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ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development
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VISA WISE ARMENIA

APPLYING RIGHT FOR SCHENGEN TRAVEL

**SCHENGEN VISA GUIDE
FOR ARMENIAN CITIZENS**





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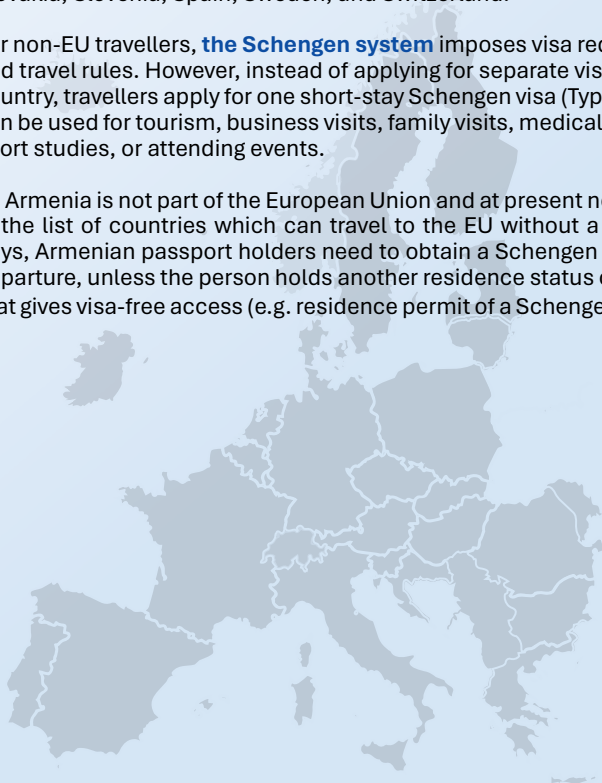
WHAT IS SCHENGEN

The Schengen Agreement allows people to travel between participating countries without internal border checks. This means that once a person legally enters the Schengen Area, they can move freely from one Schengen country to another without passing passport control at each border.

The Schengen Area currently includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

For non-EU travellers, **the Schengen system** imposes visa requirements and travel rules. However, instead of applying for separate visas for each country, travellers apply for one short-stay Schengen visa (Type C), which can be used for tourism, business visits, family visits, medical treatment, short studies, or attending events.

As Armenia is not part of the European Union and at present not included in the list of countries which can travel to the EU without a visa for 90 days, Armenian passport holders need to obtain a Schengen visa before departure, unless the person holds another residence status or passport that gives visa-free access (e.g. residence permit of a Schengen country).



EU

Schengen Area



WHAT IS A SCHENGEN VISA

A Schengen visa is an entry permit for non-EU nationals to make a short, temporary visit of up to 90 days in any 180-day period to a country in the Schengen area.

Visas that allow the entry on the Schengen territory come in 3 types

Type

A

Airport Transit Visa (allows you to connect through the international transit area, of an airport in the Schengen area during a stopover or a change of flights and does not allow you to leave the international transit area. Currently required only by Poland and Czech Republic.

Type

C

Short-Stay Visa.

Type

D

National Long-Stay Visa (not a Schengen Visa in the sense of the EU Visa Code).

These can be issued as

- Single-entry visa: allowing you to enter the Schengen area once
- Double-entry visa: allowing you to enter the Schengen area twice
- Multiple-entry visa: allowing several visits to the Schengen area for as long as the visa is valid

A visa application can be rejected (declared inadmissible), if a basic precondition is not met (lack of application form, passport, fingerprints, visa fee, timeframe or correct jurisdiction) or refused. Visas shall be refused if the applicant provides fraudulent documents or unreliable statements, fails to justify the travel purpose, lacks sufficient funds or required insurance, exceeds stay limits, or is flagged as a security, health, or overstay risk).



A short-term Schengen visa (Type C) is a visa that allows non-EU nationals to travel to the Schengen Area for a limited period of time. It is intended for temporary stays such as tourism, business trips, family visits, medical treatment, participation in conferences, short study programs, cultural events, or official visits.



The general rule is that the holder may stay for a maximum of 90 days within any 180-day period across the entire Schengen Area, not per country.

The permitted stay does not need to be continuous, as all days spent in Schengen countries are added together within the same 180-day reference period. For example, if a person spends 30 days in Germany and 20 days in France, a total of 50 days is counted. Similarly, if a traveller spends 30 days in France, returns to their country of origin, and later travels to Germany for another 40 days within the same 180-day period, the combined total would be 70 days.

The Schengen visa system works on the principle of one common visa for many countries. Instead of applying separately for each country, the applicant submits one application to the consulate responsible for the main destination and represented in the country where the application is made.



NOTICE

There is a benefit for those who used their prior visas properly which is called the “cascade system” and gives frequent travellers more freedom to travel.

The “**visa cascade**” is the rule under the EU Visa Code that allows frequent and reliable travellers to gradually receive Schengen multiple-entry visas with longer validity periods instead of applying for a new short visa every time.

However, be aware that many people wrongly expect a long-term multiple-entry visa immediately. That is often unrealistic. The cascade rewards a clean travel history over time, not simply frequent applications.

The standard cascade works like this

1

FIRST LEVEL

1-year multiple-entry visa

The applicant may receive a visa valid for 1 year if they have obtained and lawfully used 3 Schengen visas within the previous 2 years.

2

SECOND LEVEL

2-year multiple-entry visa

The applicant may receive a visa valid for 2 years if they have lawfully used a previous 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years.

3

THIRD LEVEL

5-year multiple-entry visa

The applicant may receive a visa valid for 5 years if they have lawfully used a previous 2-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.

“Lawfully used” means

- Respecting the **90/180-day** rule. Responsibility for complying with the **90/180-day** rule lies with the visa holder
- Leaving the Schengen Area on time
- Using the visa for the declared purpose (e.g. if you applied as a tourist, you are not allowed to work, if you applied for studies, you should have really studied)
- No misuse, overstays, or immigration violations





IMPORTANT

Visa cascade is not granted automatically. Even if someone meets the formal conditions, the consulate still checks whether the applicant continues to meet entry conditions—especially financial means, purpose of travel, and intention to return.

Also, the visa validity can never go beyond the passport validity. If the passport expires earlier, the visa will be limited accordingly.

If someone has a valid visa in a passport that cannot be used anymore because there are no empty pages for stamps, they can ask to move the visa to a new passport. The old visa will be cancelled, and a new visa with the same remaining validity will be issued as quickly as possible, without any fee.



IN PRACTICE

Proper previous visa use builds trust. Improper use destroys it.



NAVIGATING THE SCHENGEN VISA PROCEDURE WHERE TO APPLY IN ARMENIA

Currently, 10 states issue Schengen visas directly in Armenia: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

Several of them also represent other Schengen states



France represents Iceland, Norway, and Portugal



Germany represents Belgium, Luxembourg, and Sweden



Italy represents Finland and Malta



Lithuania represents Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands



Poland represents Slovenia and Switzerland

There are also countries that do not issue visas directly in Armenia: **Austria** processes Schengen visas from its embassy in Tbilisi (Georgia) and outsources the application process in Yerevan to VFS Global.

Spain processes Schengen visas from its embassy in Moscow and outsources the application process in Yerevan to BLS International.

Representation arrangements may change, and applicants must always verify the current responsible consulate on the official consular website before applying.

This means that Armenian citizens must first identify the correct responsible consulate before booking an appointment. Applying to an embassy different than the one of the main country of destination is a common mistake and often leads to delays or refusal.



The following countries outsource the application process to external service providers (Visa Centres) in Armenia



VFS.GLOBAL

Through VFS Global: Austria (processes visas from its Embassy in Tbilisi) and Lithuania



Through GVCW Visa Application Center: Greece

TLScontact

Through TLScontact: France, Germany, Italy and Czech Republic



Through BLS International: Slovakia and Spain (the latter processes visa applications from its Embassy in Moscow)



These external service providers handle practical steps such as

- Appointment
- Collection of visa applications and fees
- Biometric data (fingerprints and photo)
- Passport return
- Basic document intake

They do not take visa decisions. The final decision is always made by the responsible embassy or consulate.

A common misconception is that intermediaries, such as travel agencies, can influence the result because they “work with” visa centres. That is false. Visa Centres like VFS, GVCW and TLS only manage logistics - they cannot help obtaining approval.

The fee for processing Schengen visa applications for Armenian citizens is EUR 35, thanks to the EU-Armenia Visa Facilitation Agreement in place since 2014, whereas the standard fee for processing Schengen visa applications from most non-EU countries is EUR 90. The EU-Armenia Visa Facilitation Agreement even exempts certain groups of applicants from payment of the visa fee. These groups are listed in Article 6 (2) of the Agreement and can be accessed at the following links:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX%3A22013A1031%2801%29> (English)

https://www.mfa.am/filemanager/Statics/EU_AM_VFA_am.pdf (Armenian)



NOTICE

External service providers still charge a fee for their services regardless of the exemption from the visa fee, as well as additional charges to cover logistical costs, such as when passports and applications must be sent to the respective consulate in another country and returned via international courier services (for Austria and Spain only).





HOW TO APPLY

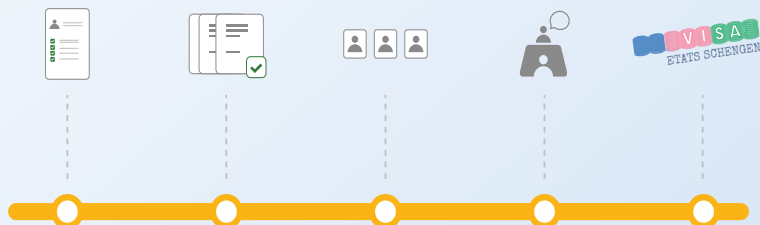
Applicants must apply to the consulate of the country that is their main destination — usually where they will stay the longest. If the stay is equally divided, they must apply to the consulate of the country of the first entry. **Applying to a wrong consulate, which is often called “visa shopping,” can lead to refusal.**

The visa process begins with booking an appointment at the embassy, consulate, or authorized visa centre such as **VFS Global, TLScontact, GVCW or BLS**. The applicant submits the visa form, passport, photographs, travel insurance, proof of accommodation, flight reservation, proof of financial means, employment or status documents, and documents proving ties to the home country. The appointment shall, as a rule, take place within a period of two weeks from the date when it was requested.

The consulate then examines four main elements: whether the purpose of travel is genuine, whether the applicant has enough financial means, whether the applicant intends to leave the Schengen Area before the visa expires, and whether the documents submitted are genuine and consistent.

Visa officers do not decide based on one document alone. They assess the overall credibility of the application.

For example, hotel bookings, flight plans, employment letters, salary records, and bank statements must logically match each other. Sudden large bank deposits, unverifiable hotel bookings, weak employment proof, or unclear travel plans often create doubts and lead to refusal. When in addition to the upcoming trip, the applicant already has other planned visits and applies for a multiple-entry visa, they should also submit the relevant supporting documents for those future trips.



A Schengen visa is an entry condition but not a guarantee of entry. Every application is individually assessed by the consulate based on credibility and documentation. Even after visa issuance, border officers may still ask for proof of return tickets, hotel bookings, money, or the real reason for travel and if they are not convinced by the traveller, they can refuse entry and/or annul the visa. It is therefore recommended that you carry with you copies of the documents which you presented when applying for the visa (e.g. letters of invitation, travel confirmations, other documents stating the purpose of your stay).



COMMON REASONS FOR SCHENGEN VISA REFUSALS IN ARMENIA



The most frequent refusal ground is **insufficient proof of strong ties to the home country**. Consular authorities assess employment stability, income, property ownership, and family links.

A second major issue is **unclear or implausible travel purpose**. Applications containing vague itineraries, inconsistent bookings, or weak invitation letters are often rejected. Generic or unverifiable reservations raise doubts about whether the trip will take place as declared.

Insufficient financial means is another common factor. Applicants must show they can cover all travel-related costs. Bank statements with low balances, irregular income, or sudden large deposits shortly before submission are frequently interpreted as unreliable or artificially constructed.

Also important is the **document credibility and authenticity**. Cases involving forged employment certificates, manipulated bank statements, or unverifiable business activities occur regularly enough to create heightened scrutiny. Any inconsistency can undermine the entire application.

Another fact possibly leading to refusals is **limited or non-existent travel history**. Applicants without prior international travel history are considered higher risk, particularly when applying for longer stays or multiple-entry visas. While not a standalone refusal ground, it reinforces other concerns.

Visa shopping is also a recurring reason for refusal. This occurs when applicants deliberately apply at a consulate of a Schengen state that is not their main destination or where they have no credible link, typically because they perceive higher approval chances. Inconsistencies between the stated itinerary and the chosen consulate, or evidence suggesting the applicant intends to travel primarily to another Member State, often result in rejection due to lack of jurisdiction or credibility concerns.

Finally, **previous immigration violations or overstays** in the Schengen area or elsewhere weigh heavily. Even minor past breaches can negatively affect the assessment if they indicate a risk of non-compliance.

In summary, most refusals stem from a credibility deficit: either the applicant fails to demonstrate sufficient socio-economic stability in Armenia, or the documentation does not convincingly support the declared purpose and structure of travel. Strengthening consistency, transparency, and jurisdictional correctness—particularly avoiding visa shopping—is critical for improving approval outcomes.

POINTS OF SPECIAL ATTENTION WHEN COMPLETING THE VISA APPLICATION

When completing a Schengen visa application, applicants should pay special attention to consistency, accuracy, and credibility. Many refusals happen not because a document is missing, but because the information does not logically match.

This means applicants must prove several things clearly

- The real purpose of the trip
- Sufficient financial means to pay for travel and stay
- Valid travel medical insurance
- Confirmed accommodation
- And strong reasons to return to Armenia after the visit—such as stable employment, family responsibilities, business ownership, studies, or property

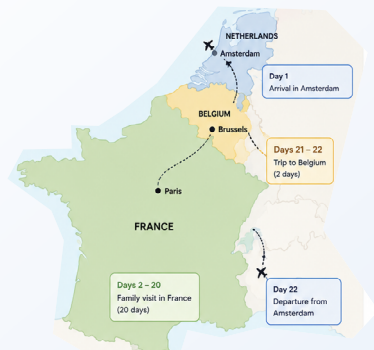
Consulates also pay close attention to credibility. Sudden large deposits before the application, weak salary evidence, fake hotel bookings, or badly prepared documents often result in refusal.

In practice, this means preparation matters more than quantity of documents. A clear, honest, and consistent application is far more important than submitting many unnecessary papers.

Many refusals happen because applicants use unreliable intermediaries who provide incorrect or false documents.

Firstly, the application must be submitted to the correct consulate. This depends on the main destination rule: you apply to the country where you will stay the longest. If the number of days is equal in several countries, you apply to the country of first entry. Choosing a consulate simply because it seems “easier” is considered visa shopping and is a common reason for refusal.





VARDAN WISHES TO TRAVEL TO FRANCE FOR A FAMILY VISIT (20 DAYS) AND HAS ADDITIONALLY ORGANISED A TRIP TO BELGIUM (2 DAYS). HE WILL ARRIVE AT AND LEAVE FROM AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS). THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS THE EVENT IN FRANCE, AND THEREFORE THE FRENCH CONSULATE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE APPLICATION.



ARMEN WISHES TO TRAVEL TO BELGIUM FOR BUSINESS REASONS (6 DAYS) AND INTENDS TO VISIT RELATIVES IN FRANCE ON THE SAME OCCASION (6 DAYS). HIS FIRST ENTRY IS BRUSSELS (BELGIUM). THE DURATION OF INTENDED STAYS IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE IS IDENTICAL AND THEREFORE THE CONSULATE PROCESSING SCHENGEN VISAS FOR BELGIUM (IN YEREVAN, THAT IS THE GERMAN CONSULATE) SHOULD DEAL WITH THE APPLICATION SINCE BELGIUM IS THE COUNTRY OF HIS FIRST ENTRY.

Personal details must exactly match the passport - full name, passport number, date of birth, and passport validity. Even small mistakes can create delays or suspicion.

And by the way, a visa cannot be issued beyond the validity of the passport. Passports should be valid at least three months beyond the planned return date.

Travel dates must be realistic and identical across all documents: visa form, flight reservation, hotel booking, invitation letter, insurance, and employer leave approval. Inconsistent travel dates are frequently flagged by consulates.



ANNA APPLIES FOR A VISA CLAIMING THAT SHE WILL ATTEND A BUSINESS CONFERENCE ON 10-15 JUNE. BUT WHEN THE CONSULATE CHECKS, THE CONFERENCE ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE ON 20-22 JUNE. THIS MISMATCH RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT THE REAL PURPOSE OF HER TRIP.



The declared purpose of travel must be clear and supported by evidence. If the purpose is tourism, the itinerary and hotel bookings must make sense. If it is a business trip, the invitation letter must be specific and credible. **Clearly specify the full name and address of your reference (the person or organization to be visited). Hotel addresses are acceptable solely for tourism purposes.** Generic invitation letters without details often cause refusal.



APPLICANT PROFILE	STATED PURPOSE OF TRIP
 Name: David Occupation: Jewellery Trader	David applies for a visa claiming that he was invited to attend a medical conference.
 Business Activity: Trading in gold and precious jewellery	EVENT Medical Conference Date: 10–12 July Location: Paris, France 

DAVID WORKS AS A JEWELLERY TRADER BUT APPLIES FOR A VISA CLAIMING THAT HE WAS INVITED TO ATTEND A MEDICAL CONFERENCE. SINCE HIS OCCUPATION HAS NO CLEAR LINK TO THE EVENT, THIS RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT THE TRUE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP.

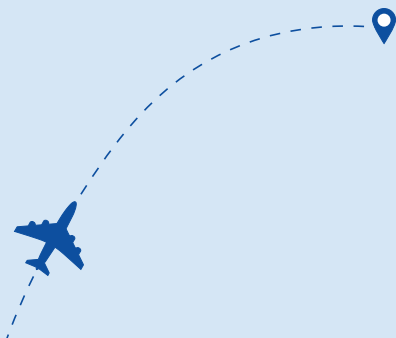


Financial information must be genuine and stable. Consulates pay close attention to suspicious last-minute bank deposits made shortly before application. A sudden large amount of money on the account prior to the application date, if no large deposit was ever made before creates doubt. Regular salary income is much stronger than temporary deposits.



IRINA APPLIES FOR A VISA AND SUBMITS A BANK STATEMENT SHOWING A HIGH BALANCE. HOWEVER, WHEN THE CONSULATE CHECKS, THEY FIND THE DOCUMENT WAS EDITED AND THE REAL ACCOUNT BALANCE IS MUCH LOWER. THIS INDICATES THAT THE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ARE FABRICATED. FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ARE FABRICATED.

Employment documents must be credible and verifiable. Employment letters should clearly state position, salary, leave approval, and duration of employment. Template letters with unrealistic salaries or inconsistent bank statements are a major problem.





ARMEN APPLIES FOR A VISA CLAIMING THAT HE WILL ATTEND A TECHNOLOGY CONGRESS. HE PROVIDES AN INVITATION LETTER BUT DOES NOT SHOW ANY PROOF THAT HE WORKS IN THE TECH FIELD OR HAS RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS. THIS MAKES THE CONSULATE QUESTION WHETHER THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS GENUINE.

Accommodation bookings must be real and verifiable. Fake bookings, reservations cancelled after submission, or multiple applicants using the same suspicious reservation are frequently detected.

Applicants should also be careful when using intermediaries or travel agents. Many refusals result from fake bookings, false bank statements, or incorrect submissions prepared by intermediaries. The applicant is always responsible, not the agent.



MARIA USES A TRAVEL AGENT TO PREPARE HER VISA APPLICATION. THE AGENT SUBMITS HOTEL AND FLIGHT BOOKINGS THAT LOOK REALISTIC BUT ARE ACTUALLY FAKE, ALONG WITH A BANK STATEMENT THAT HAS BEEN ALTERED. WHEN THE CONSULATE CHECKS AND DISCOVERS THE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT GENUINE, HER VISA IS REFUSED. EVEN THOUGH THE AGENT PREPARED THE DOCUMENTS, MARIA IS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WAS SUBMITTED IN HER APPLICATION.

If the applicant had a previous refusal, reapplying with the same documents usually fails again. The reason for refusal must be understood and corrected before a new application.



And last but not least, you must apply to

- The country where you will stay the longest (main destination),
- If stays are equal, the country of your first entry

Applying at an “easier” consulate is a common mistake (“visa shopping”) and often leads to refusal.



ARAM PLANS TO SPEND MOST OF HIS TRIP IN GERMANY, BUT HE APPLIES FOR A VISA AT THE EMBASSY OF ANOTHER SCHENGEN STATE BECAUSE HE BELIEVES IT IS “EASIER” TO OBTAIN A VISA THERE. WHEN THE CONSULATE OF THAT STATE REVIEWS HIS TRAVEL PLAN AND DISCOVERS THAT HIS MAIN DESTINATION IS ACTUALLY GERMANY, THEY MAY REFUSE THE APPLICATION BECAUSE HE APPLIED TO THE WRONG CONSULATE.



IN SHORT

Every part of the application must tell the same story - where you are going, why you are going, how you will pay, and why you will return to Armenia. If your documents do not support that story, refusal becomes more likely.





SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

The following supporting documents and information are necessary to apply for a Schengen visa in Armenia:

Application & Identity

- Completed and signed visa application form
- Valid passport (should be valid 3 months after return and have at least 2 free pages), including copies of the data/photo page and all pages containing visas and associated entry/exit stamps
- Originals and copies of the valid and expired passports (all pages that contain personal data, visas and stamps) **(Spain only)**
- Copies of previous Schengen visas for the last 3 years **(Austria only)**
- Other valid passports if applicable **(Poland only)**
- 1 or 2 recent biometric photos (3.5 × 4.5 cm, white background)

Travel & Stay

- Round trip airline ticket reservation
- Greece requires the full itinerary for the entire stay
- Proof of accommodation (e.g. hotel booking)
- Greece requires proof of payment for accommodation
- If several Schengen countries are visited, proof of accommodation must be provided for each Schengen country visited
- Travel medical insurance valid for Schengen area (minimum coverage €30,000)

Financial Means & Employment

- Original recent bank statements (for the last 3–6 months)
- Recent letter from the employer with salary indication and dates of employment (issued no later than a month ago)
- Leave approval by the employer (**Austria only**)
- Employment contract (**France only**)
- Tax statement from the State Revenue Committee showing the salary (**Austria and Germany only**)
- For sponsored trips: sponsorship letter and sponsor documents (bank statement and ID)
- For entrepreneurs: business registration and tax statement
- For students: student card, enrolment certificate and proof of sufficient means of the guardian
- For pensioners: pension certificate/statements and proof of property ownership (if available)

Ties to Armenia

- Proof of property ownership (Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Greece)
- Civil status documents (marriage certificate, birth certificates of children, other family relationship documents if any) (Germany, Lithuania, Italy, France)

Minors

- Birth certificate
- Parents' passport copies
- Notarized parental consent if travelling alone or with one parent

Supporting documents presented in the Armenian language should be accompanied by certified English translations (or the language of the respective embassy). Certified translation is not required only by the **German Embassy**.



We strongly recommend that you check with the websites of the respective consulates for the list of supporting documents while preparing your application:



**Austria:**

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/austrian-embassy-tbilisi/travels-to-austria/entry-and-residence/how-to-apply>
<https://www.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/austria/armenia/english/index.html>

**Bulgaria:**

<https://www.mfa.bg/en/embassies/armenia>

**Czech Republic:**

https://mzv.gov.cz/yerevan/en/visa_and_consular_information/visa_information/index.html
<https://visas-cz.tlscontact.com/en-us/country/am/vac/amEVN2cz>

**Germany:**

<https://eriwan.diplo.de/am-de/service/visa/visainformation-englisch-2726414>
<https://visas-de.tlscontact.com/en-us>

**Greece:**

<https://www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/armenia-en/visas>
<https://am-gr.gvcworld.eu/en>

**France:**

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/accueil>
<https://visas-fr.tlscontact.com/en-us/country/am/vac/amEVN2fr>

**Lithuania:**

<https://am.mfa.lt/en/travel-and-residence/general-information/visas/59>
<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/Lithuania/armenia/english/>

**Poland:**

<https://www.gov.pl/web/armenia-en/c-type-schengen-visa>

**Romania:**

<https://erevan.mae.ro/en/romania/299>

**Slovakia:**

<https://www.mzv.sk/web/jerevan-en/visa-and-services/schengen-visa>
<https://www.blsslovakiavisa.com/armenia/about.php>

**Italy:**

<https://ambjerevan.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari-e-visti/servizi-per-il-cittadino-straniero/visti/>

<https://visas-it.tlscontact.com/en-us/country/am/vac/amEVN2it/visa-types>

**Spain:**

<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/moscu/ru/Paginas/index.aspx>

<https://armenia.blsspainvisa.com>



DO'S AND DON'TS

If you want to avoid a refusal always observe the following Dos and Don'ts before applying:

DO'S

Understand the core requirements



- Your travel purpose should be credible and well supported by relevant documents)
- Provide evidence of sufficient financial means
- Demonstrate a clear intention to return to Armenia (for example, by providing supporting documents that show strong personal, professional, or economic ties to your home country)

Submit complete and consistent documentation



- Always read the information provided by the consulates
- Follow the lists of supporting documents on respective consular websites
- Make yourself a checklist of necessary documents

Ensure credibility and consistency



- All information must be logical and consistent
- Documents must be verifiable
- Show stable financial history and employment



Apply at the correct consulate



- Apply at the consulate of your main destination

Prepare early



- Submit your application well in advance (but no earlier than six months and no later than 15 calendar days prior to the start of your journey)
- Allow time to collect missing documents

Be honest at all times



- Provide only genuine documents
- Ensure all statements are accurate

In case of refusal



- Carefully read the refusal reasons
- Address the issues mentioned in the refusal letter before appealing or reapplying

But be aware

- ✓ appeal deadlines differ by state
- ✓ appeals are often not useful without fixing substance
- ✓ sometimes reapplication is better than appeal



DON'TS

Do not submit false or forged documents



- Fake bank statements, employment letters, or invitations lead to refusal and possible sanctions
- Not only falsely produced documents are fake; alteration of genuine documents is also considered fake

Do not engage in visa shopping



- Do not apply at a consulate other than your main country of destination
- Be honest about your main destination—do not try to make it appear different by altering the supporting documents. Do not provide misleading documents to suggest a longer stay in a country that is not your actual main destination, expecting that the consulate of that country will issue you a visa easier or faster

Avoid inconsistencies



- Contradicting travel dates or unclear purpose of travel
- Unverifiable hotel bookings
- Cancelled bookings after submission
- Multiple applicants using the same booking
- Invitation letters without proof of residence
- Bookings inconsistent with applicant profile

Do not manipulate financial evidence



- Avoid sudden large deposits before application
- Template employment certificates
- Salary inconsistencies
- Unrealistic salary declarations

Do not submit unrealistic travel plans



- Your itinerary must match your financial situation and travel purpose
- Generic invitation letters without clear details create doubts

Avoid weak proof of ties to Armenia



- Lack of stable job, income, or social ties raises doubts

Do not over-rely on intermediaries



- No one can guarantee you a visa
- Do not pay private intermediaries for services that are available directly from the consulate or visa centre
- Avoid anyone offering falsified documents
- Remember: what sounds too good may be not true

Do not reapply without improvements



- Submitting the same application again will likely lead to another refusal

Do not misunderstand the visa scope



- A Schengen visa does not grant the right to work or reside long-term
- Please also remember that you have a very low chance to receive asylum in EU. In 2024 about 97% of all first-instance asylum applications from Armenia were rejected



Many refusals happen because applicants trust intermediaries too much. Neither an intermediary nor a trusted visa centre can influence any consular decision.





FINAL ADVICE

Your application is judged mainly on credibility. A strong application is consistent, realistic, and fully supported by genuine documents.

The goal is not to submit more papers, but to submit trustworthy papers that clearly prove who you are, why you travel, how you pay for the trip, and why you will return to Armenia.



