

## New Business Visa Regulations

09.11.2023

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Exclusively for highest-level-executives:  
Red-White-Red-Carpet programme and visa applications without appointment
- For regular business travellers:  
Quicker appointments, more timeslots and online-only-bookings for business visa applications
- No more special appointments and recommendation letters from ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA
- These changes have been implemented with immediate effect.

### **1. BUSINESS VISA FOR TOP EXECUTIVES**

Highest level executives of certain companies may apply for the “Red-White-Red-Carpet” programme. It allows for visa applications on a walk-in-basis, requires less documents and has a shorter processing time.

It is only available to highest level executives of Austrian subsidiaries and selected other companies and under certain conditions. There is no entitlement whatsoever for any company. To verify your eligibility please contact ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA at [istanbul@advantageaustria.org](mailto:istanbul@advantageaustria.org).

The visa application without prior appointment is possible on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 08:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the following visa centers:

#### **VFS Istanbul Beyoglu**

Haciahmet Mahallesi, Kurtuluş Deresi Caddesi, No:29 A Beyoglu, Istanbul

#### **VFS Istanbul Altunizade**

Altunizade Mahallesi, Mahir İz Caddesi, No: 13/2, Oton Plaza B Blok, Üsküdar, Istanbul

#### **VFS Ankara**

İşçi Blokları Mahallesi, Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu Caddesi, No: 57/A, Regnum Sky Tower, Çankaya , Ankara

#### **VFS İzmir**

Akdeniz Mahallesi, Akdeniz Caddesi, No: 1/C, Reyent Is Merkezi, Pasaport , Izmir

#### **VFS Bursa**

Kükürtlü Mah., Kükürtlü Cd. Sedef Ap. No:3/2 D: No 3, 16080 Osmangazi/Bursa

### **2. BUSINESS VISA FOR MEMBERS OF STAFF AND BUSINESS PARTNERS**

The Austrian Consulate General has made more time slots available for business visa applications of regular employees. Starting 7<sup>th</sup> November, all appointments need to be made through the [online booking system](#) of VFS.

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA will no longer arrange visa appointments for business travellers.

For the reservation of an appointment a VFS user account is required. [Here](#) you will find a [step by step guide](#) on how to register.

This procedure is valid only for application of business visas. The procedures for tourist visas remain unchanged and are not affected by these changes.

3. **CONTACTS**

General information on the visa application process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Austrian Consulate General: <a href="#">How do I apply?</a></li><li>VFS: <a href="#">Service Information</a></li></ul>
Enquiries about appointments, technical problems and necessary documents	<b>VFS</b> E <a href="mailto:info.austr@vfshelpline.com">info.austr@vfshelpline.com</a> T +90 (212) 373 58 25  <b>In case of technical problems, please provide a screen shot of the error page!</b>
Specific inquiries:	Visa Section of the Austrian Consulate General in Istanbul E <a href="mailto:Istanbul-GK@bmeia.gv.at">Istanbul-GK@bmeia.gv.at</a> T +90 (212) 363 84 10  Please send all your requests by email only. For legal reasons and for reasons of traceability, telephone inquiries cannot be answered.

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA will not be able to provide information on visa regulations and proceedings. We are not entitled to enquire about the status of your visa application. Please refrain from such requests and contact the Visa Section of the Austrian Consulate General instead.

4. **FAQ AROUND VISA APPLICATIONS**

1. **I have had a long term visa for 3 years already and now my renewed visa is only valid for 6 months.**

There is always a reason, why a shorter duration was granted.

Common reasons can be:

- Your passport expires earlier than the requested visa
- The last visa was not used within the last two years
- The visa was mainly used for travel to countries other than Austria

2. **I will travel frequently so I will need a long term visa**

The duration of a visa can not be chosen by the applicant. It is determined by the respective Austrian authorities based upon various factors, such as tenure of previous Schengen visas, actual visa usage and possible violations of visa regulations in the past.

3. **I travel for business reasons and sometimes I would like to take my family with me for tourism**

Please apply for a regular tourist visa for your family members and attach a copy of your business visa. Normally, the applications can be approved within a short time and without further ado.

If you are renewing a long term business visa and in the future you would like to have the company of your family for tourism, apply for a tourism visa together with your business visa. Normally, your family can obtain a longer tourism visa.

4. **When is the right time to apply for a visa**

Applications can be submitted between 15 days and 6 months before your journey. While the applications are immediately processed at the Consulate General, consultations within Austrian and other Schengen countries can take up to two weeks. For legal reasons, applications must be submitted no later than 15 days before the planned trip (Article 9 Abs. 2 Visacode). Applications submitted later may no longer be processed. Processing can take a maximum of 45 days. Please plan this time accordingly.

Tip: Maintain a centralized register with the visa expiry dates for all your employees. Regularly update and check it to avoid expired visas in cases of urgent business travels!

5. **Which steps should we follow and what should we do to obtain a certain type of visa?**

Visa rules and regulations are complex. The right and only source for valid information are the experts from the Visa Section of the Austrian Consulate General in Istanbul. Do not hesitate to contact them at [Istanbul-GK@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:Istanbul-GK@bmeia.gv.at)