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The D2 Visa, as it is commonly known, is a two stages process for non-EU citizens to obtain a residence permit in Portugal.

In order to apply, the candidates to the Visa should set up a company or a start-up with headquartered in the national territory and with relevant business purpose for the company, which is why this visa is aimed at entrepreneurs who want to invest in Portugal and reside here.

As main benefits of this Visa, the applicants count with the right to live in Portugal and to freely travel throughout the Schengen Area, the qualification for permanent residency or citizenship in Portugal after five years, and the right to benefit from education and healthcare.

Although the residency advantages are appealing, the applicants face some requirements. One of those requirements is the accommodation in Portugal, which means that the applicants need to prove that they have a place to stay – typically the applicants choose to buy, if they intend to live full time in Portugal, or to rent a house; it is also mandatory to present a business plan for the company with objectives, expected profits and markets,...

Although the residency advantages are appealing, the applicants face some requirements on the time of stay. One of those requirements is the proof of accommodation, which means that the applicants need to prove that they have a place to stay – typically the applicants choose to buy, if they intend to live full time in Portugal, or to rent a house.

Also, once the applicants get the residency permit, they have to remain in the country for at least 16 months in the first 2 years and 28 months in the subsequent 3-year periods, that is they cannot be absent from Portugal for **more than 6 consecutive months or 8 interpolated months during the validity of the residence permit**. Nevertheless, these periods of absence can be exceeded when previously justified to the Immigrations Services - travelling for personal, professional or force majeure reasons.

As mentioned before, this a two stages process between a request for a visa at a Portuguese Consulate, and request for a residence permit at the Immigration Services in Portugal.

Visa request at the Portuguese Consulate

The applicants should apply to a visa at the Portuguese Consulate of his/her residency. This application requires the previous booking of an appointment at Consulate, and an in-person delivery of the required documents is mandatory.

Residency permit-- Immigration Services (AIMA) in Portugal

After receiving the Visa, which is valid for a period of 4 months, the applicant has to come to Portugal to attend the appointment next to the Portuguese Immigration Services. This appointment is either automatically provided by the Consulate, or requested by the applicant, being necessarily between the 4 months of validity of the Visa. The Visa is only valid for 2 entries in Portugal.

When approved, the residence permit will be valid for 2 years and then renewed for 3 years. After 5 years of temporary residence, it is possible to apply for permanent residence valid for periods of 5 years, or the applicant may opt for Portuguese nationality, as long as he meets the legal requirements, since Portugal allows a citizen to have more than one nationality.

Fees

The applicant will have to support the administrative fees to be paid to the Consulate and the Portuguese Immigration Services:

- a) Analysis fee for/per application at the Consulate: €90,00;
- b) Fee for/per temporary residence card at the Portuguese Immigration Services: €177,40
- c) Fee for/per renewal at the Portuguese Immigration Services: €177,40

D7 VISA | The residence visa for retirement purposes, religious causes and people living on their own income

The D7 Visa, as it is commonly known, is a two stages process for non-EU citizens to obtain a residence permit in Portugal.

In order to apply, the candidates to the Visa should be pensioners, religious or living on their own income. Which means that this type of Visa is the solution for those who intend to enjoy their retirement in Portugal, to practice their cult among their religious community.

As it is now clear, this type of visa, besides the religious purposes, aims to increase and attract foreign capital, by requiring from the applicants a source of income from a foreign country.

As main benefits of this Visa, the applicants count with the right to live in Portugal and to freely travel throughout the Schengen Area, the qualification for permanent residency or citizenship in Portugal after five years, and the right to benefit from education and healthcare.

Although the residency advantages are appealing, the applicants face some requirements on the time of stay. One of those requirements is the proof of accommodation, which means that the applicants need to prove that they have a place to stay – typically the applicants choose to buy, if they intend to live full time in Portugal, or to rent a house.

Also, once the applicants get the residency permit, they have to remain in the country for at least 16 months in the first 2 years and 28 months in the subsequent 3-year periods, that is they cannot be absent from Portugal for **more than 6 consecutive months or 8 interpolated months during the validity of the residence permit**. Nevertheless, these periods of absence can be exceeded when previously justified to the Immigrations Services - travelling for personal, professional or force majeure reasons.

As mentioned before, this a two stages process between a request for a visa at a Portuguese Consulate, and request for a residence permit at the Immigration Services in Portugal.

Visa request at the Portuguese Consulate

The applicants should apply to a visa at the Portuguese Consulate of his/her residency. This application requires the previous booking of an appointment at Consulate, and an in-person delivery of the required documents is mandatory.

Residency permit - Immigration Services (AIMA) in Portugal

After receiving the Visa, which is valid for a period of 4 months, the applicant has to come to Portugal to attend the appointment next to the Portuguese Immigration Services. This appointment is either provided by the Consulate, or requested by the applicant, being necessarily between the 4 months of validity of the Visa. The Visa is only valid for 2 entries in Portugal.

When approved, the residence permit will be valid for 2 years terms and then renewed for 3 years. After 5 years of temporary residency, it is possible to apply for permanent residency and the renewal is every 5 years, or the applicant can opt for Portuguese citizenship, since Portugal allows dual citizenship.

Fees

The applicant will have to support the administrative fees to be paid to the Consulate and the Portuguese Immigration Services:

- a) Analysis fee for/per application at the Consulate: €90,00;
- b) Fee for/per temporary residence card at the Portuguese Immigration Services: €177,40
- c) Fee for/per renewal at the Portuguese Immigration Services: €177,40

DIGITAL NOMAD VISA | The residence visa for remote workers

The Digital Nomad Visa is a two stages process for non-EU citizens to obtain a residence permit in Portugal.

In order to apply, the candidates to the Visa should be remote workers (employees or freelancers), receiving a minimum monthly salary of €3.480,00, which means that this type of Visa is the solution for those who intend to freely travel across Portugal while working remotely.

This type of visa requires applicants who work remotely for entities located in other jurisdictions must pay Social Security contributions in Portugal.

As main benefits of this Visa, the applicants count with the right to live in Portugal and to freely travel throughout the Schengen Area, the qualification for permanent residency or citizenship in Portugal after five years, and the right to benefit from education and healthcare.

Also, once the applicants get the residency permit, they have to remain in the country for at least 16 months in the first 2 years and 28 months in the subsequent 3-year periods, that is they cannot be absent from Portugal for **more than 6 consecutive months or 8 interpolated months during the validity of the residence permit**. Nevertheless, these periods of absence can be exceeded when previously justified to the Immigrations Services - travelling for personal, professional or force majeure reasons.

This type of visa process has two phases, namely request for a visa at the Portuguese Consulate and, then, convert the visa into a residence permit at the Immigration Services in Portugal.

Visa request at the Portuguese Consulate

The applicants should apply to a visa at the Portuguese Consulate of his/her residency or country of origin. As a rule, the visa application is made in person through the schedule of an appointment.

Residency permit - Immigration Services (AIMA) in Portugal

After the approval of the visa which is valid for 4 months and allows you to enter in Portugal twice within that period of time. During the 4 months period of validity of the visa, the Applicant can travel to Portugal at any time where you will have an appointment at the Immigration Services in Portugal to convert the visa into a residence card which is either provided by the Consulate, or requested by the applicant.

When approved, the residence permit will be valid for 2 years, renewable for 3 years.

After completing 5 years of legal residency in Portugal, it is possible to apply for permanent residence valid for successive periods of 5 years or for the Portuguese nationality, as Portugal allows a citizen to have more than one nationality - in either case it is essential to demonstrate proof of knowledge of the Portuguese language.

Fees

The applicant will have to support the administrative fees to be paid to the Consulate and the Portuguese Immigration Services:

- a) Analysis fee for/per application at the Consulate: €90,00;
- b) Fee for/per temporary residence card at the Portuguese Immigration Services: €177,40
- c) Fee for/per renewal at the Portuguese Immigration Services: €177,40

Golden visa | The investor's choice Residence Permit for investment activities in Portugal

The Golden Visa Programme was designed in 2012 as a simplified residence permit process for investors from non-EU countries, aiming to increase and attract foreign capital. By investing in Portugal, the holders of a Golden Visa not only can include their families in the simplified process, but are also entitled to live and work in Portugal and to freely travel within the Schengen area.

As from October 7th, 2023, the program has been subject to several changes introduced by Law no. 56/2023, of October 6th, also designated as “*Mais Habitação*” law, which ended with the possibility of investing in two modalities: real estate investment and capital transfer of 1.5M.

Therefore, and as it is now clear, the program has not ended being possible for foreign citizens to still invest in Portugal and apply for a Golden Visa, but based on other modalities that continue to be legally admissible for this purpose.

Concerning the Golden Visa applicants' personal documents, it is necessary to present a valid Passport and submit a criminal record certificate issued by the competent authorities from the applicant's country of citizenship and from the country where he or she had its last residence for a period of more than year.

Assuming that the Investor and his/her family members comply and maintain all required investment requirements, after completing 5 years of legal residence in Portugal, they can request a permanent residence or apply for Portuguese citizenship after 5 years of legal reside in Portugal - Portuguese Law allows dual citizenship.

However, the investor may renew the residence permit for as long as intends to, which is valid for periods of 2 years, renewable for the same period of time. As for the minimum periods of stay in Portugal, the Investor and family members you must comply with the stay in Portugal of, at least, 7 days on the 1st year and 14 days, consecutive or interpolated, in subsequent 2-year periods.

In light of the above, as from October 7th, the investors may opt for the following investments:

- ✓ **Capital transfer of €500.000,00 (five hundred thousand euros) in research activities** developed by public or private scientific research institutions, integrated in the national scientific and technological system.
- ✓ **Capital transfer of €500.000,00 (five hundred thousand euros) for the acquisition of parts of non-real estate collective investment**, which must be constituted under Portuguese legislation, whose maturity, at the time of investment, must be, at least, of 5 (five) years and 60% (sixty percent)

of the value of investments must be made in commercial companies based in national territory.

- ✓ **Capital transfer of €500.000,00 (five hundred thousand euros) for the incorporation of a commercial company** with registered office in the national territory, combined with the creation of, at least, 5 permanent jobs for a minimum period of three years.
- ✓ **Capital transfer of €500.000,00 (five hundred thousand euros) for the increase of the share capital of a commercial company with registered office in the national territory**, combined with the creation of, at least, 5 permanent jobs or with the maintenance of, at least, 10 (ten) jobs¹, with a minimum of 5 (five) permanent jobs, for a minimum period of three years.
- ✓ **Capital transfer of €250.000,00 (two hundred and fifty thousand) for invest or support artistic productions, recovery and maintenance of national cultural heritage** through local and central public institutions, public companies, public foundations, public interest private foundations, inter-municipal entities, organizations who are part of the local administrative sector, municipal associations and cultural public associations, who are in engaged in the artistic production, recovery and maintenance of the national cultural heritage.
- ✓ **Creation of, at least, 10 job positions** based on contracts open-ended or of indefinite duration, with 10 employees residing in Portugal.

All investments presented here must be maintained for a minimum period of 5 years, which begin to be counted on the date of issuance of the 1st residence card.

Besides the amount associated with the investment, the Investor and family members will also have to bear the following administrative costs due to the Portuguese Immigration Services:

1. Analysis fee for applicant: €773,74
2. Fee to be paid after approval of the investor's application: €7.730,11;
3. Fee to be paid after approval of each family member of the investor: €7.730,11;
4. Fee to be paid for the renewal of the investor's application: €3.865,79;
5. Fee to be paid for the renewal of each family member of the investor: € 3.865,79;
6. Fee to be paid for the permanent residence of the investor and family member: €10.822,14.

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The Residence Permit for Investment Activity (ARI), commonly known as Golden Visa, allows nationals of third countries to obtain a residence permit for Portugal.

The Golden Visa through investment in the cultural sector is currently the most accessible option in terms of cost, compared to other available investment alternatives.

This investment modality in the cultural sector involves capital transfer of an amount equal to or greater than €250.000,00 (two hundred and fifty thousand euros), which may be reduced by 20%, which gives an investment of 200.000,00 (two hundred thousand euros), when the investment activity takes place in low-density areas. The funds must be mandatorily applied to investment or support for artistic production, or recovery or maintenance of national cultural heritage.

Although this type of visa does not specifically aim for direct financial returns, investors may benefit from indirect advantages, which vary depending on each eligible project, such as privileged access to cultural events, participation in the activities of the management entities of the projects, as well as the personal satisfaction of promoting culture.

There is an approved list of cultural projects for investment, reviewed monthly, in which beneficiaries are entities validated by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Investors may also submit their own projects they wish to see funded in the areas of artistic production or in the recovery or maintenance of national cultural heritage, for approval and inclusion for the purposes of attracting investment – in these cases, firstly, the project must be presented to the competent authorities.

Two pathways for the same purpose:

- i. Investment or support for artistic production (Visual Arts, Ballet, Cinema, Literature/ Books, Heritage, Theatre, and others)
- ii. Restoration or maintenance of national cultural heritage

Benefits include:

- Freely travel within the Schengen Area;
- The right to live, work, and study in Portugal;
- Eligibility to apply for permanent residence or Portuguese citizenship after five years of legal residence, as long as the investor and family members achieve level A2 of Portuguese;
- Each residence card is valid for 2 years, renewable for equal periods of 2 years;
- Minimum periods of stay in Portugal (applicable to the investor and family members): 7 days on the 1st year and 14 days, consecutive or interpolated, in subsequent 2-year period;
- Extendable to family members through the Family reunification route.

We can assist in all stages of the investment process if you wish to proceed with a Golden Visa application through Culture, or if you have an artistic production project that could be eligible for this purpose.

Golden Visa Application Process:

Phase 1 – Support in selecting the project to be invested in and collecting the necessary documentation;

Phase 2 – Submission of the Golden Visa application with all documentation related to the investor and the investment. At this stage, the investor must pay the administrative processing fee of €773.74 per person;

Phase 3 – The process is evaluated by the competent authorities (AIMA). Then, pre-approval is then issued online, allowing us to schedule an interview with the Immigration Services (AIMA);

Phase 4 – Appointment in-person at AIMA in order to submit, once again, all updated documentation related to the investment and the investor, and collect investor's biometric data, where the investor will have to pay the administrative fees for the issuance of the card in the amount of €6.045,20 per person;

Phase 5 – The submitted process will be again reviewed and approved which will generate and issue the residence card.

The above process is also applicable for the family members, including family members' process can be submitted immediately after the investor's.

For guidance on submitting projects, please contact us.

The information provided in this brochure is current as of October 22, 2025.

Upcoming & Possible Changes to Citizenship Rules in Portugal

After a meeting of the Portuguese Government's Ministers that took place during this Summer, the government recently decided to amend the existing Nationality Law. This is in line with the current political shift that has been occurring across Europe (and in Portugal) regarding immigration.

The Government's proposal to amend the Nationality Law was approved by the Parliament last Wednesday, October 28th, 2025, but there are several law experts (including Constitutional Law University Professors) criticizing it.

The Bill still has to be reviewed by the President of Portugal and formally promulgated before it can come into force (and the President could decide to send it back to the Parliament to be changed if he has doubts regarding its constitutionality or to submit it to the constitutional court for review). Therefore, the final outcome although closer to becoming a reality, is still not 100% certain.

Nevertheless, we believe it is important to keep you informed about the current situation and the existing Bill and the impact that it may have on future citizenship applications.

Portuguese Citizenship:

i. Citizenship applications based on residence in Portugal (e.g. Golden Visa, D7 Visa, student resident, among others):

- The period of legal residence required to obtain the Portuguese nationality is increased from 5 years to 7 and 10 years, depending on whether the country of origin of the applicant is a Portuguese-speaking country (PALOP) or another country;
- The new minimum legal residence requirements would apply to all individuals who have not yet submitted their citizenship applications;
- The calculation of the minimum legal residency period for naturalization will now commence from the issuance date of the initial residence card. This is also a complete change from the current rules, effective since 2024, which allowed to count all the period from the date of the submission of the residence permit application (partly to "compensate" applicants for the huge delays that they had to face due to the impact of the COVID pandemic in the SEF services and the creation of AIMA);
- In addition to the requirement of the Portuguese language, evidence of the applicant's knowledge of the Portuguese culture, political organization and democratic values is also required.

ii. Children born in Portugal:

- Children born in Portugal will only be eligible for Portuguese nationality if at least one parent has legally resided in the country for a minimum of 5 years.

iii. Sephardic Jews:

- End of the special nationality regime for Sephardic Jews (again only for new applications);

iv. Criminal Record Rules:

- Applicants must not have been convicted by a final court decision in a prison sentence of two years (instead of three years) or more;
- Individuals listed in any United Nations sanctions lists will be excluded from eligibility.

v. Nationality through Ancestry:

- The granting of nationality through ascendants is now limited to the 3rd degree in a straight line (great-grandparents /great-grandchildren), instead of 2nd degree;

The current Bill is expected to come into force upon publication (again, if the President doesn't raise any issues). However, the new rules will apply only to new citizenship applications and will not affect those already submitted.

The current immigration remain unchanged and are not targeted by this Bill. This means that, after five years from the issuance of the 1st residence card, you may apply for permanent residence, as long as you meet the Portuguese language requirement (level A2).

We have been monitoring this matter closely and will keep updating as we have more news.

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