

# PROCESSING TIME

Every applicant can submit his/ her Schengen visa application up to 6 months before the intended travel date to the Schengen Area.

The minimum processing time of a visa application is 15 calendar days, so applicants are advised to apply well in advance allowing 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 minimum processing time is 3 weeks because the processing of a visa application requires consultation with other Schengen countries. Some applications may require further processing, which could take up to 45 days.

In order to avoid any delays in the visa application process, it is paramount that the visa application is complete and that all required documentation 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 (from May until August) and Christmas, the appointments (see [Book your Appointment](#)) are being booked very quickly.

Furthermore, applicants need to consider that Visa Application Centres' closures and holidays (see [UK Public Holidays](#)) and the Mission's closures and holidays (see [Greek 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 the required documentation that they will submit meets the Mission's requirements.
3. to apply well in advance allowing enough processing time for the Mission

Applicants submitting their visa application at the Visa Application Centres for Greece in Manchester or Edinburgh, need to consider an extra 5 days to the minimum processing time noted. This is due to the fact that visa applications will first be dispatched to the London VAC and then forwarded to the Embassy of Greece - Consular Office in London the following day.

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