

**Visas**

A preliminary visa is a permit that you will need if you want to enter and stay in Sweden for a short period of time. For instance, you might want to visit friends or relatives, be a tourist, conduct business, take part in a conference or simply pass through. If you plan to live in Sweden in order to reunite with your relatives, etc., you must obtain a residence permit before you enter the country.

The Schengen Agreement's visa rules apply in Sweden. One feature of the agreement is that some EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) and EEA countries (Norway and Iceland) have open borders among themselves. If you obtain a visa in one of these countries, you can visit any of the others as well. Only in exceptional cases can you obtain a visa that is valid for one country only.

If you are a citizen of most non-EU countries, you must have a visa to enter Sweden. You can download a list of those countries at [www.migrationsverket.se](http://www.migrationsverket.se), click on Entry visa.

Sweden and the other EU Member States do not require the citizens of certain countries to obtain visas. If you are a citizen of one of those countries, you can remain in Sweden or any other Schengen state for three months without a visa.

**Travel medical insurance**

If you want to visit Sweden, you must have a valid passport, as well as enough money to support yourself while you are in the country and to return home. If you need a visa, you must also have an individual travel medical insurance that provides coverage for

- emergency physician care
- urgent hospital care
- travelling expenses to your native country for medical reasons

The insurance must cover expenses up to 30,000 euros and be valid in all Schengen countries. You don't have to show the policy until you pick up your visa.

**How long is a visa valid?**

A visa is temporary and is valid until the date printed on the permit sticker in your passport. You can obtain a visa for up to three out of every six months. The time starts from the date on which you first enter Sweden. You can also obtain a visa to pass through Sweden for a certain amount of time. The number of times that you can travel within the Schengen area while the visa is in effect will also be printed on in your permit sticker.

**What does a visa cover?**

A visa generally covers entry into all countries that have signed the Schengen Agreement (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden). In exceptional cases, the visa may cover entry only to the country that issued it – or only to certain countries if not all Schengen states have approved your passport.

**What is checked when you enter?**

A visa doesn't automatically entitle you to travel within the Schengen area. A new decision will be made every time you re-enter the area. When you go through border control, you must have enough money to support yourself while you are in the area and to return home, a travel medical insurance policy and documents indicating the purpose of your visit.

### **Where can you apply?**

Apply for a visa at the Swedish embassy or consulate. If Sweden doesn't have an embassy or consulate in your country, another Schengen state may represent it instead.

But you might live in a country where Sweden has neither an embassy, a consulate-general nor another Schengen state to represent it. In that case, go to the closest country in which Sweden has an embassy or consulate-general to apply for a visa.

### **What does it cost?**

There is a fee of SEK 315 to apply for a visa to visit Sweden. The cost is the same whether you are an adult or a child. You won't receive a refund if your application is turned down.

A close relative of a citizen of an EU/EEA-country or Switzerland does not have to pay anything in order to apply for an entry visa. However, this rule does not apply to relatives of Swedish citizens. The applicant has to show a certificate verifying the matrimony or relationship.

The following persons are considered "close relatives" in this context

- husband/wife
- registered partner
- children under 21 or older who are financially dependent on their parents
- parents who are financially dependent on children living in Sweden.

### **Who decides whether you will get a visa?**

The Swedish embassy or consulate-general can usually make a decision after checking with the other Schengen countries.

If the mission isn't sure what to do, it can forward your application to the Swedish Migration Board for a decision.

### **How long does it take?**

Usually you will get a decision within two weeks, but it varies from one embassy or consulate-general to another. If the Migration Board makes the decision, it might take longer.

To be on the safe side, apply at least two months before coming to Sweden. It might take longer if you apply in June-August.

### **Information on the application form**

For the embassy or consulate-general to consider your application, you must clearly indicate:

- why you want to visit Sweden
- how long you plan to stay

- how you will support yourself while you are in the country
- what kind of passport you have and how long it is good for
- where you are going after Sweden
- whether you have a permit to enter the country to which you are going after Sweden
- you must also attach two passport photos that are no more than six months old and that are full-face (taken when you are facing the camera directly with your eyes looking straight at the camera) for your new sticker.

In addition to the application, you must turn in Appendix B (questionnaire for visa applicants) and Appendix D (family).

### **Visiting friends and relatives**

If you are visiting a friend or relative, that person must fill out Appendix E, including the following information about you:

- how long you will be in Sweden
- who will support you while you are in the country
- their relationship with you

They can order Appendix E (no. MIGR 213031) from the Swedish Migration Board by writing to Migrationsverket, Distributionen, SE-601 70 Norrköping, Sweden, calling +46 11-15 63 77, faxing to +46 11-15 66 91, e-mailing to [distributionen@migrationsverket.se](mailto:distributionen@migrationsverket.se), going to a Swedish embassy or consulate-general, or downloading it from [www.migrationsverket.se](http://www.migrationsverket.se).

They should attach a civic registration certificate, which can be ordered from their local tax office, or at [www.skatteverket.se](http://www.skatteverket.se).

They must send the filled-out Appendix E and their civic registration certificate to you so that you can turn it in with your application.

### **Business and conference visits**

For a business or conference visit, you are required to enclose an invitation – a letter – with your visa application from the company concerned or from whoever is organizing the conference. The invitation must contain details about you, the applicant, such as:

- personal particulars
- the purpose of your visit
- arrival and departure dates
- who will support you during your stay in Sweden

### **Things to remember**

The Swedish embassy or consulate-general can require you to attach additional documents to your application. Some embassies and consulate-generals might also require the signature of a notary public certifying that certain documents are authentic. So it's a good idea to call the embassy or consulate-general and ask what documents to bring with you. If you are going to apply at the embassy or consulate of a Schengen country that represents Sweden, call them first as well. You will have to use their application forms and follow their document requirements. Also, your documents should be translated into the language of that country.

### **Will you get a visa?**

In order to encourage travel and exchange between countries, visas are generally granted on a generous basis.

But the Swedish embassy or consulate-general and the Migration Board must be sure that you are visiting temporarily and that you will leave the Schengen area afterwards. If the authorities think that you plan to live in the area, they will turn down your application. They will also turn it down if you are entered in the Schengen Information System (SIS) as a person who is not allowed to enter the area. These rules are in effect in all Schengen states.

### **Appeals**

You cannot appeal against a decision to turn down your application for a visa. However, you can request the decision-making body to reconsider your original application. This means that they will **consider** if there is any reason to change their decision. You can request a reconsideration by writing a letter to the body which has refused your application (the embassy, the consulate or the Migration Board). Tell them the new reasons you want to be taken into consideration. Furthermore you can always re-apply.

### **Application forms**

You can download the forms from the Internet, [www.migrationsverket.se](http://www.migrationsverket.se). They may also be ordered via e-mail, [distributionen@migrationsverket.se](mailto:distributionen@migrationsverket.se), fax +46 (0)11 15 66 91 or by writing to Migrationsverket, Distributionen, SE-601 70 Norrköping. Forms can also be obtained from a Swedish embassy or consulate.

### **Further information**

For further information, please contact the Swedish Migration Board's Public Contact Section ("Upplýsningen") via e-mail, [upplysningen@migrationsverket.se](mailto:upplysningen@migrationsverket.se), or telephone +46 (0)771 19 44 00. You can also contact a Swedish embassy or consulate for more information.

