

Mobility: Immigration alert

April 2024



European Union

Indian nationals now have quicker access to two-year multiple entry Schengen Visas

Executive summary

On 18 April 2024, the European Commission adopted new rules that make qualifying Indian nationals eligible more quickly for two-year multiple entry Schengen Visas.

Background

The Schengen Area is a border-free zone that enables the free movement of eligible nationals of countries outside the EU, EEA and Switzerland who seek to enter for reasons other than work (e.g., business traveler activities or tourism). Depending on their nationality, third-country nationals may require a Schengen C Visa to be admitted for up to 90 days cumulatively in any rolling 180-day period. Those who wish to enter for more than 90 days in any 180-day period may require a D Visa. As of the date of publication, the Schengen Area comprises 29 countries, of which 25 are EU Member States.

Key developments

Effective 18 April 2024, Indian nationals who were issued, and have lawfully used, at least two Schengen Visas within the three years preceding their application, are eligible to obtain a Schengen Visa that is valid for a period of two years and permits multiple entries into the Schengen Area. Upon expiry, they will be eligible to apply for a multiple-entry Schengen Visa that is valid for a period of up to five years. As previously, the validity of their passport impacts the maximum validity of the new visa (e.g., qualifying individuals who apply for a five-year visa but whose passport expires prior to the requested five years will be issued a visa that expires no later than the expiry of their passport).

As noted in a [press release](#) from the Delegation of the EU to India and Bhutan, "this decision comes in the context of strengthened relations under the EU-India Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility, which seeks comprehensive cooperation on migration policy between the EU and India, with facilitation of people-to-people contacts being of key aspect due to the importance of India as a partner for the EU. "

Impact on employers

The new rules are expected to benefit employers by further facilitating, and reducing the costs associated with, the free movement of Indian business travelers across the Schengen Area.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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