

# PROCESSING TIME

Every applicant can submit his/ her Schengen visa application up to 3 months before the intended travel date to the Schengen Area.

The minimum processing time of a visa application is 2 weeks, so applicants are advised to leave enough time - between the appointment date and travel date - for the Mission to process their visa application; no guarantees can be given on the visa application's return date as delays may occur.

For certain nationalities (see [list here](#)) the visa application needs consultation from the other Schengen countries and therefore the minimum processing time takes 3 weeks.

In order to avoid any delays in the visa application process, it is paramount that the visa application is complete and its documents submitted are as per the Mission's requirements (see [Documents Required](#) for the different visa categories).

Applicants also need to be aware that, especially during busy season around Easter, Summer holidays (July and August) and Christmas, the appointments (see [Book your Appointment](#)) are being booked very quickly.

Furthermore, applicants need to consider that GVCW VACs/ Mission's closures and holidays (see [Greek Public Holidays](#) and [U.K. Public Holidays](#)) may extend the visa application processing time.

Therefore, we recommend all applicants:

1. to book their appointment as soon as they know they'll be travelling
2. to ensure that their visa application's documentation meets the Mission's requirements
3. to leave enough processing time for the Mission

Applicants submitting their visa application in our satellite centre in Manchester or Edinburgh, need to calculate 2 extra days to their minimum processing time as their visa application will first be dispatched to the GVCW London office, from where it is forwarded to the Mission in London the following day.

The Mission may always request for additional information/ documents or invite applicants for an interview during the visa application process and this may cause delays in the visa process, which applicants accept responsibility for.