

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – VISAS

- **Can I apply for a visa through the Consulate of Italy in Detroit?**
 - o The Consulate of Italy in Detroit may only accept visa applications submitted by individuals who either have legal residence or are currently enrolled in school in one of the following states: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee. If you do not fall under one of those categories, you may not apply through this Consulate.

- **How can I schedule an appointment for a visa?**
 - o The visa office operates by appointment only. All visa appointments must be scheduled online through the Visa Booking System , available in the visa section of this website.

- **How do I confirm my appointment?**
 - o Appointments are confirmed by the applicant, by logging back into the Visa Booking System 10 to 3 days prior to the date of the appointment. If your appointment is not confirmed, the system will automatically cancel your booking.

- **What do I do if there are no available appointments through the visa booking system?**
 - o We urge all applicants to continue regularly checking the visa booking system for possible cancellations and new availability, as it does happen often. Appointments may not be scheduled by submitting an email request to this office.

- **What are the visa processing times?**
 - o Processing times can vary between 1 to 3 weeks depending on the applicant's nationality and pending review of the application.

- **Can the processing of a visa be expedited?**
 - o Visa processing times are regulated by law and not by this Consulate, therefore the visa officer cannot intervene in the process. Rush processing is not available. It is the applicant's responsibility to plan accordingly and to allow for the necessary processing times prior to their departure.

- **How can I check the status of my visa application?**
 - o Since the visa processing time is 1 to 3 weeks, the status can only be checked after this period has expired, by writing an email to visa.detroit@esteri.it

- **How far in advance can I book my appointment?**
 - o The visa booking system is available year round, applicants are encouraged to schedule their appointment as early as possible. However, the actual date of the appointment scheduled must be within 90 days to the planned date of departure.

- **Do I need to apply in person in Detroit?**
 - o Applications must be submitted in person, so that the visa officer may witness your signature on the application form and so that your fingerprints may be taken.

- **Can I submit my application by mail?**
 - o The following applicants may submit their application by mailing it to the Consulate:
 - Applicants applying for a Type D – long stay (over 90 days) visa;
 - Applicants applying for a Type C – short stay (under 90 days) visa but have already had their fingerprints taken for a Schengen Visa.

In either of these cases, you would first need to appear before one of the Dependent Consular Offices (*listed online*) and sign the application form in their presence. You may then mail your application.

- **I am traveling with my family, can I schedule one appointment for all of us?**
 - o Each visa applicant will need to submit their own application, therefore each person must have their own appointment slot. Each applicant must also have their own copy of all of the requested documents .

- **Can I pay for the visa fee by cash or credit card?**
 - o Visa fee is payable only by money order or cashier's check, made out to the Consulate of Italy in Detroit.

- **Do I need to book all of my flights and hotel reservation before I apply for the visa?**
 - o Yes, in order to apply for a visa you must have all travel and lodging reservations booked and confirmed. If traveling to multiple Schengen areas (example: Italy, France and Germany) you must also provide confirmed reservations of travel from one Schengen area to another, as well as confirmed lodging.

- **Can I apply for a visa if my passport and/or US re-entry permit (green card or visa) are about to expire?**
 - o To apply for a Schengen visa, both your travel document (*passport*) and your US re-entry permit (*green card or US visa*) must be valid for a minimum of **90 days** beyond your intended date of departure from the Schengen territory.

- **If I am visiting more than one Schengen country, how do I know where to apply for a visa?**
 - o You must apply through the Consulate of the country in which you plan on staying the majority of your trip. If staying equal amount of days in two Schengen countries, you must apply through the Consulate of the country you will enter first.

- **How do I receive my passport when my visa is ready?**
 - o Please provide a prepaid envelope with tracking (UPS, Fed Ex, Express Mail) with your address indicated as the sender as well as the receiver.

- **What additional documents must be provided for minors (under 18) who are traveling?**
 - o Consent to travel form, signed by both parents in the presence of the visa officer, or before one of our Dependent Consular Offices (listed online);
 - o Birth certificate, original or a notarized copy (All foreign certificates **MUST** be translated into Italian and the translation legalized by the Competent Consulate);
 - o Notarized copies of picture IDs of both parents.

- **What do I do if I plan on staying with a friend/family who lives in Italy and cannot provide hotel reservations?**
 - o Your friend/family member must complete and sign the Invitation Letter "Dichiarazione di Alloggio" available on this website and attach a copy of their Italian Identification Card.

- **If I have my own business, what can I bring as proof of employment?**
 - o You will need to submit your business license, most recent company tax return, and a recent company bank statement.

- **How can provide proof of financial means if I am a student and my parents will pay for my expenses while in Italy?**
 - o Your parent will need to complete and sign (in front of a Notary Public) the affidavit of support form (available online) and provide a copy of their most recent bank statement.

- **I am traveling with my wife and children and will take financial responsibility during this trip, what documents do I need to provide for them?**
 - o For each person, you will need to complete and sign the affidavit of support form (available online) and attach a copy of your most recent bank statement and proof of employment.

- **Can I show you my insurance card to satisfy the proof of Insurance requirement?**
 - o Insurance cards alone or the Insurance booklet is not accepted. You must provide a letter from your US insurance company or from Traveler's Insurance indicating that your policy will cover a minimum of \$50,000 for emergency hospitalization and repatriation expenses, valid throughout the Schengen area and the whole length of your stay.

IF YOUR QUESTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN ANSWERED, YOU MAY E-MAIL THE VISA OFFICE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

visa.detroit@esteri.it