



Moving to Portugal

Step-by-Step guide to obtain a residence
permit to live in Portugal



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If you intend to move to and live in Portugal there are three steps you need to take:

1. Get a residence visa;
2. Get a temporary residence permit; and
3. Get a permanent residence permit.

1. Get a residence visa

A residence visa allows you to stay in Portugal for four months. To obtain it you need to submit an application form at the Portuguese consulate of your country of residence, pay €80.00 and provide there the following documents:

- A valid travel document (e.g. passport), 2 current passport-photos and valid travel insurance;
- Supporting documents of accommodation, means of subsistence and documents regarding the purpose invoked for moving to Portugal (e.g. investment, work, study, professional training, research, highly skilled work, living off the interest); and
- Criminal record certificate from your country of origin/ country where you live for more than a year and an authorization for the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) to access to your Portuguese criminal record.

The decision on the application will take a maximum of 60 days.

The residence visa will not be granted if you are prohibited from entering Portugal by the Schengen Information System or the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF).



2. Get a temporary residence permit

To stay in Portugal after the residence visa four months' you must apply for a temporary residence permit, which will allow you to remain in Portugal for a year (renewable for successive two years).

To get it you must go to the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) in person and submit the application form there. The documents required are:

- Your valid residence visa;
- Valid identification document; and
- Supporting documents of (i) accommodation, (ii) means of subsistence and (iii) security registration, when applicable.

For the application to be accepted, you will have to pay €150.50, which is also the cost of renewals.

The decision takes a maximum of 90 days.

Please have in mind that the temporary residence permit will not be granted if:

- The same conditions of refusal of the residence visa are met; and
- You have been convicted for a crime punishable in Portugal by more than one year imprisonment.



3. Get a permanent residence permit

The permanent residence permit is the final document you will need to stay indefinitely in Portugal. For the acquisition of the permanent residence permit, you will need to:

- Hold a temporary residence permit for at least five years;
- Not have any criminal conviction for more than one year imprisonment;

You should go once again to the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) to file your application form, pay €295.40 and present the following documents:

- Valid travel document and 2 current passport-photos;
- Supporting documents of accommodation and means of subsistence;
- Supporting documents of tax status and social security registration;
- Supporting documents of basic knowledge of Portuguese; and
- Consent for checking your criminal records.

Finally, you should bear in mind that, although a permanent residence permit allows you to live in Portugal for an undefined period of time, the document itself should be renewed every five years or whenever changes in your personal status occur. Each renewal costs €37.70.

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If you wish to discuss any of the matters covered in this briefing you may contact us at:

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