

Bummit 2023 –Schengen visa guidance

Will I need a visa?

Check whether you need a visa. For example, you do not need a visa if you are from: Australia, Argentina, Canada, Malaysia, Hong Kong (SAR) passport, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan (if you have your ID no in your passport) United States, United Kingdom.

To check please go here:

<https://www.schengen-visa-info.eu/who-needs-a-schengen-visa>

What kind of Visa will I need?

You will need to apply for a Schengen Visa. You can apply for a single or multi trip Schengen Visas.

If you already hold a multi entry Schengen visa which will still be valid then you do not need to apply for a separate Schengen visa. You can spend up to 90 days in the Schengen area during the 180 day period.

If you are planning any other trips to the Schengen area before or after Bummit then having details of that trip will help, if applying for a multi trip Schengen visa (which can last for up to 3 years). You will need to show why you need a longer term Schengen visa.

Usually to apply for a Schengen visa you will need to show a detailed itinerary / travel plan, confirmed accommodation bookings for the duration of the trip and confirmation of travel in and out of the Schengen area. The nature of the Bummit hitchhiking event does not easily fit these requirements, so there is a risk that an application for a Schengen visa may be refused. You need to be aware of and willing to take this risk. If refused you would lose the application fee and you would have a 'refusal' notice on your immigration history. However, in previous years many international students have been able to obtain a schengen visa and take part in the trip.

Please also ensure you are aware of any Covid-19 travel requirements for the countries you will be traveling through and visiting on your trip and ensure you will be able to comply with them.

Where should I apply?

You have two options when it comes to deciding which country you want to apply for a Schengen visa from:

1. You can apply for a Schengen visa from the country in which you intend to spend the most time during Bummit. As you will be staying in Slovenia and will have accommodation booked there and return flights arranged, it may be sensible to apply for the Schengen visa from Slovenia as the country which you intend to spend the most time in during Bummit.
2. You can apply to the country which you will be entering the Schengen area through, which will be the country you first enter after leaving the UK. During Bummit this will most likely be either the Netherlands or France. **If you do choose this option when applying for a Schengen visa it is necessary that you enter the Schengen area via the country you said you would be entering the Schengen area through at**

the time of your application, so we strongly advise you to agree to this with your team ahead of time and plan your journey accordingly.

The Application Process

The following information is based on someone applying via the Slovenian Embassy. Whilst Schengen requirements are similar across all Schengen states there can be subtle differences, so always check directly with the Embassy for the country to which you are applying.

Slovenian Embassy in London [Visa information of the Embassy London | GOV.SI](https://www.gov.si/en/representations/embassy-london/visa-information-of-the-embassy-london/)
(<https://www.gov.si/en/representations/embassy-london/visa-information-of-the-embassy-london/>)

How do I apply?

Every applicant, including children/infants, has to submit his/her Schengen visa application in person and by appointment only on their appointment date, which needs to be booked in advance.

To apply go to [Welcome to VFS Global | vfsglobal](https://visa.vfsglobal.com/gbr/en/svn) (<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/gbr/en/svn>)

Application Form

In order to apply for Slovenia visa applicants must provide an online visa application form (VAF). Once completed online you should print off **two copies** and sign both copies of the application form. Take both copies of the signed visa application form with the supporting documents to make an appointment at the visa application centre. Please note that hand filled applications will not be accepted any more at the visa application centre.

When you attend the appointment you will be required to provide biometrics. You will need to take two copies of the completed application form and supporting documents with you to the appointment.

What is the Visa Fee?

Currently the standard Schengen visa fee is 80 euros/£68.00 for adults plus £18.25 handling fee. You can find more information on fees here:
<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-fee/>

You will also have to travel in person to the visa application centre to submit documents, the nearest is Manchester so factor in the travel costs.

How long will it take?

You can apply up to 3 months before travel. The minimum processing time is 2 weeks and could be longer. It is a good idea to book an appointment at the visa application centre as soon as possible

What Documents should I provide?

The list of documents below is not an exhaustive list of documents and you could be asked for additional documentation.

All documents should ideally be no more than 1 month old e.g. bank statements. Applicants always have to bring and present their original documents, but they only need to submit photocopies of the same; unless the requirements specify that an original document has to be submitted.

(Make sure you have both originals and copies of every document with you at the appointment)

1. Visa application form (original):

Complete the online Schengen visa application form, print it out and take it to your appointment.

Go to <https://www.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/slovenia/uk/english/> purpose of travel select 'tourist'.

2. Passport (original and photocopy):

Signed passport, at least 2 blank pages for visa purposes, **must be valid for at least 90 days beyond the return date of the trip to the Schengen Area** and has to be issued within the last 10 years on the day of leaving the Schengen Area.

Extended passport may still be valid, but when older than 10 years the passport is no longer acceptable; in that case the applicant first needs to apply for a new passport.

Photocopies of previous Schengen visas issued in the last 2 years; in case the previous Schengen visas are endorsed in an old passport, then the old passport should also be presented with the visa application.

3. UK Residence permit - copy of residence permit valid in the UK for at least 3 months after the last day of intended trip.

4. Proof of study:

You'll need to obtain a Certificate of Student Status from SSiD. At SSiD you'll need to ask for a Student Status Schengen Letter and state the embassy you plan to apply for a Schengen visa via, so that SSiD can address the relevant embassy. See <https://students.sheffield.ac.uk/certificate-of-student-status/schengen-visas> for more details on this.

The Student Status Schengen Letter must meet the following criteria:

- must be an original copy of the letter
- Must be recent (less than 3 months old)
- Must be addressed to the embassy
- Must state the basic personally identifying information of the applicant
- Must state the name of the UK school/college/university
- Must confirm the applicant's current registration status and type of studies
- Must be signed by relevant university staff and show the name and position of the signee
- Must state the date of issue of the letter

It may also be worth printing off semester dates to show that you are travelling during Easter vacation. <https://students.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid>

5. Proof of funds:

An up to date copy of 3 months worth of UK current account bank statements showing applicant's name, address and an end balance dated within the last month of the visa application submission date.

Guidance for applying for a Schengen visa via Slovenia does not state a minimum amount of money showing on the bank statements you provide so we would suggest that the bank statement balance needs to show a minimum amount of £ 30.00/day for each day of the application's stay in the Schengen area plus sufficient funds to cover outstanding accommodation and travel fees

(Please note that online bank account printouts are also accepted).

6. Proof of travel:

Ideally provide a detailed itinerary of your travel into the Schengen area and how you will enter Slovenia. This is not easy if hitchhiking as you may not have a clear route but it could be useful to plan a route and where possible show evidence of transport. In the past students have booked a train/coach trip into the country they are applying to. It is important to note that even if you choose to use public transport and not hitchhike at certain points, you are required to stay with your teammates.

Provide copies of any tickets (aeroplane, train, boat, coach, (hired) car) or reserved return travel tickets: these should mention applicant's name and travel dates to & from the Schengen area. It is recommended that you provide evidence of ferry crossing into the Schengen area and evidence of how you will leave the Schengen area/Slovenia e.g. return flight ticket.

7. Proof of accommodation

Sheffield Students' Union (SU) will provide a letter which will confirm that you are participating in a charity event, it will confirm that the SU has booked hostel accommodation at the halfway point and at the endpoint of the journey. To obtain a copy of this letter, please email eei.bummit@sheffield.ac.uk. As the accommodation bookings the SU make for Bummit are for a group and not in your own name they may not be accepted by the Embassy. It may be advisable to have booking reservations for hostels in your own name for each night of the trip, even if you later have to cancel or amend them. Your Schengen visa will allow travel throughout the Schengen area for up to 90 days and often people's exact travel plans change during the trip but in order to meet the visa requirements it is a good idea to plan a proposed route and book hostels accordingly in your name. Make sure that you book rooms which can be cancelled or amended without charge.

8. Travel insurance (all-risk medical travel insurance)

The travel insurance – clearly showing the applicant's name - has to be valid throughout the complete territory of the Schengen Area and must cover the entire period of the applicant's intended stay in the Schengen Area; the minimum coverage for medical emergency and repatriation (in case of death clause included) must be 30.000 €.

The SU will insure you for the duration of the Bummit trip. They can provide you with a copy of the insurance document, but it may not show that you are individually named and, therefore, it may not be accepted by the Embassy. If the embassy asks for an insurance document which

names you individually and Bummit's insurance provider is unable to provide this, you will need to purchase travel insurance of your own. If you intend to extend your trip, then you must take out additional coverage.

If you are applying for a multi entry Schengen visa it could be worth you taking out an annual multi trip travel insurance coverage which would cover this trip and any future trips to the Schengen area. You can find good value insurance products via web comparison sites and consumer forums such as <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel-insurance/> but always check the small print and ensure that the cover will meet the requirements of the visa and cover you for the activities you will be undertaking whilst travelling.

9. Two Identical Photos

Please provide two identical, recent (not older than 6 months) photographs of yourself, meeting the following requirements:

- Measuring 35 mm across and 45mm in height
- These must be in color, no black and white.
- The head should take up 70-80 percent of the photo
- Taken against a plain light (white, light grey or off-white) background so that features are distinguishable and contrast against the background
- Clear quality, with the face in focus and the applicant looking straight at the camera
- Full face: non-smiling, no sunglasses, no hat/cap or any head covering, unless the applicant wears such items because of his/her religious belief or ethnic background
- Printed on normal photographic paper (camera print)
- Photograph attached (glued) to the visa application form

Applying via France

Information and application can be found at :

https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas

Applying via the Netherlands

Information and application can be found at

<https://www.vfsglobal.com/Netherlands/UK/visa-services/index.html>

Download the application at <https://consular.mfaservices.nl/schengen-visa>