

Letter of guarantee (Pledge of financial support)

If you sign a letter of guarantee you are financially responsible towards the Belgian State, the Social Welfare Service (OCMW) and the foreign national for the health care costs, stay and repatriation of the foreign national during his or her stay in Belgium.

What?

A letter of guarantee is a document issued by the municipal authorities.

The guarantor must prove that:

- He or she has Belgian nationality or an unlimited right to stay in Belgium
 - He or she has sufficient income
- A tax assessment for the year preceding the date of the pledge.
- The guarantor's three most recent pay slips
- A document issued by a public body stating the net or gross income

The guarantor's signature must be legalised by the municipal authorities.

Foreign nationals subject to a visa requirement must submit this form to the Belgian embassy or consulate in their home country, together with their visa application. Foreign nationals not subject to a visa requirement must present the document together with their passport when they arrive in the Schengen area.

There are three forms of guarantee:

1. Family, friends or tourist visit (appendix 3bis)

Nationals of a non-EEA country (European Economic Area, which comprises the EU countries plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) who wish to stay in Belgium for a maximum period of three months must prove that they can cover the costs of their stay and return or onward journey. If they cannot, a Belgian citizen or foreign national permitted to stay in Belgium for an indefinite period can sign a letter of guarantee (pledge of financial support) on their behalf.

The commitment is valid for the duration of the stay of the foreign national, with a maximum of two years.

2. A letter of guarantee for students (appendix 32)

You can apply to take on financial responsibility for a foreign student by filling out an 'appendix 32' form.

You can take on this commitment for one school/academic year or for the duration of the studies. In the former case, the student must submit a new form for each school/academic year to renew his or her residence permit.

3. A letter of guarantee for living under the same roof/cohabitation (appendix 5)

As a Belgian citizen or a foreign national registered and lawfully residing in Belgium you can take on financial responsibility for your foreign partner or parent who applies to stay in Belgium living under the same roof as you.

This commitment is valid for an unlimited period.

Where to go?

For more information, please go to the district hall or the Aliens Office. A list of locations is published [here](#).

You can also download the forms (appendix 3bis, appendix 32 and appendix 5 for living under the same roof) from the e-office (note that both sides of the document must be printed).

Fee

Free of charge

What to bring

- Belgian identity card or a residence permit for an indefinite period (B card or C card or appendix 8 or appendix 8bis or E-card or E+ card or F card or F+ card or D card)

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