

## **Russian Visas (non-CIS countries, Georgia, Turkmenistan)**

### **To obtain a visa a foreign national has to submit:**

The original letter of invitation which contains the foreigner's full name and passport details;

International passport with at least 18 months left before its expiry date;

Completed visa application form in two original signed copies;

Photographs;

Additional documents may be required depending on the foreigner's citizenship and type and term of the visa.

### **Main stages of visa issuing procedure:**

The length and frequency of visits are determined: anticipated dates of border crossing, requested number of days of stay in Russia, preferable visa type (single entry or multiple).

The visa is issued based on an invitation to Russia, telex invitation number, or tourist voucher. Business invitation shall be printed on the official form of the Russian FMS or Foreign Ministry and attached to the package of documents in the original. Telex number shall be typed into the application form. Only Australia, Japan, the United States, South Korea, Canada, New Zealand and the European Union nationals are allowed to submit a copy of their tourist voucher (e-mail or fax). Other nationals are required to obtain the original voucher.

Fill in online visa application form available only at the official website of the Russian Foreign Ministry, print it out and sign it. As a place of visa issuing, the consular department or a visa processing center can be selected (indicate the country and city). Your application form will be available for editing for 2-3 weeks.

Submit your documents to a Russian consulate (check their working hours on their official websites)

When you receive your passport back: do check the visa stamp in your passport as soon as it is returned to you to make sure that you have been given the right conditions and for the correct length of time (validity period, number of entries, number of days of stay). If you have been issued with visa that is not correct, you may ask to change it only before you cross the Russian border. The basic rule applied in such cases is that a foreigner, who has entered the Russian Federation on a certain visa, agrees with the terms and conditions of this visa.

### **Private invitation**

If you want to invite your friends and relatives living far away from Russia to come and stay with you, you need a private invitation. It can be obtained by Russian relatives or friends from a local office of Russian Federal Migration Service located in the territory of Russia.

### **To obtain a visa you have to:**

Indicate the anticipated period of visit;  
Provide following documents and information:  
Passport copy and personal details;  
Place of employment (position, company name, address and telephone number);  
Visa type – “On private invitation”;  
Cities to be visited, duration of stay in the RF;  
Apply to the Federal Migration Service offices in your place of residence, pay state duty;  
Provide proof of financial, medical and accommodation support of the foreigners during the period of their stay;  
Apply for the invitation at the Passports and Visas Department. Normally a reply is received within 30 working days;  
Having received the official invitation form, you then send it to your prospective guest, who can now apply to the Russian Consulate for a visa based on this invitation.

### **Business invitation**

Types of business invitations:

Invitation issued by an office of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Federal Migration Service with high level of protection. A filled in invitation form may be sent by post to any place and then submitted for visa application. European Union nationals are required to provide their previous Russian visa to get this type of invitation.

Telex Invitation. Such invitations are sent directly by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Consular Department indicated as the place where the visa will be collected from. In case of change of place of application for visa, telex invitation is to be re-addressed which will take 3 days.

Business invitations do not entitle the foreigner to receive income, carry on any business or get employed. They are intended for the foreign companies' employees arriving to Russia for business meetings and negotiations, and implementation of joint projects. A foreigner with no regular job cannot be issued a business invitation.

Business visas are granted for the travelers who come to Russia for the following purposes:

Humanitarian - for the staff of international organizations (Red Cross, welfare funds employees, volunteers);

Scientific and technical relations: congresses, seminars, training programs;

Cultural relations: museums employees involved in exhibitions, concerts, etc;

Maintenance – is given as a purpose of travel in cases where the employees of foreign suppliers arrive, for example to assemble and setup the equipment supplied.

Limitations on length of stay: a foreigner may stay in Russia only 90 days in any 180-day period. Violation of this rule results in the cancellation of a business visa.

Processing time: the average single-entry visa processing time is 1 to 5 working days; multiple-entry visa processing time is 1 to 3 weeks.

Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your visa expires. Schengen member states citizens are allowed to apply for Russian visas not only in their country of citizenship but also in their country of employment or residence. In such cases, a work permit or a residence permit must be submitted along with a notarized Russian or English translation.