

# Visa for Belgium

## **! All non-essential travels are still prohibited until further notice !**

For the time being and until further notice, Belgian embassies and consulates no longer accept any visa applications and no longer issue visas, except in exceptional cases (see below).

## **! IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION COVID-19 !**

Travellers must take into account the current sanitary measures in Belgium, including a 14-day quarantine and a compulsory PCH Covid test on arrival. More information on this is available on the Corona website of the government ([www.info-coronavirus.be](http://www.info-coronavirus.be)).

Every passenger to Belgium is also required to complete a *Public Health Passenger Locator Form* prior to travel. On arrival in Belgium, the form must be handed over to the designated authorities at the border. This form can also be completed and sent electronically via <https://travel.infocoronavirus.be/> where it is available in Dutch, English, German and French. This is a sanitary measure imposed by the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment. Further information can be found on the form itself.

### **List of travelers with an essential function or need**

Here are the only travelers exempted from restrictions:

i. Healthcare professionals, health researchers, and elderly care

professionals; ii. Frontier workers; iii. Seasonal workers in agriculture; iv.

Transport personnel;

v. Diplomats, staff of international organizations and people invited by international organizations whose physical presence is required for the well-functioning of these organizations, military personnel, federal police personnel, civil protection personnel, law enforcement personnel, Immigration Office personnel, customs personnel and humanitarian workers when travel is necessary in the performance of their duties

vi. Passengers in transit both extra-Schengen (coming from a non-Schengen country) and intra-Schengen (coming from a Schengen country); vii. Passengers travelling for imperative family reasons, meaning exclusively this:

- For family reunification (D visa – Art 40 Ter, Art 10 & 10bis)
- For family visit (C visa – only for spouses, children who are under the age of 21 or are dependent, and dependent father/mother of EU citizens and citizens of the Schengen Associated States or of third-country nationals who are long-term residents in Belgium)
- In view of marriage or legal cohabitation
- To attend funeral or wedding (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of kinship only)
- To return to Belgium (C & D re-entry visa)
- To visit partner / girlfriend / boyfriend (C visa – see below A) viii. Seafarers;

- ix. Persons for humanitarian reasons, including travel for compelling medical reasons or urgent medical care;
- x. Students, included trainees or researchers with a hosting agreement;
- xi. Highly qualified workers if their employment is necessary from an economic perspective and the work cannot be postponed or performed abroad (single permit).
- xii. Persons who come to exercise a salaried activity in Belgium, including au pairs, regardless of the duration of this activity, provided that they are authorized to do so by the competent Region (work permit or proof that the conditions for an exemption are met);
- xiii. Persons who come to exercise a self-employed activity in Belgium, regardless of the duration of this activity, provided that they are authorized to do so by the competent Region (valid professional card or proof that the conditions for an exemption are met).

**If you can prove** that you are part of these above-mentioned categories and that you cannot postpone your travel, you may lodge your visa application via TLScontact Visa Application Centre (to know which days and times their center will be open, please check their [Address and Opening Hours](#) page).

**If you already have a valid Schengen visa issued by a Belgian Embassy or by another Schengen state**, you must only apply for an “essential travel certificate” via TLScontact Visa Application Centre too (see below B).

#### **A. De facto partner / boyfriend / girlfriend**

From September 1, 2020, a visit (less than 90 days) to the person with whom you have a stable and lasting relationship will be considered an essential trip. The supporting documents to be produced with the visa application are as follows:

- Identity card or permit to stay of the partner in Belgium
- proof that the partners have a lasting and stable relationship;
- sufficient personal means of subsistence or a commitment to provide support (Annex 3bis); - return guarantees;
- flight information;
- Schengen travel health insurance.

The proof that the partners have a lasting and stable relationship is established as follows:

- they have lived together uninterruptedly in Belgium or in another country for at least 6 months; or
- they have been in a relationship for at least 1 year, during which they have met in person at least 2 times for a total duration of 20 days or more. In the event that a visit had to be canceled due to travel restrictions (Covid-19), evidence that a visit was planned may be taken into consideration for the second visit.
- they have a common child.

## **B. Essential Travel Certificate**

IN TIME OF COVID, for a short stay in Belgium (less than 90 days), the traveler must present a C visa issued by Belgium or by another Schengen state after 18/03/2020 or a C visa previously issued by Belgium or a Schengen state with an “essential travel certificate”.

This certificate is issued by the embassy if the essential nature of the trip is established based on the following documents (no exhaustive list):

- original passport and eventual previous passports with Schengen visas;
- prove of being a traveler with an essential function or need (see list above);
- flight information;
- Schengen travel health insurance.

An “essential travel certificate” is not necessary if the essential nature of the trip is evident from the documents in the possession of the traveler. Examples: seafarers (sailor's book), passengers in transit (plane ticket), diplomats (diplomatic passport).

Finally, a C visa issued by Belgium or by another Schengen state after 18/03/2020, therefore after the onset of the health crisis, is considered to be a visa issued as part of an essential trip. The traveler should therefore not request an “essential travel certificate”, unless he fears a difficulty (example: no direct flight to Belgium).

## **Warning**

Whether or not the traveler is exempted from restriction to travel, the Schengen entry conditions must be met (e.g. Schengen travel health insurance, financial means, return guarantees...). It is therefore not sufficient to establish that the intended trip is essential to receive a C visa or to travel. Each traveler must be able to demonstrate that he meets the entry conditions not only to the embassy but as well as on arrival at the Schengen external borders by means of the necessary documentation.