

# GUIDANCE ON ENCOUNTERS WITH THE POLICE FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS

All residents of Russian Federation must always carry some form of ID (original and copy). International students should also carry the following documents:

- Passport with valid visa
- Migration card
- Student ID
- Valid registration

**You should contact the police when it is necessary to**

- Protect your life, health, rights and freedoms
- Prevent a crime, enforce public order or ensure public safety
- Protect property

**Basic rules of interaction with a police officer**

- Remain calm and polite. Remember that while on duty, the police officer is a public official of the Russian Federation, and insulting them is punishable by law.
- If you're not confident in your Russian and the police officer's actions are not clear to you, you should inform them. You have the right to seek assistance of an interpreter (independently or with the assistance of the Embassy/Consulate)

**The police may check your ID in the following cases:**

- For identification
- Within public safety policy in accordance with the federal law
- If they suspect that you've committed a crime
- If they suspect that you are wanted
- If there are grounds to charge you with an administrative offence

**Please remember that**

If a police officer requests to check your ID, you are entitled to know the grounds for such inspection.

**The police may search personal belongings in the following cases:**

- Passenger screening at train stations, airports, etc. A record must be drawn up for all private screenings. Private screenings are conducted in the presence of two witnesses who are not law enforcement officers. If any items that do not belong to you are found, do not touch them and report them to the police officer.
- There are reasons to believe that the detained persons may be in possession of arms, ammunition, explosives, drugs, toxic or radioactive substances.

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## **If you are stopped by the police**

The police officer must state their name, rank and position, show their warrant card and explain the reason why you've been stopped.

A police officer may take you to a police station to draw up a **record of an administrative offence** in the following cases:

- You do not have any identity documents and you haven't reported their loss to the police
- A different administrative offence in relation to your stay in Russia is discovered

## **If a police officer requests you to follow them to a police station, you should:**

- Ask why you've been detained
- Call the consulate and friends and inform them that you've been detained and where you'll be taken. In case the reason you've been detained has something to do with your visa or registration, on weekdays till 6 pm you can also contact the Visa & Travel Support [+7 495 772 95 90](tel:+74957729590) \* 11855 or 11850.

## **Foreign nationals have the following rights when detained by the police:**

- Right to obtain legal advice from a lawyer (preferably with the assistance of the Embassy/Consulate or independently)
- Right to seek assistance of an interpreter (preferably with the assistance of the Embassy/Consulate or independently)
- Right to tell your family or friends that you've been detained no later than three hours after your detention. You may request that this phone call (e.g. to the Consulate) be made by a police officer
- Right to refuse giving any explanations

## **If you believe that the actions of a police officer are unlawful, you should proceed as follows:**

- Write down their badge number
- Inform them that you're going to appeal against their actions
- Follow their instructions
- Call the emergency number 02 and report the violation (you may need an assistance of someone who speaks Russian fluently)