



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

SERBIA FACT SHEET

1. Basic info

Capital: Belgrade
Population: 7.498.001 (according to the census 2002)
Area: 88,361 sq. km
Currency: 1 RSD -
Unemployment rate: 15,2% (as of April 2008)

2. Visa for visiting Serbia – General information

Since 2003, the Government of then Serbia and Montenegro brought the Decision on the Abolishment of the Visas for the Entry and Stay in Serbia up to 90 days (for the list of countries, see the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: <http://www.mfa.gov.yu/Visas/VisasR.htm>).

Citizens of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia are not required visas to enter and stay in Serbia.

Citizens of the countries needing visa to enter and stay in Serbia, have to present valid passport, letter of invitation (verified by the competent Serbian authority) or an invitation by a company for a business visit or a receipt or authorized tourist company certifying that the travel arrangement has been paid for (letter of credit or other payment receipt); return ticket; proof of sufficient funds in hard currency and certificate that a health fund shall cover the medical costs in Serbia, if any. Transit visa applicants are required to obtain the visa for the country they will enter after the transit through Serbia. For further information see the webpage of the Ministry of foreign affairs at: <http://www.mfa.gov.yu/Visas/VisasR.htm>.

3. Migration for Employment Purposes

Temporary residence permits based on conditions of working arrangement

A person has to have a residence permit based on conditions of working arrangements in order to work in Serbia. The applicants are granted a permit upon their arrival in Serbia unless a person applies for business visa to enter

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Federal Office
for Migration
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Serbia, and that document is issued in the Embassy of Serbia in their respective countries. There are several types of residence permit based on conditions of working arrangements for Serbia – for persons opening their businesses in Serbia, business cooperation, working arrangement in private sector, NGOs, sportsmen, self-employed, foreign priests, educational engagement, foreign journalists, consultant work within international organizations, seasonal workers, etc. Permits are issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia, Department for foreigners.

The organizations as well as individuals providing services to foreigners against payment, and persons with whom foreigners are staying as visitors, are obliged to register the foreigner's stay with the competent authorities (according to the place of residence of the foreigner - the police department) within 12 hours from the moment of rendering the service, i.e. of providing accommodation to the foreigner, or from the moment of his arrival as a visitor.

The application for being granted permission for temporary stay should be submitted to the Secretariat of Internal Affairs, Department for foreigners in whose territory the foreigner has his registered place of residence. In order to be granted **permission to stay temporarily on the basis of marriage** it is necessary to submit the following: 1. valid passport; 2. completed form; 3. written acknowledgment of the registered place of abode; 4. two photographs; 5. extract from the marriage certificate (not older than 6 months); 6. proof of the possession of means of subsistence for the spouse, and the prescribed tax. The application for **permission to stay in Serbia temporarily on the grounds of opening an enterprise** should be accompanied, in addition to the compulsory documents, also by a written decision-approval of the opening of the firm issued by the commercial court, and by the founding act. In the case of a request for **temporary stay based on employment of foreigners**, in addition to the compulsory documents, the following papers should be produced: written decision of the commercial court relating to the registration of the firm; annual balance of operations of the firm and the firm's current balance; employment contract with the firm, and the opinion of the labour market authorities confirming that the foreign citizen involved may take up employment. The said opinion is not required if employment relationship is contracted by a foreigner for the purpose of performing professional duties provided for under the contract on business and technical cooperation, on long-term production cooperation, on the transfer of technology, and on foreign investments.

The procedure for granting permission for temporary stay on all grounds normally takes up to 15 days.

For more information on necessary information consult the MSC staff to provide you with necessary information, and/or see the Ministry of Internal Affairs website at: <http://www.mup.sr.gov.yu/domino/mup.nsf/indexlat?OpenPage>.

Note: webpage of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is currently in Serbian version only – however, during 2008, the Ministry plans to provide information in English and Chinese language.

Job search websites

If you wish to live and work in Serbia, before you apply for permit to work you would have to find a job in Serbia and provide necessary documents to prove you have a working contract from a Serbian or Serbian based employer. You may consult several job search websites in Serbia at:

<http://poslovi.infostud.com/>.

<http://www.biznisinfo.com/>.

<http://www.ponudaposlova.com/>.

National Employment Service in Serbia at: <http://www.rztr.co.yu/>

4. Studying in Serbia

Temporary residence permits based on studies, trainings, academic fellowships

If a person wants to study in Serbia, they will have to obtain temporary residence permit based on different conditions depending whether a person wants to engage in studies, trainings, academic fellowships or language courses. Permits are issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia, Department for foreigners.

For a **temporary stay to be granted on the grounds of studies or specialization, training and practice**, it is necessary, in addition to the payment of the prescribed tax and the first 4 above listed documents, which are obligatory for the approval of temporary stay on all grounds, it is necessary to submit a certificate issued by the faculty, school or other institution, and proof of the means of subsistence (acknowledgment of the provider of scholarship or of a bank). If permission for temporary stay is applied for on these grounds, foreigners are requested to submit the application within 3 days from the day of the arrival in Serbia.

For more information on necessary information consult the MSC staff to provide you with necessary information and/or see the Ministry of Internal Affairs website at: <http://www.mup.sr.gov.yu/domino/mup.nsf/indexlat?OpenPage>.

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Note: Only Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade has a programme in English language available for foreign students. Necessary info on application procedure and forms can be obtained at: http://www.med.bg.ac.yu/dloads/zastave/2008_Flyer_Website_engl.pdf. All other programmes for studying in universities in Serbia are in Serbian (BCS) language.

[There are no available scholarships for foreign students studying in Serbia. However, a small amount of scholarships for language courses and summer schools programmes for Serbian language and culture are available through Serbian Language and Culture Workshop at: http://www.srpskijezik.edu.yu/index.php?id=1000&jzk=en. Info available on nine languages.](http://www.srpskijezik.edu.yu/index.php?id=1000&jzk=en)

List of Serbian universities and educational centers:

- University of Belgrade http://www.bg.ac.yu/en_index.php
- University of Novi Sad <http://www.ns.ac.yu/stara/eng/prezentacija.html>
- University of Nis <http://ban.junis.ni.ac.yu/index2.htm>
- University of Kragujevac <http://www.kg.ac.yu/defen.asp>
- Belgrade Open School <http://www.bos.org.yu/eng/>
- Petnica Science Center <http://www.psc.ac.yu/eng/>

5. Residence

As mentioned above, a person can obtain only a temporary residence permit based on specific conditions. Beside conditions based on working arrangement, a person can obtain a temporary residence permit based on: marriage with a citizen of Serbia (according to common law marriage), family reunion (for family members of Serbian citizens, and family members of foreigners with residence status in Serbia), medical treatments and private visit.

According to the Law on movement and residence of foreigners (1980) a permanent residence is allowed for persons based on family ties, of Serbian (Yugoslav) descent, or invested money for business, or in the case of unspecified conditions.

A person should apply for temporary residence permits at the Department for foreigners in the Ministry of Internal Affairs branch in their place of residence. For more information on necessary information see the section 3 in the country sheet, or consult the MSC staff to provide you with necessary information and/or see the Ministry of Internal Affairs website at: <http://www.mup.sr.gov.yu/domino/mup.nsf/indexlat?OpenPage>.

Quota system

Serbia does not have a quota for foreigners. The migration policy is non-existent, and the law that regulates the status, rights and obligations of foreigners residing in Serbia was brought in 1980, with amendments not after 1991.

6. Asylum seekers and refugees

A person has a right to apply for asylum in the Republic of Serbia. The issues of asylum are resolved in cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs – Department of Border Police’s Office for asylum issues and the UN High Commission for Refugees Mission in Serbia. From mid April 2008, asylum applications shall be determined only by the Department of Border Police’s Office for Asylum. The process of resolving asylum issues is not above two weeks except in cases of asylum seekers’ demands. For more information on necessary information see the section 3 in the country sheet, or consult the MSC staff to provide you with necessary information and/or see the Ministry of Internal Affairs website at: <http://www.mup.sr.gov.yu/domino/mup.nsf/indexlat?OpenPage>.

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7. Family Reunification

Family reunification is permitted for persons in marriage with a citizen of Serbia, based on common law marriage, family reunion (for family members of Serbian citizens, and family members of foreigners with residence status in Serbia). See above - section 5.

8. Health Care System

According to the Law on Medical Insurance (2005), foreigners with residence permits based on different conditions (see above: sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.) have a right to medical insurance in the Republic of Serbia. Persons enjoying health insurance in Serbia are obliged to pay mandatory health insurance according to their financial possibilities. For detailed information see the website of Ministry of Health <http://www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu/index.php?>. (Ministry of Health provides information in English language) and the website of Republican Department for Health Insurance: http://www.rzso.sr.gov.yu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=41&Itemid=111 (the website does not provide information in English language. Note: for further information consult the MSC staff).

9. Social insurance system

The social insurance system in the Republic of Serbia is linked to the health insurance and care system. All the conditions for the health care for foreigners residing in Serbia apply accordingly to the social insurance system. See the section 8 of the country sheet.

10. Housing

For apartment/house rents:

<http://www.beorent.com/>. (English)
<http://www.stefanon.co.yu/stan1/index.html>. (English)
<http://www.e-belgrade.net/> (Serbian – only)
<http://www.rentastan.com/srp/index.php>. (English)
<http://srbija.kuca.net/f/w/public/home.jsp> (information available in English and Russian)

There are several facilities for illegal immigrants and asylum seekers in Serbia – the Shelter for foreigners in Belgrade, and Center for asylum in Banja Koviljaca. Unlike Belgrade Shelter which is closed and movement for persons based there is restricted, Banja Koviljaca Center is of open type and persons based there can move around with a signed certificate. For further information see Ministry of Internal Affairs' website at: <http://www.mup.sr.gov.yu/domino/mup.nsf/indexlat?OpenPage>:

11. Recognition of diplomas

All foreigners wishing to work in Serbia have to submit an application to the Ministry of Education of Serbia – Department for common and public affairs Office in person, or via post to the Ministry of Education.

Necessary forms for the application for recognition of foreign diplomas can be obtained from the Ministry of Education website at: <http://www.mps.sr.gov.yu/code/navigate.php?Id=306>. Note: the website provides information only in Serbian – consult the MSC staff to provide you with necessary help on this issue.

12. Support services offered to migrants

IOM office in Belgrade: www.iom.int.
Address: Drziceva 11, Belgrade
Tel: +381.11 38 21 703

Group 484: <http://www.grupa484.org.yu/english/?c=home>.

Novi Sad Humanitarian Center: http://www.nshc.org.yu/eng_nshc/eng_index.htm
Address: Trg mladenaca 6, 1st floor, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia
Tel: (+381 21) 524 331

Serbian Refugee Council: <http://www.ssi.org.yu/>
Address: Admirala Geprata 8/35, 11000 Belgrade
Tel/fax: 011 306 54 35

Anti-trafficking Center: <http://www.atc.org.yu/>
Resavska 1/4
11000 Beograd
Srbija
Tel/fax: +381.11.32.39.002
Mob: +381.63.86.38.129

Anti-trafficking action: <http://www.astra.org.yu/>.
SOS line: +381 11 3347817

13. Citizenship

Serbian citizenship laws are based on the principle of descent which means that citizenship is acquired at birth if one parent is a Serbian citizen, or by adoption by a Serbian citizen, or by naturalization through application

(through marriage with a Serbian citizen, or a person with a permanent residence permit). The application for citizenship is submitted to the Consular Departments in the Embassies of Serbia (if based outside of Serbia) or Ministry of Internal Affairs if in Serbia. For further information see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.mfa.gov.yu/>.

14. Other

For the list of the Embassies and Consular Departments of the Republic of Serbia in your respective countries, see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.mfa.gov.yu/>.

Embassy in Albania

Donika Kastrioti 9/1, TIRANA
Tel : +3554 / 2223-042, 2232-091
E-mail: ambatira@icc-al.org
web: www.tirana.mfa.gov.yu

Embassy in Macedonia

St. Pitu Guli 8, SKOPJE
Tel: +3892 / 3129-298, 3131-299, 3128-422, 3129-305
E-mail: srbamb@unet.com.mk
Web: www.scgembassy.org.mk

Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Obala Maka Dizdara 3a
71000 Sarajevo
Ambassador, Grujica Spasovic
Phone +38733 / 260-090, 260-080
E-mail: srbamba@bih.net.ba

Embassy in Croatia

Pantovcak 245 ZAGREB
Phone +3851 / 457-90-67, 457-90-68, 4573 330, 4573 334
E mail ambasada@ambasada-srbije.hr

Ministry of Internal Affairs: <http://www.mup.sr.gov.yu/domino/mup.nsf/indexlat?OpenPage>.

Ministry of Health: <http://www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu/index.php?>

Ministry of labor and social policy: <http://www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu/portal/>.