



Generalkonsulat
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Mumbai

Frequently asked questions on Schengen visas at the German Consulate General Mumbai

1. Can I apply directly at the Consulate or do I need to go through an external service provider like VFS or a travel agent?

All applications can be submitted directly at the Consulate. Applicants who have previously travelled to Germany on one of our visas can submit their application through one of the travel agents that have been approved to work with the Consulate.

2. Do I need an appointment?

Applications may only be handed in with prior appointment, which can only be booked through our website: www.mumbai.diplo.de

3. How long does it take to get a Schengen visa?

Schengen visa are issued after three working days. During the main travelling season, however, there are waiting times for appointments and there is always the possibility of a delay due to technical reasons. For this reason it is strongly recommended to apply at least two weeks before travelling, ideally a month before.

4. Do I need an interview?

All first time travellers to Germany are required to appear in person for an interview. Persons who have travelled to the Schengen area twice within the last 24 months do not require an interview, unless specified. Those persons can submit the application through an approved travel agent or through another representative.

5. Can I send my application through a travel agent?

Yes, provided the travel agent has been approved by the Consulate. However, you might be asked to appear in person for an interview. All applicants who travel to Germany for the first time have to come for an interview.

6. Do I have to leave the Schengen area at the end of the visa validity period or does the validity period only delimitate the time for first entry?

You must leave the Schengen area at the end of the validity period. The validity period does **not** delimit the period of first entry, unlike in some non-Schengen countries.

7. Can I get a visa for a longer validity period if I need to travel multiple times?

The standard visa is given for the duration of the trip. In the case of previous travel and projects that require a longer validity period, the standard validity period is six months for stays not exceeding ninety days in total. In cases of persons who offer special guarantees and are of a special interest to the respective Schengen country, a one-year validity visa can be granted. This normally requires two previous six-month-visa with proof of frequent travel to Germany. Any visa beyond a one-year validity with a maximum validity of five years can only be granted on an exceptional basis. The rules applying to these visa are very restrictive.

8. Can I get a visa for multiple entries?

Yes. Multiple-entry visas are the norm.

9. Do I need medical insurance that covers the entire validity period in case of a longterm visa?

No. Medical insurance is only required for the concrete trip in question. However, any application for a long-term visa needs to be submitted with a fully filled-in declaration on medical insurance, which is downloadable from our website. Applications without such a declaration will only be considered for the duration of the medical insurance cover.

10. Can I get a German Schengen visa if I want to travel to another Schengen country as a main destination that does not have a visa section in Mumbai?

This is only possible for trips to Iceland. Visas for trips to other Schengen countries as a main destination must be applied for at the respective country's visa section.

11. If I travel to several Schengen countries, which Consulate do I have to approach?

The German Consulate only processes applications if Germany is the main destination and visa applications for Iceland. Applications for other Schengen countries will be rejected. In principle, the main destination within a trip covering several Schengen countries is the country which is visited for the longest duration, not the country of the port of entry. In cases where the duration of a stay in several countries is identical, the country of the first port of entry is the correct one for an application.

12. What is the minimum remaining validity period of my passport for a Schengen visa?

The passport needs to be valid for at least three months after the expiry of the Schengen visa.

13. How much does it cost and how do I pay?

The standard fee is 60 Euros. The fee in INR varies according to the exchange rate and is announced on our website. Payment has to be made exclusively by demand draft. Further details are to be found on our website.