

Schengen Area

The Schengen Area is a geographic region in Europe that grants free movement to persons legally present on the European Union territory. It relates primarily to immigration and mobility between member countries.

The Schengen Area is NOT the same as the European Union (EU; a political and economic union between European countries). Some EU countries are not members of the Schengen Area and some Schengen countries are not in the EU.

Schengen Area Countries (as of August 2017)

Austria	Belgium	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France
Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania
Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Slovakia
Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland			

Visiting Schengen

You are generally allowed to stay and complete an unpaid internship in the Schengen Area for up to 90 days within a 180 day period. This 90 day limit includes any personal travel within the Schengen Area so plan accordingly.

Each country has their own visa policies and you should check with the consulate of your host country. Different requirements may apply based on payment and/or the type of internship.

Schengen Visa (non-US citizens only)

Depending on your country of origin, you may be required to obtain a Schengen visa from the country where you will spend most of your stay. You should check with the consulate or embassy of this country for requirements.

A Schengen visa generally requires a fee and/or in-person appointment at the nearest consulate or embassy (often in Chicago, sometimes in New York City) and must be obtained before entering the Schengen Zone.

Entering and exiting the Schengen Area

You will go through a border control at the first Schengen country you enter even if this isn't your final destination. The immigration officer will check your passport and visa (if applicable) and may ask you about your stay in the Schengen Area. They will stamp your passport indicating when and where you entered the Schengen Area

When leaving the Schengen Area the immigration officer will check your passport, visa (if applicable) and the entry stamp to ensure you didn't overstay your time in the Schengen Area.

If you leave the Schengen Area to visit a country outside the Schengen Area during your internship (ex: the UK or Ireland) you are subject to border controls upon exit and re-entry. Your stay outside the Schengen Area doesn't count towards your 90 day limit; upon re-entering the Schengen Area your 90 day limit will resume from where it was at the time of exit. For example if you're interning in Spain and go to Ireland for 3 days on Day 70 of your stay, your Schengen limit starts at Day 71 upon your return to Spain.

Use the Schengen calculator in your planning: <https://ec.europa.eu/assets/home/visa-calculator/calculator.htm>

Implications

If you overstay your stay in the Schengen Area you risk a hefty fine and/or banishment from the Schengen Area. It is your responsibility to ensure you are in the Schengen Area legally at all times; IIP staff can provide advising.