to re-tamper proof your passport; Make sure no pages or surfaces have been laminated (as this will invalidate your passport); Check for scratching or alteration.
- If your passport was issued over 10 years ago, even if it is still valid at the time you submit your visa application, you must apply for a new passport from domestic authorities or the Embassy or Consulate of your country of origin, before being able to apply for a visa.

Important:

Children on the passport of their parents cannot submit for a visa. They must have individual passports, even if they are traveling with their parents.