



Portuguese Residency Visas - *third-country nationals*

Portuguese visa requirements depend on the nature of the visit and length of stay. Whether an entry visa or a long-term residence permit in Portugal, application should be made for the relevant Portuguese visa applicable.

Short-stay visa

If travelling to Portugal as a tourist or for a period less than three months, application should be made for a Portuguese “Schengen Visa”. The Schengen short-stay visa allows visitors to stay in Portugal, or in any Schengen country, for up to 90 days.

There are three types of short-stay Schengen Visas:

- a) Airport Transit Visas (Visa A), permitting transit from one flight to another within the international section of an airport, without actually entering the formal Schengen area. Unless a foreign national traveller is exempt, this type of visa is mandatory for all passengers changing flights in a Schengen country airport.
- b) Transit and short-term stay visa (Visa C) are for short stays within the Schengen area. These are 90-day, multiple entry visas and are commonly issued for tourism and business purposes.
- c) Limited Territorial Validity (LTV) are special visas permitting travel to a specific Schengen state(s). This type of visa is used in emergency situations where the traveller does not have a valid travel document.

Long-stay visas

Long-stay Portuguese visas are issued under the following conditions:

- Medical care;
- Accompanying a family member for medical treatment.
- Temporary employment;
- Self-employment;



- World Trade Organisation (WTO) worker transfer when providing services or training;
- Scientific research or teaching;
- Amateur athletic competitions;
- International assignments;

Portuguese Residency Visa

This visa is for four months when requesting a residency permit after arrival and may be granted in the following situations:

- Employment;
- Self-employment or entrepreneurial activities;
- Scientific research or teaching;
- Study, student exchange, internship, voluntary or religious service;
- Higher education mobility programmes for graduate students already residing in Portugal who want to advance their studies);
- Family reunification;
- Pensioners and those with a proven income.

A long-term residency visa can also be issued as a type D which is for individuals who will be working, studying or residing in Portugal for a set period. This is a multi-entry visa allowing travel to other Schengen countries. When obtaining any type of Portuguese residency visa, applicants must get a Residency Permit when entering Portugal.

Visa application

Whether for a short-stay or long-stay visa, the foreign national must complete and submit an application form to the Portuguese embassy or consulate in one's home country prior to entry. Forms are available online in several languages. The following documentation must accompany the visa application:

- Two passport photos;
- Copies of the passport and previous visas;
- A copy of a return ticket reservation (not always required);
- Travel insurance;



- Cover letter stating the purpose of the visit and itinerary;
- Flight dates and times;
- Accommodation reservations for the duration of the stay;
- Proof of means;
- Civil status;
- Evidence of economic situation.

Specific documentation may also be required related to the purpose of the visit. For example, a student will need proof of enrolment in a Portuguese educational institution. If applying for a business visa, the employer may need to furnish verification. References may also be requested.

Processing time

The time to process a Portuguese Visa varies depending on the purpose of the visit and can take from between two weeks and three months or more. Leaving adequate time for the completion of the process is essential.

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05 February 2019