



Embassy of Italy
Lusaka

Requirements for a Visa for RELIGIOUS REASONS OR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- Application form: Duly completed (free of charge);
- Photograph: One recent color photograph, ICAO format (white background);
- Original passport: Valid for at least 3 months after the expiry date of the requested visa and containing a minimum of 2 blank pages, along with copies of previous Schengen visas;
- Identity documents: Copy of the applicant's passport and National Registration Card (NRC);
- Non-Zambian and non-Malawian citizens: Must hold a valid residence permit valid for at least 3 months after the expiry date of the requested visa;
- For refugees: New refugee identity card dated 01.12.2000 and a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs authorizing departure from and re-entry into Zambia;
- Travel medical insurance: Valid for all Schengen countries with a minimum coverage of €30,000 for emergency hospitalization and repatriation expenses for the entire duration of the stay;
- Flight reservation: Round-trip flight booking;
- Original letter from the "Mother House" (*Casa Madre*) religious organization: Duly certified by the Vatican "Secretariat of State" (*Segreteria di Stato*), confirming:
 - The applicant's status as a religious person (monk, nun, priest, etc.);
 - The religious nature of the initiative and/or activities the applicant will participate in while in Italy (e.g., religious meeting, training, studies, etc.) and the details of the sponsorship (coverage of expenses);
 - The requested duration of the visa;
 - Accommodation arrangements for the entire duration of the stay;
- Congregation and Nunciature documents: Original letter from the Congregation the applicant belongs to, and the original Note Verbale from the Apostolic Nunciature in Lusaka.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Additional requests: The Visa Office reserves the right to request additional documentation and/or a subsequent interview with the applicant.
- No guarantee: The submission of all required documents does not automatically guarantee the issuance of the visa.
- Fraudulent documents: The submission of forged or falsified documents will result in the refusal of the visa; such documents will not be returned and may be forwarded to the competent local judicial authorities.
- Border control: Schengen Border Authorities have the right to request proof of requirements from all travelers and may refuse entry to visa holders.