

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS VISA GUIDE

This guide was correct at time of publishing, 3rd March 2019

After a successful Nations League campaign where Scotland secured at least a play-off place for Euro 2020 the Tartan Army now looks forward to the regular qualification campaign. All 10 fixtures will be played this year with Scotland drawn in Group I. This means there are 5 away fixtures to plan. TA foot soldiers will require a Visa to travel to Russia and also have the potential for the goal posts to change for the other destinations as a result of Brexit. This ATAC Visa guide has been provided to assist supporters who will all have to follow the same process. If you have any questions about anything in this guide please contact us at info@associationoftartanarmyclubs.com

EURO QUALIFIERS GROUP I

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| 1 | BELGIUM |  |
| 2 | RUSSIA |  |
| 3 | SCOTLAND |  |
| 4 | CYPRUS |  |
| 5 | KAZAKHSTAN |  |
| 6 | SAN MARINO |  |



ATAC would like to give special thanks to Natasha and Agnessa from the Russia Visa Application Centre in Edinburgh for taking the time to meet with us and also thank Neil McDonald and Stewart Mackinlay for their help compiling this guide.



Kazakhstan

First stop is Kazakhstan, you can travel to Kazakhstan without a visa provided your stay does not exceed 30 days (the day you arrive counts as day 1, regardless of arrival time). If you wish to stay longer than 30 days, you'll need a visa. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of your request for a visa. For most visits, British passport holders don't need to register with the local authorities providing you arrive at one of the 12 international airports.

Transit Visa

If travelling to Kazakhstan involves transiting through Russia a Transit Visa is not required if you remain in the transit zone of the airport in order to catch an onward or connecting flight within 24 hours of arrival. Transit visas are normally valid for maximum of 3 days if travelling by air and 10 if travelling by train.

If a Russian Transit Visa is required the process is the same for a Tourist Visa except you provide you travel confirmation details instead of an invitation.

THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2019

KAZAKHSTAN v SCOTLAND

SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2019

SAN MARINO v SCOTLAND

SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2019

SCOTLAND v CYPRUS

TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019

BELGIUM v SCOTLAND

FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2019

SCOTLAND v RUSSIA

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

SCOTLAND v BELGIUM

THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2019

RUSSIA v SCOTLAND

SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2019

SCOTLAND v SAN MARINO

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2019

CYPRUS v SCOTLAND

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2019

SCOTLAND v KAZAKHSTAN



NOTHING MATTERS MORE

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Russia

Most Scotland fans will be looking for a tourist visa which will be valid for up to 30 days. Staff from the Edinburgh Visa Centre attended an Edinburgh Tartan Army committee meeting in February and have assisted one of our members to be a pilot applicant. The process was pretty smooth and the information in this guide is based on this experience. You must have a visa before you travel. At the Edinburgh office the standard processing time is 5 working days and that was the experience of our

pilot, this costs £101.40. There is a next working day service available, the cost of that is £170.60. Note this processing time is for Edinburgh only, in London and Manchester the standard process takes 20 working days. This is because there are no Russian diplomats currently in the London consulate.

Russia Visa Application Centres (open Monday to Friday except Holidays)

Edinburgh

64 Albion Road (back entrance)
Edinburgh
EH7 5QZ

rvacedinburgh@vfsglobal.com

Tel: 0131 661 7279

Submissions: 08:30 - 15:00

Collection: 16:30 - 17:30

London

15- 27 Gee Street,
Barbican, London
EC1V 3RD

info.ruuk@vfshelpline.com

Submissions: 08:30 - 15:00

VIP premium: 08:30 - 17:00

Collection: 16:00 - 17:30

Manchester

53 Fountain Street
(Regus Business Centre)
Manchester
M2 2AN

Submissions: 08:30 - 13:00

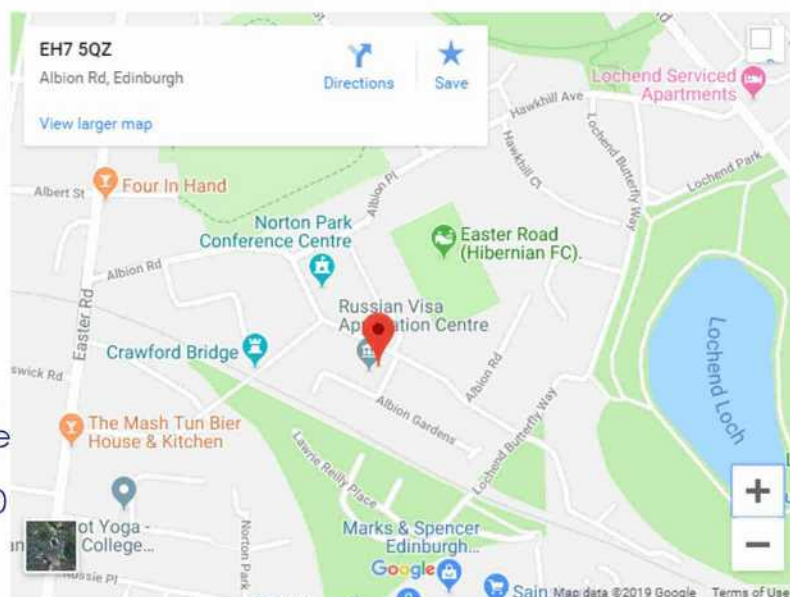
13:45 - 16:00

No collection service

Biometrics

As part of the visa application process, all applicants based in the UK aged 12 or over will need to visit a visa application centre to submit biometric data (scanned fingerprints). For a fee they offer a Mobile Biometric service, expect to pay at least £700 for this service. ATAC can provide more information on this if required or contact the Edinburgh centre via email.

No applications will be accepted after 15:00 (except Manchester), ensure that you have all the required documents and completed application form, especially if you are applying close to your travel date. Otherwise you may be asked to come another day to submit your application. Please note, if you arrive after 14:30 with incorrect documents they may refuse to submit your documents that day.



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The Visa process looks complicated and could put people off but there are only 4 key things required. This was verified in our pilot.

ATAC don't think it is necessary but the Visa Application Centres also offer a number of services to help with the process for a fee

Pre-check service including fasttrack - £18

Filling Application Form - £15

Photo services - £10 for 6 passport size photos

Application form correction - £5

1. Passport

You must have a valid passport with 2 blank pages on it. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months after the expiry date of your visa. It's not possible to enter Russia using a visa in an expired passport, even if carried with a new, valid passport. You will need to either apply for a visa transfer or for a new visa. Further details are available from the Russian Embassy. If you're travelling on a British passport issued since January 2017, you should make sure you've signed your passport before you travel. Some British nationals who haven't signed their new passports have been denied entry into Russia.

2. Invitation

You must have an invitation from Russia. You can get this for free from your hotel. It is likely your hotel will only give you this once you have paid for your hotel in full. The Visa will only be issued for the dates of your invitation so if you are staying in multiple hotels you will require multiple invitations.

Alternatively you can buy it from an approved travel agent in Russia. There are numerous agencies, the cheapest identified and used in the ETA pilot was **Fortuna Travel** (<https://visatoruss.com>). It cost £8.99 and was delivered within 1 hour (available 24 hours a day). It requires the dates you will be in Russia - you don't have to provide the exact dates - just ensure it covers the time you will definitely be there. You can put the whole of October to cover it if you haven't booked yet. It will ask for the name of your hotel if you have one booked. If you don't have a hotel booked they will provide the name and address of a hotel in Moscow. Make sure you add those details to the application form you complete below.

Alternatives provided by Edinburgh Visa Application Centre

Russian National tourist office - £25 - <https://visa.visitrussia.org.uk>

Travel Direct UK - £25 - <https://www.travel-direct.com>

Intelvisa - £50 - www.intelvisa.com

3. Passport Photo

One passport sized Photo must be provided that has been taken in the last 6 months or more recent if your appearance has changed.

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4. Online Application Form

Complete the online visa application form at this website - <http://ru.vfsglobal.co.uk>. It is a very lengthy application for with many questions. However the vast majority of these are very simple to answer. Here are a few things highlighted during our pilot application.

- a. Your parents dates of birth are required and if deceased it may also ask for date of death.
- b. It asks what countries you have visited in the last 10 years. It only provides space for 10 places. Ensure you have covered all of stamps in your passport. The pilot applicant had Ukraine, USA and Israel stamps so noted them in the form without issue
- c. For purpose of previous trip input Scotland football match or family holiday.
- d. It asks if this is your first passport. If it isn't (which it probably won't be for most of us) you need to provide the passport number, expiry date, start date of your previous passports. If you don't have these details just select yes it is your first passport and provide a cover letter explaining you have old passports but no longer have the details.
- e. Remember to add the name of the hotel from the invitation to your application form. It doesn't matter that this won't be the one you stay in.

Submission

Remember to print off the invitation and application form to take along to the visa center along with your passport and passport photo. The price of the visa is currently £101.40 and is paid at time of submission. It may be different for non UK passport holders. Status of your application can be checked by entering the tracking number RULN/ on your receipt on the same website as the application form http://ru.vfsglobal.co.uk/track_application.html.

Collection

In Edinburgh it takes 5 working days to process and can be collected from the same place. Alternatively for a £13.80 fee they can be returned via recorded delivery post the next working day, after the processed application is received at the application centre.

To collect your passport at the Visa Application Centre you will need to present the original receipt given to you during the submission, which will be collected from you and retained as proof of collection of your passport so make a copy of the receipt if you require it for your records. If you are collecting passport on someone's behalf provide the authorization letter and copy of the original receipt from the person you are collecting for.

On receiving your visa you should check the details carefully including the validity dates and passport number to make sure they are correct.

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If the UK leaves with a deal, travel to the EU will remain the same as now until at least 31 December 2020. You will not need to apply for a visa to travel or work in the EU during this time.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the rules for travelling or working in Europe will change after 29 March 2019.

The European Commission has proposed that in a no deal situation, if you're a British Citizen, you would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU. You would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Visits to the Schengen area within the previous 180 days before your date of travel will count against the 90-day limit.

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you do not need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this.

However, if the UK leaves the European Union with no deal, the passport validity rules for travel to most countries in Europe will change from 29 March 2019. Some passports with up to 15 months validity remaining may not be valid for travel.

Before booking travel, you should check that your passport will meet these new rules and find out whether you need to renew it.



Belgium

Part of the Schengen area of the EU. Short stays will be unaffected although if there is no deal there will be a limit to the number of days you can stay in any 180 day period.



San Marino

To travel to San Marino you will have to pass through Italy. Italy is part of the Schengen area of the EU. You don't need a visa to visit San Marino. Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you don't need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this. Most fans will have returned from San Marino before Brexit. The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is not valid in San Marino.



GROUP I



Cyprus

Part of the EU but is not part of the Schengen area. Short stays will be unaffected and there is no limit to the length of your stay.

EHIC

No official changes to the European Health Insurance Card scheme have been announced. It is likely that access to healthcare will change after Brexit although the card will be valid up until the UK leaves the EU.

