

Guideline for Applying for Your Visa to General Assembly (Netherlands)

Greetings everyone! As you know, the next General Assembly will be held in the Netherlands in September of 2020! As the Netherlands is a member of the European Union, some of you will need to apply for a visa to the **Schengen Area**. Now, what is the Schengen Area? It is a group of 26 countries in Europe (the Netherlands being one of them) that allow you to freely travel from country to country. It's similar to travelling from state to state, or province to province, once you enter into the country. This guideline here should help you get an idea of what you need to do to get a visa to General Assembly in 2020!

The first thing to know is that **only some countries require a visa** in order to enter the Schengen Area. The YFC nations that require a visa are listed below here:

Angola	Haiti	Philippines
Antigua	Honduras	Rwanda
	India	Sierra Leone
Benin		South Africa
Bolivia		Sri Lanka
Botswana	Jamaica	
Burundi	Jordan	
Cape Verde		Tanzania
Comoros	Kenya	Thailand
	Korea	Togo
D.R. Congo		Tonga
Ecuador	Lebanon	
Egypt	Liberia	Uganda
Ethiopia	Madagascar	
Gambia	Mongolia	
Ghana		Zambia
Guinea-Bissau	Namibia	Zimbabwe
Guinea-Conakry		

If you are a YFCI sensitive nation, please visit the Schengen site directly to see if you are required to apply for a Schengen visa. That site is linked [here](#).

If the nation you are from **is not listed on here**, you are able to enter the Netherlands without a Schengen Visa! You will still need your passport and everything else you usually need to travel from country to country. This just means you are not required to fill out the visa application in order to join us in the Netherlands!

Gathering what you need for the Visa Application

If the nation you are from **is on the list above**, the first thing to do is to start collecting the necessary documents that you will **NEED** to bring with you to apply for a visa to the Netherlands. Those items are written out here:

- You WILL need a **valid passport**. Make sure your passport does not expire before March 25, 2021 (25/03/2021) and has several (4) blank pages in your passport.
- You need to print out [this form](#) and fill it out. This is the official application form. Also, please look at the **Visa Application Questions** section below for help with some specific instructions on answering questions.

- You need **TWO** passport pictures of yourself that *clearly focuses on your face*. The pictures should be new or recent. Follow [this guideline](#) to make sure your pictures are acceptable for the form.
- Another thing you need to bring is **proof** that you have **travel insurance**. Schengen visas **require** that you have travel insurance that covers you during your time in the Netherlands.
- You will also need documentation that shows where you will be staying during your time. When you register with YFC for GA, you should get an invitation from YFC.
- You will also need to show that you have **enough money for the time you will be staying** in the Netherlands. You can bring a personal bank statement, a credit card, enough cash, or traveller's cheques to show that you have this.
- Another item you need to submit is evidence of a job. A copy of your contract with YFC would work, or a document from a supervisor that says you work for YFC and are allowed to travel to GA, or tax returns/documents that show you work for YFC.
- You will also need a planned out **travel itinerary** to submit. This should be a schedule such as a flight itinerary.
- **IF YOU ARE TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN/MINORS**, you need to bring their birth certificate or proof of adoption to get them approved for a visa as well.

If you have difficulty acquiring any of these documents, please contact your national director and/or regional director.

Turning in the Application

Once you have all of these items collected, you are ready to submit them the application! The next thing you will need to do is **find out where to submit the visa application and all of the documents listed above**.

For each nation, the location you can go to and turn in the application documents is different. The most common places you can apply are at an official **Embassy or Consulate of the Netherlands in your home nation**. Some nations will have **visa centres for the Netherlands**, those are also good places to apply as well. Most embassies, consulates and visa centres require you to make an appointment to **both** submit your application documents and also be interviewed.

You will also be required to pay a **tourist visa fee** in order to get a visa. For each adult, the cost is 60€ (about \$70 in USD depending on the current exchange rate).

Timeline for Getting a Visa

The time it takes to get a visa can be different depending on which country you are in. We recommend that you begin collecting the needed documents for the application as soon as you can.

General Assembly is in September of 2020. **You should submit your application** to travel to General Assembly by **July 1, 2020**, as unique situations or delays could require you to wait nearly two months to receive your visa.

Visa Application Questions

On the specific application form, provided from a link above, there are some questions you will be asked to answer that you may want help answering. Below is information to help with these:

- Do not write anything in the column on the **right side** of the application. This section is specifically for government officials to add information to.
- Section 21 on the application asks what is the purpose of your visit. Check the box that says **Tourist** as that most closely covers what we are doing.
- Section 24 asks for the number of entries required. A *single-entry* visa means that once you leave the Schengen nations, your visa no longer is valid. A *double-entry* visa means that you can leave the Schengen nations and enter back in another time, so long as it is within 90 days of when you first entered. Most should select *single-entry* but if you have existing plans to return to Schengen nations within 90 days of General Assembly, then consider marking *double-entry*.
- Section 31 asks you to list the surname and first name of the person inviting you to a Schengen nation. For this, please write Bram Rebergen.