

Schengen Visa Guide for Tier 4 Visa Students

2015/16



If you intend to travel to Europe during your study at the AUB, either for a course trip, or independently during the holidays, it is likely that you will need a Schengen Visa. You can apply for a Schengen Visa in the UK provided you have at least 3 months leave to remain left on your UK visa (although a small number of Schengen embassies require up to 6). Alternatively, you will need to apply from within your home country.

The Schengen Area

The Schengen Area is a group of 26 countries within Europe that do not require passport checks at their internal borders, which means that their residents can travel freely from country to country. Persons who hold a Schengen Visa can also enjoy this freedom of movement once within the Schengen Area for up to 90 days.

It is important to remember that the Schengen Area is not the same as the European Union; some countries that are in the EU are not part of the Schengen agreement, whilst some who are not in the EU are within the Schengen Area.

Currently, the following countries make up the Schengen Area:

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

The UK is not within the Schengen Area.

Do I Need a Schengen Visa?

If you wish to enter the Schengen Area and are not a citizen of the European Union, European Economic Area, Switzerland or a Visa-Exempt country (see list below), or are not a British Overseas National, you will need to obtain a Schengen Visa before travelling; citizens of some countries will also require a Schengen Transit Visa to pass through an airport in the Schengen Area in order to catch a connecting flight.

Countries that are currently Visa-Exempt (for citizens holding ordinary passports):

Andorra	Antigua & Barbuda	Argentina	Australia	Bahamas
Barbados	Brazil	Brunei Darussalam	Bulgaria	Canada
Chile	Costa Rica	Croatia	Cyprus	El Salvador
Guatemala	Honduras	Hong Kong*	Israel	Japan
Macao**	Macedonia	Malaysia	Mauritius	Mexico
Monaco	Montenegro	New Zealand	Nicaragua	Panama
Paraguay	Romania	Saint Kitts & Nevis	San Marino	Serbia
Seychelles	Singapore	South Korea	USA	Uruguay
Venezuela				

*only for holders of a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport
**only for holders of a Região Administrativa Especial de Macau passport

Whilst the above countries are exempt from needing a Schengen Visa, you may still need to demonstrate that you have sufficient funds available to you to support you for the duration of your intended stay and will need a passport with a minimum of 6 months remaining before its expiry. As with Schengen Visa holders, you will usually only be entitled to remain within the Schengen Area for up to 90 days.

How Do I Apply for a Schengen Visa?

If you need to apply for a visa to enter the Schengen Area, please visit the International section of the AUB website and select the Schengen Visa page in our Visas and Immigration section; here you can find instructions about the visa application process and what sort of documents you will need to provide. Remember to give yourself plenty of time to apply. It is advised that you apply 6 weeks before your intended travel date and, where possible, no later than 3 weeks prior to ensure you receive your visa in time.

www.schengenvisainfo.com can also provide you with plenty of information about the different types of Schengen Visa's available, fees involved and travel insurance required before you can use your visa.

If you require any further assistance with your Schengen Visa application, please contact the International Student Adviser in the International Office (intadvice@aub.ac.uk), who will also be able to produce a letter from the AUB confirming your studies in support of your application.