



Applying for a French visa by post from the USA

A step-by-step
guide



INTRODUCTION

Applying for a short-stay visa to France from the USA?

If you have submitted your fingerprints for a Schengen visa in the last **59 months**, or you are **under the age of 12**, you can apply for your French visa **by post**.

First, make sure that France is your first / main destination:

- Your only destination,
- The Schengen country where you plan to spend the most time during your trip, or
- Your point of entry into the Schengen Area, if you are visiting several countries for the same duration.

Then follow the steps in our guide!

Please note that we can only accept postal applications received at our Washington D.C. center **more than 14 days** before your planned departure date.



How to apply for a French visa by post

1

START YOUR APPLICATION ON FRANCE-VISAS

- Create an account and complete your online application form.
- Choose your visa type and follow the instructions to get your personalized document checklist.
- Print and sign both your France-Visas form and the receipt.

Important: Select Washington D.C. as your Visa Application Center (VAC).

Your application reference must start with FRA1WA.

2

CREATE YOUR TLSCONTACT ACCOUNT

- Register on the [TLScontact US website](#).
- Select **Washington D.C. VAC** and **Postals** as your application type.
- Enter your personal details exactly as in your passport and France-Visas form.
- If applying as a group, ensure all members are eligible for postal submission.

3

CHOOSE POSTAL SUBMISSION

- Enter your return address for passport delivery.
- Pay the TLScontact service fee for postal processing.
- **Important: make sure to press Submit to finalize your application submission.** You will then receive a confirmation email.

4

PREPARE AND SEND YOUR APPLICATION

- Include your passport, France-Visas form, receipt, service disclaimer, and all required supporting documents, listed in your France-Visas receipt.
- Send to: **Postals, TLScontact, Suite 500, 5th floor, 1899 L St NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.**
- Mark your application as **"Sent"** in your TLScontact account.

5

FOLLOW NOTIFICATIONS

- Watch for emails about any missing documents (submit them online if requested).
- You'll receive another email directing you to our [payment page](#), to pay your **visa fee** online once your file is complete.
- **Important: Your application will only be sent to the Consulate after you have paid the visa fee via our website.**

6

VISA PROCESSING

- TLScontact will forward your application to the French Consulate.
- The Consulate may request more documents or invite you to an interview.
- Track your status any time in your TLScontact account.

7

RECEIVE YOUR PASSPORT

- Your passport will be shipped to your return address once the Consulate sends it back.

Frequently Asked Questions



I don't live near Washington D.C. but I would like to submit a postal application. Can I do that?

Yes, you can submit a postal application from another location, if you are eligible. However, you must **select Washington D.C.** as your location, both on France-Visas and the TLScontact website. Your application reference number should start with **FRA1WA**.

What documents should I include with my application?

Please refer to the list of supporting documents required for your visa type, listed on your France-Visas registration receipt. You must also send your passport, France-Visas form and receipt, as well as the TLScontact service disclaimer.

Make sure to **sign your application** before sending it.

What should I do if my US visa is expiring soon?

The document proving your legal status in the USA must be valid for **at least 90 days** after your planned return from France. All US visas should be accompanied with a recent I-94 (not required if you are a green card holder).

What financial information should I provide with my visa application?

You should provide:

- 3 months' recent and consecutive bank statements*, plus
- 3 months' pay stubs / earnings statements (6 statements if you are paid bi-weekly, 12 if you are paid weekly), or
- The previous year's Income Tax Return.
- If you have your own company and do not receive a salary, please include your company registration information (EIN number) showing your ownership of / partnership in the company.
- If you are retired or unemployed, you should include documentary proof of income.

I will be staying with a friend / relative in France, so don't have a hotel reservation. What information should I provide?

If you do not have a hotel booking for your entire trip, the person who you will be staying with in France must apply for an **Attestation d'Accueil** (Acceptance Certificate) at their local town hall. You must submit the **original version** of this certificate with your application.

I am married to a French citizen. What documents do I need to provide for my application?

In order to be eligible for a French Spouse visa, you must be able to provide a complete copy of your **Acte de mariage** (Wedding Certificate) .

Is the Schengen visa free for scientists?

A Scientist/Researcher Visa is **only** free for professionals who will be working on a particular project organized by a French company in France. To qualify, you must be able to provide a **Convention d'Accueil** obtained from the French authorities by that company.

Can I use my US health insurance or my company's insurance for my Schengen visa application?

No: US health insurance will not cover you during your stay in France or elsewhere in the Schengen Area. You must have specific travel medical insurance, in your name, valid throughout the entire Schengen Area and for the full duration of your intended stay. It should cover at least **€30,000** in medical expenses, including hospitalization and repatriation.

**If you do not have these documents with your name and current address, you should include documents from your sponsor instead.*



Contact our
customer service team
for more information.

TLScontact