



Information on the application procedure for humanitarian visas Afghanistan

1. Humanitarian visas: definition and criteria

A humanitarian visa according to art. 4 para. 2 VEV (visa regulation) can be issued in individual cases for humanitarian reasons if **it is evident that the applicant's life or physical integrity are directly, seriously and tangibly endangered**. As a rule the Swiss authorities presume that individuals who are already in a third-party State are no longer in any danger.

[https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/de/home/publiservice/weisungen-](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/de/home/publiservice/weisungen-kreisschreiben/auslaenderbereich/einreise_in_die_schweiz.html)

[kreisschreiben/auslaenderbereich/einreise in die schweiz.html](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/de/home/publiservice/weisungen-kreisschreiben/auslaenderbereich/einreise_in_die_schweiz.html) „Weisung: Humanitäres Visum gemäss Art. 4 Abs. 2 VEV“.

For persons from Afghanistan and the current situation (August 2021), [the following criteria must be met according to the State Secretariat for Migration \(SEM\)¹](#):

- Proof of a situation of **immediate danger to life and limb** is required. It is not sufficient that the applicants merely belong to a group that is potentially at risk.
- Persons concerned must have **close ties to Switzerland**. Such close ties could be:
 - Close and regularly maintained relationships with relatives residing in Switzerland (Swiss citizens or relatives such as aunt, uncle, parents, and grandparents with an annual or permanent residence or settlement permit);
 - A previous long-term stay and close ties to Switzerland is proven;
 - There is evidence of exposed employment for a Swiss governmental organisation until immediately before the Taliban came to power. If the activity is for a non-governmental Swiss organisation, this organisation must have been financially supported by the Confederation. Exposing gainful activity can be understood as, for example, working as a lawyer or actively promoting human rights. Purely auxiliary activities such as employment as a chauffeur, cook, gardener or cleaner are not sufficient.

Finally, the people have to leave Afghanistan. No further evacuation flights are planned at the moment. It is not possible to issue humanitarian visas to people who are unable to leave the country.

2. Procedure for booking an appointment at a Swiss embassy

To officially apply for a humanitarian visa the applicants must **directly** contact a Swiss representation abroad and book an appointment. The application must be submitted **in person** at a Swiss representation in **Iran** or **Pakistan**.

It is best to request an appointment per e-mail. You may find the Swiss representation address on the following link:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/representations-and-travel-advice.html>

The appointment request should include the following information:

- The application is for a **humanitarian visa** (not a visitor visa!)
- Surname, first name, date of birth of all those applying for a humanitarian visa
- Surnames, first names, dates of birth and addresses of any family members resident in Switzerland (if applicable)

¹ <https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/asy/afghanistan.html>



3. During the appointment at the Swiss embassy

The embassy does not charge for humanitarian visas!

The appointment is very short, so you must be **very well prepared** and have to bring all the **relevant information in writing** with you.

You must bring the following **documents** with you:

- Copy of the e-mail confirming the appointment
- One (1) visa application form, duly completed (in German, French, Italian, or English), using a typewriter, online or in block capitals (in blue or black ink), and signed by you. You will find the form at:
<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise/visumantragsformular.html>
„National (type D) visa application form“
- Travel document (passport or identity card)
- Copy of the travel document
- Two (2) recent, identical biometric passport photos
- Detailed excerpt from the family register

All documents that are not in **German, French or Italian** have to be translated to **one of those languages or English** by a sworn translator.

4. Letter of application for a humanitarian visa

The letter must be written in German, French, Italian or English.

The situation of the persons must be explained very precisely **in writing** so that the embassy has all the necessary information for the decision. **Information given orally will not be taken into account.** Please bring the answers to the following questions together with the application:

Describe your specific personal problems in your native country.

- To what extent are you in greater danger than the rest of the population in your place of residence?
- What have you already done to seek protection?
- Do you have specific problems or no state protection on account of your religious or political convictions, or because you belong to an ethnic minority or a specific social group?

Attention: It is not sufficient to mention a social position. You must make a clear connection between the activities or characteristics and the hazardous situation.

If you have only **left Afghanistan to apply for a humanitarian visa**, explain this in writing in the covering letter and state why it is not possible for you to remain in this country.

If required, you can obtain a template for such a letter from us in German, English, French or Italian.

The SRC Humanitarian Visa Advisory Service was closed at the end of 2021.