

Return visa

Knowledge Centre for International Staff

If you are awaiting a procedure, you do not have a valid residence document at present and you wish to travel outside the Netherlands, you may need a return visa to re-enter the Netherlands. This could be the case if your current residence permit is no longer valid or your current residence permit will expire during your stay outside of the Netherlands. To apply for a return visa you must meet certain conditions.

Conditions

In the following circumstances, you do not need an urgent reason to be eligible for a return visa:

You submitted an application (submitted in time or within 2 years after your current residence permit has expired) for:

- An extension of your temporary stay, or
- A change in purpose of stay, or
- A permanent residence permit, or
- A first residence permit for a child born in the Netherlands, or
- A replacement of a stolen/lost residence document, and are awaiting the decision or have yet to receive your new residence permit. Please note that the decision stating that you have been granted a new permit is not valid as a border crossing document.

In the following circumstances, you must have an urgent reason to be eligible for a return visa. You are awaiting:

- The application for a first residence permit with or without MVV, or
- An appeal or objection against a refusal of an application. This is only if you are allowed to await this procedure in the Netherlands and the decision on the appeal or objection is not to be expected within the 90 days validity of the return visa.

Below are listed some examples of what could be considered an urgent reason for having to travel abroad:

- Severe illness or death of a family member (once and twice removed)
- Travel for business- or study purposes
- Special family occasions such as a wedding of a family member (once and twice removed)
- Participation in an excursion or exchange/working week for study purposes
- A minor under guardianship who is going on a holiday with his/her foster family

Whichever the reason, you must always be able to support the urgency of the situation with documentary evidence.

Please note that, if you are awaiting the first application for a residence permit with an MVV, you do not need a return visa if your MVV is still valid. With a valid MVV, you can

travel and stay within the [Schengen area](#) for up to 90 days from the date of entry. Also, with a valid MVV, you can re-enter the Netherlands without a return visa for 90 days from the date of issuance at the Embassy. Only when your MVV expires during your stay abroad, you would need a return visa to re-enter the Netherlands

Documents

When applying for a return visa, you need to bring the following documents to the appointment:

- A valid passport or other travel document
- Your current residence permit (if applicable)
- The appointment code
- A police report (in case your current residence permit card has been lost or stolen)
- Documentation supporting the urgency of the situation and reason why you need to travel abroad (if applicable).

Costs

Applying for a return visa costs money. You must pay these [fees](#) in full upon the appointment at the IND desk. The fees can be paid in cash or by debit card. Payment by credit card is not possible nor does the IND offer payments in instalments.

Application procedure

You must apply for a return visa at your regional [IND desk](#). KCIS can make an appointment for you at the closest IND desk. It is recommended to contact KCIS about 4 weeks prior to your departure. Minors (18 years or younger) have to be accompanied by a parent or legal representative.

If granted, the return visa is issued as a sticker in your passport. The return visa allows you to travel to and re-enter the Netherlands once within the 90 days after issuance. It is a single-entry visa that cannot be extended. If the visa is granted for business purposes, it may be issued as a multiple entry visa.

If your passport or travel document is valid for less than 90 days, the return visa will expire 1 month before the expiration date of your passport. If you are planning to stay outside of the Netherlands for more than 90 days, please contact the Dutch Embassy or Consulate in the country where you will be staying for obtaining a return visa abroad.

The return visa is a national visa; it is not a Schengen visa (type C). Therefore, it is not possible to stay in another Schengen member state other than for transit purposes. If a return visa has been granted and you wish to travel to and stay in another Schengen country, you will have to inquire with the authorities of that country as to whether you will need a visa.