

## RESIDENCE FORMALITIES - SHORT STAY

If you do not hold a valid M-card or Annex 56 (which proves you applied for the M-card), you are allowed to enter Belgium and other Schengen area countries without a visa for a period of up to 90 days within a 180-day period. The 90 days begins when you enter the Schengen area until the day you depart. You can use the short-stay visa calculator to calculate your days in the Schengen area. All days spent in the Schengen area, irrespective of the purpose of the trip (including tourism, family reasons, and business visits), count towards the maximum 90-day limitation.

For business trips, limited professional activities are permitted and certain formalities might need to be complied with. More details [here](#).

When traveling to Belgium and the rest of the Schengen area, you should carry the following documentation to pass through immigration smoothly:

- A valid passport, valid for at least three months from the intended departure date from the Schengen area (ideally six months - as this can help to avoid questions or delays at the border) and issued within the last 10 years.
- Proof of health insurance coverage valid throughout the Schengen area for the duration of your stay.
- An invitation letter and/or travel itinerary confirming the nature and duration of travel, to be shown upon request so an immigration officer in the destination country can be satisfied that you intend to depart the country at the conclusion of the trip
- Evidence of sufficient financial means, for example, a credit card or bank statements

In 2023, the EU will introduce the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) and the Entry/Exit System (EES) for travel into the Schengen area. These electronic systems will increase scrutiny on the respect for the limitations on short stay (90 days within a 180-day period).

- **EES:** expected from mid-2023, it will be a fully automated IT system registering visitors traveling to and from the EU. The system will replace the manual system of stamping passports.
- **ETIAS:** expected to launch in late 2023, is an electronic system set up to monitor and control visitors entering the Schengen area from visa-exempt countries, such as the UK. This travel authorisation system will perform detailed security checks to determine whether a person is allowed in the Schengen area. To receive travel authorisation, travellers will have to complete an ETIAS application online and provide, for example, passport details and pay for the application fee. This travel authorisation is not a visa requirement, but rather an additional travel formality like the US ESTA.