

DIGITAL NOMAD VISA

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TYPE OF VISA FOR REMOTE WORKERS WHO INTEND TO LIVE IN PORTUGAL

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused disruptions in several sectors of activity but has also made the world re-discover new ways of delivering work. In fact, nowadays, most skilled jobs can be performed online - the so called “digital nomads”- through which workers can deliver their work remotely, allowing them to constantly move from place to place and enjoy a more equitable lifestyle.

In order to accommodate this new trend, the Portuguese government has recently published Law no. 18/2022 of August 25, which has created a new type of visa specifically directed to digital nomads.

The new legal regime allows residence in Portugal for both dependent workers (employed by a third party) and independent workers (self-employed), as long as their professional activity is delivered to companies located outside Portugal and their monthly income is equal or higher than four times the minimum monthly wage in Portugal (for the year 2023, the same is fixed at EUR760, meaning that the minimum wage required is around EUR3,040 per month).

The visa process begins at the Embassy/Consulate of the applicant's area of residence with the following alternatives:

1. **Short Term Visa:** allows its holder multiple entries into Portugal and to stay in Portugal for a period of less than one year; or
2. **Residency visa:** allows its holder two entries into Portugal for a period of up to four months during which he must apply for a temporary residence permit (valid for a period over 1 year).

In case of short stay visa (option 1 above), there is the possibility of extending the validity of the visa provided that the conditions for its concession are kept (up to a maximum period of 1 year).

In case of residency visa (option 2 above), after the applicant obtains the temporary residence permit and if the applicant keeps such status for a period of at least 5 years, the applicant will be entitled to apply for permanent resident permit and/or Portuguese nationality, subject to certain requirements.

Regarding the required documentation, among others, the applicant must make evidence (i) of his employment status and (ii) the minimum monthly remuneration.

For more detailed information, please feel free to contact our Private Client department.

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