

Visa fee waiver according to bilateral agreement for Russian citizens

According to the Visa Facilitation Agreement between Russia and the EU, the following 9 groups of Russian citizens qualify for a visa fee waiver, in addition to II., III. and IV.

- a. for close relatives - spouses (including same-sex marriage and registered partnership), children (including adopted), parents (including custodians), grandparents and grand-children —of citizens of the European Union and of the Russian Federation legally residing in the territory of the Russian Federation or the Member States;
- b. for members of official delegations who, following an official invitation addressed to the Member States, the European Union or the Russian Federation, shall participate in meetings, consultations, negotiations or exchange programmes, as well as in events held in the territory of the Russian Federation or one of the Member States by intergovernmental organisations;
- c. members of national and regional Governments and Parliaments, Constitutional Courts and Supreme Courts, if they are not exempted from the visa requirement by the present Agreement;
- d. pupils, students, post-graduate students and accompanying teachers who undertake trips for the purpose of study or educational training;
- e. disabled persons and the person accompanying them, if necessary;
- f. persons who have presented documents proving the necessity of their travel on humanitarian grounds;
- g. participants in youth international sports events and persons accompanying them;
- h. persons participating in scientific, cultural and artistic activities including university and other exchange programmes;
- i. participants in official exchange programmes organised by twin cities.

If the application is submitted 4 or less days prior to departure (express visa applications by Russian citizens), visa fees will only be waived for categories b), e) and f).

II. Visa fee waivers according to EU visa codex for all applicants regardless of citizenship

According to the EU visa codex, visa fees are waived for the following 4 groups of applicants regardless of their citizenship:

- a. children under six years;
- b. school pupils, students, postgraduate students and accompanying teachers who undertake stays for the purpose of study or educational training;
- c. researchers from third countries travelling for the purpose of carrying out scientific research as defined in Recommendation No 2005/761/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 September 2005 to facilitate the issue by the Member States of uniform short-stay visas for researchers from third countries travelling within the Community for the purpose of carrying out scientific research;
- d. representatives of non-profit organisations aged 25 years or less participating in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events organised by non-profit organisations.

III. Possible visa fee waivers according to EU visa codex for all applicants regardless of citizenship

According to the EU visa codex, visa fees can be waived for the following 4 groups of applicants regardless of citizenship. The waiver is subject to the singular case, the application of this regulation is agreed upon by local Schengen missions. While applying at a visa

application centre or at the visa section, the applicant will pay the visa fee. If the visa fee is waived for the singular case, the visa fee will be refunded when retrieving the passport.

- a. children from the age of six years and below the age of 12 (usually these applicants pay a reduced fee of the equivalent of 35 EUR in Russian Roubles);
- b. holders of diplomatic and service passports (usually waived);
- c. participants aged 25 years or less in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events, organised by non-profit organisations (usually waived);

IV. Visa fee waivers according to national law

According to German law, visa fees are waived for the following to groups of applicants regardless of their citizenship:

- a. family members of EU citizens ([article 2 VI Freizügigkeitsgesetz](#))
- b. scholars receiving public funds ([derived from article 46 V no. 1 Aufenthaltverordnung](#))