



Cultural Visa (Schengen Visa, type C)

Please note: For each applicant a complete file is required (including children and teenagers). If necessary, copies of relevant documents like confirmation of participation/invitation and travel insurance are to be made for each file.

Information for organizers of cultural events in Switzerland: It is not necessary to provide the visa section with an original or a copy by fax or email of the request ("invitation") that was sent directly to the participating person or cultural organization in the Russian Federation.

For artists who are participating actively in cultural events in Switzerland. Visitors of such events should apply for a tourist visa.

Requirements (according to the harmonized list of supporting documents of the Embassies and Consulates of the Schengen Member States in Russia):

1. One application form "Antrag auf Erteilung eines Schengen-Visums" (Application for a Schengen-Visa) duly completed (in German, French, Italian or English) and signed by the applicant in person (consult "Visa forms / Photo requirements" on our website). Visa application forms of minors (below the age of 18) need to be signed by at least one of their parents or the person exercising legal guardianship.
2. Passport which must be valid for at least three months after the date when the holder leaves the Schengen area, containing at least two empty pages and issued within the previous 10 years.
3. Copy of the internal passport (issued at the age of 14): pages concerning the applicant's biodata, issued international passports, marital status and registration in Russia.
4. 2 identical, recent passport photographs, meeting Schengen requirements (one glued on the application form, the other attached) (consult "Visa forms / Photo requirements" on our website).
5. Accident/health insurance valid for the entire stay and accepted in the whole Schengen space (only copy). The insurance must cover the minimum amount of EUR 30'000.00 (coverage: repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical attention, emergency hospital treatment and transportation of the body in case of death). If the visa is requested with a longer validity and multiple entries, the travel insurance only needs to cover the first trip. With the 2nd signature on the application form (page 4), the applicant confirms to be aware that for all future trips he/she will also need the necessary travel insurance.
6. Evidence of employment (letter from the employer) with salary information.
7. Written request ("invitation") from the cultural organization or the organizing body of the event in Switzerland containing the following information of the invited person(s): name, first name, sex, nationality and date of birth, purpose of the trip and/or nature of the event, number of performances by the artist(s), duration of stay and number of entries.

If the inviting organization covers the costs of travel, food and accommodation for the whole sojourn in Switzerland and the Schengen area, then this must be clearly stated in this letter ("invitation").

If the inviting cultural organization or organizing body of the event in Switzerland does not guarantee the above mentioned costs (point 7), the applicant must provide the following documents **in addition:**

8. Hotel booking confirmation or proof of other accommodation.
9. Solvency proof (bank account statement showing the movements for the last three months or bank letter confirming the balance of the account). Each person must have at least CHF 100.00 for every day of stay (or the equivalent amount in another currency). For students CHF 30.00 (or the equivalent amount in another currency) is required per day. **To show cash money is never required from our side and will not be accepted!**

For children under 18 years of age:

In addition:

10. Copy of the birth certificate.
11. If a child travels alone or is only accompanied by one parent, an authorization translated (into German, French, Italian or English) and signed in front of a notary public by the parents/the parent who is not travelling, is required (original and copy).
12. Copies/copy of the valid Schengen visa(s) of the parents/person in charge travelling together with the child, if the parents/person in charge submit(s) their/his/her application(s) not at the same time.

For children registered in parents' passport:

13. One application form "Antrag auf Erteilung eines Schengen-Visums" (Application for a Schengen-Visa) duly completed and signed by the parent who has got the child registered in his/her passport.
14. 2 identical, recent passport photographs, meeting Schengen requirements (one glued on the application form, the other attached. Consult "Visa forms / Photo requirements" on our website).
15. Copy of the birth certificate.
16. Accident/health insurance valid for the entire stay and accepted in the whole Schengen space (only copy). The insurance must cover the minimum amount of EUR 30'000.00 (coverage: repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical attention, emergency hospital treatment and transportation of the body in case of death). If the visa is requested with a longer validity and multiple entries, the travel insurance only needs to cover the first trip. With the 2nd signature on the application form (page 4), the parent of the child confirms to be aware that for all future trips he/she will also need the necessary travel insurance for the child.
17. Written request ("invitation") from the cultural organization or the organizing body of the event in Switzerland containing the following information of the invited person(s): name, first name, sex, nationality and date of birth, purpose of the trip and or nature of the event, number of performances by the artist(s), duration of stay and number of entries.
If the inviting organization covers the costs of travel, food and accommodation for the whole sojourn in Switzerland and the Schengen area, then this must be clearly stated in this letter ("invitation").
18. If the child is not accompanied by both parents, required is in addition: an authorization translated (into German, French, Italian or English) and signed in front of a notary public by the parent who is not travelling (original and copy) or
19. Copy of the valid Schengen visa of the 2nd parent also travelling together with the child, if this parent submits his/her application not at the same time.

If the inviting cultural organization or organizing body of the event in Switzerland does not

guarantee the above mentioned costs, the applicant must provide the following documents in addition:

20. Hotel booking confirmation or proof of other accommodation.
21. Solvency proof of the parents (bank account statement showing the movements for the last three months or bank letter confirming the balance of the account). For children and teenagers at least CHF 30.00 (or the equivalent amount in another currency) is required for every day of stay. **To show cash money is never required from our side and will not be accepted!**

For Third country nationals:

All non-Russian citizens living in Russia have to be legal residents of the Russian Federation and need to present the relevant documents (residence permit, long-term visa or FMS registration: original and copy). These documents need to be valid for at least 3 months beyond the planned return from the Schengen area or a document is to be submitted that the holder has applied for the renewal of proof of legal residence.

If there are no Schengen visa in the passport you are submitting with the application, but you had Schengen visa in the past, it is recommended to submit either the annulled/old passport or at least copies of the 2 last Schengen visa and the page with the personal data of that passport together with your application.

A minimum time of **three working days after submission** of the visa application (not counting day of deposit) or receipt of the complete visa request at our section (not counting days of deposit and transmission by our Outsourcing-Partner) and **payment of visa fees** (if necessary) is needed for consideration of the visa application.

The **visa fee is subject to change**: please check the website for the [current fee](#).

Travelers wishing to apply for a cultural visa must submit their application in person or can be represented by a travel agency accredited with the Swiss Embassy, a representative of the cultural organization in Russia whose member(s) is/are invited to Switzerland or by close relatives (spouse, mother, father, daughter, and son). If the documents are submitted by close relatives, this person has to provide proof of the family ties (copy of birth certificate or marriage certificate: does not need to be legalized or translated). Representatives of cultural organizations have to provide an authorizing letter from the organization. In addition, family members and representatives have to show proof of identity.

The Embassy of Switzerland reserves the right to:

- request additional documents (article 21/8 Schengen Visa Code).
- transmit the application to authorities in Switzerland for decision/approval.
- summon the applicant for an interview (article 21/8 Schengen Visa Code).

Moscow, 07.11.2019