

Chandrawat
& Partners



IMMIGRATION TO MYANMAR

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INTRODUCTION

Myanmar is home to both local and international companies operating in various sectors. These companies play a vital role in driving the country's economic development and creating employment opportunities. In recent years, Myanmar has seen an increase in foreign direct investment, particularly in sectors such as telecommunications, energy, and manufacturing.

Myanmar's land area spans approximately 676,578 square kilometres, making it the 40th largest country in the world in terms of landmass. The country is bordered by several nations, including Bangladesh, India, China, Laos, and Thailand. Myanmar's strategic location provides opportunities for regional trade and connectivity.

Myanmar, known for its rich cultural heritage and breath taking landscapes, is a country located in Southeast Asia. With a population of over 5 crore people, Myanmar is home to various ethnic groups, each contributing to the country's vibrant tapestry of traditions and customs. The capital city is Naypyitaw, and Yangon is the largest city and commercial hub.

In terms of economic status, Myanmar has undergone significant transformations in recent years. The country has been transitioning from a centrally planned economy to a more open market system, attracting foreign investment and fostering economic growth. Industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and services contribute to Myanmar's Gross Domestic Product. Also, the country's average per capita income in Myanmar has been gradually increasing.



SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION

The immigration system in Myanmar is designed to regulate the entry, stay, and exit of individuals from foreign countries. It is governed by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration & Population, which establishes and enforces related policies and procedures. To enter Myanmar, most foreign visitors are required to obtain a visa. The specific requirements and documentation needed for each visa category may vary.

The country offers several options for obtaining visas. One of the most popular methods is applying for an eVisa, it allows eligible travelers to apply for a visa online before their arrival. The eVisa is available for tourism and business purposes and allows entry through designated airports, land border checkpoints, and seaports. This streamlined process has made it easier and more convenient for visitors to obtain their visas and explore the wonders of Myanmar.

Individuals who plan to stay in Myanmar for an extended period, such as for work, study, or long-term residency, may need to obtain additional permits or visas.

It is important for all individuals, whether visiting or intending to reside in Myanmar, to comply with the immigration laws and regulations of the country. This includes registering with local immigration authorities if staying in Myanmar for more than 90 days. Registration involves submitting necessary documents and completing the required paperwork to ensure compliance and avoid any potential issues during the stay.



PURPOSES FOR IMMIGRATION

EMPLOYMENT

Employment is a common reason for immigration. Myanmar's growing economy presents opportunities for skilled professionals seeking employment in sectors such as engineering, healthcare, education, hospitality, and other industries. Job seekers may explore positions with local companies, international organizations, or NGOs operating in Myanmar. The country's diverse and evolving job market provides avenues for career growth and professional development.

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Business and investment opportunities in Myanmar attract entrepreneurs and investors from around the world. With its emerging economy and strategic location, Myanmar offers a favorable environment for establishing or expanding businesses. Immigrating for business purposes enables individuals to set up their enterprises, invest in local businesses, engage in trade activities, and contribute to Myanmar's economic development. The government has implemented policies to facilitate foreign investment, making it an appealing destination for entrepreneurial ventures.

EDUCATION

Myanmar's universities and educational institutions have gained recognition globally, attracting students and researchers seeking quality education and research opportunities. Immigrating to Myanmar for education allows individuals to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate studies, engage in research collaborations with local scholars, and contribute to the academic community. The country's rich cultural heritage and diverse academic programs make it an attractive destination for students and scholars alike..

ACADEMIC OR RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Academic or research collaborations can also open up alternative immigration routes for researchers, scholars, or academics. Those who have established partnerships or collaborations with universities, research institutions, or academic organizations in Myanmar may have immigration options. These routes typically require official sponsorship from the collaborating institution, facilitating the entry and stay of individuals involved in academic or research pursuits.



EMPLOYMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN MYANMAR

Myanmar's universities and educational institutions have gained recognition globally, attracting students and researchers seeking quality education and research opportunities. Immigrating to Myanmar for education allows individuals to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate studies, engage in research collaborations with local scholars, and contribute to the academic community. The country's rich cultural heritage and diverse academic programs make it an attractive destination for students and scholars alike..

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

One avenue for immigration is through investment in Special Economic Zones “SEZs”. Myanmar has established SEZs to attract foreign direct investment and promote economic development. Foreign individuals interested in investing in designated SEZs may have alternative pathways for immigration. These routes often involve specific investment requirements and collaboration with local authorities or entities. By investing in the SEZs, individuals can not only contribute to Myanmar's economic growth but also gain immigration benefits.



INDIRECT PURPOSES

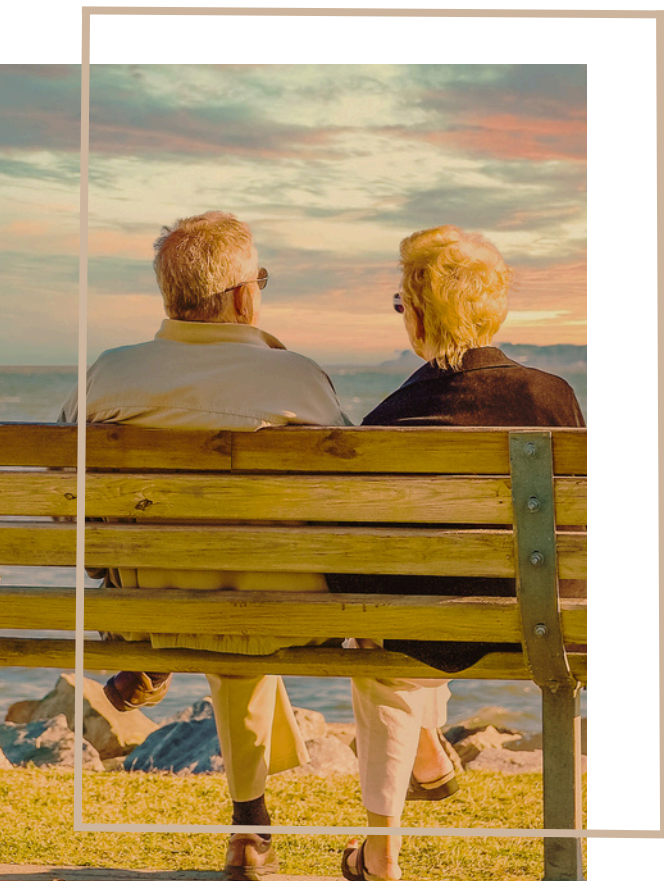
MARRIAGE & FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Marriage and family reunification is another common reason for immigration. Individuals who have family members or spouses who are Myanmar citizens may choose to immigrate to be reunited with their loved ones or to start a family in Myanmar. The immigration process for family reunification typically involves obtaining the appropriate visas and fulfilling specific requirements to establish familial ties in Myanmar.



RETIREMENT

Myanmar's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and affordable cost of living make it an appealing destination for retirees. Some individuals choose to immigrate to Myanmar to enjoy their retirement years in a peaceful and welcoming environment. The country offers opportunities for retirees to immerse themselves in its unique culture, explore its stunning landscapes, and engage in community activities.



HUMANITARIAN WORK

Humanitarian work attracts individuals who are passionate about making a positive impact in society. Myanmar has faced various humanitarian challenges, and individuals may choose to immigrate to contribute to community development projects, assist with disaster relief efforts, or support social and environmental causes. Engaging in volunteer work allows individuals to immerse themselves in local communities and contribute to positive change.

It's important to note that the specific immigration requirements and processes may vary depending on the purpose of immigration. Individuals considering immigration to Myanmar should carefully review the applicable regulations and consult with relevant authorities or legal experts to ensure a smooth and lawful immigration process.



CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS/ ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES

Furthermore, individuals participating in cultural exchange programs, artistic performances, or similar initiatives may have specific immigration options facilitated through the sponsoring organization or program. These routes often involve obtaining special visas for the duration of the program, allowing individuals to engage in cultural exchanges and contribute to the vibrant arts and cultural scene in Myanmar.



KINDS OF VISA

BASED ON APPLICATION METHOD

REGULAR

These are obtained by applying directly at a Myanmar Embassy or Consulate in your home country or country of residence. Regular Myanmar Visas offer a wide range of visa categories to suit different purposes, such as tourism, business, education, and employment.

E-VISA

For a more convenient and streamlined process, Myanmar eVisa is an online visa application system available to eligible travelers. With eVisa, you can apply for your visa electronically without visiting an embassy or consulate. The application is submitted online, requiring essential information such as personal details, travel itinerary, and scanned copies of your passport bio page and a recent passport-sized photo. It is important to note that eVisa is applicable for tourism and business purposes only, and there are limitations on the permitted length of stay.

ON-ARRIVAL

For those who prefer a visa application process upon arrival in Myanmar, the country offers Visa On Arrival services at certain points of entry. Visa On Arrival allows travelers to obtain their visa upon arrival at the airport or land border checkpoint. This option is convenient for those who may not have had the opportunity to apply for a visa in advance.



BASED ON PURPOSE

- **Diplomatic/official courtesy visa:** This visa is granted to individuals who are traveling to Myanmar for official diplomatic purposes or on official government business. It is issued to diplomats, government officials, and their immediate family members.
- **Tourist visa:** The tourist visa allows individuals to visit Myanmar for tourism and leisure purposes. It is typically issued for a specified duration and allows single or multiple entries into the country.
- **Business visa (single and multiple entry):** The business visa is designed for individuals who intend to engage in business activities in Myanmar. It allows them to attend meetings, conferences, explore business opportunities, or establish business relationships in the country.
- **Social visa (single and multiple entry):** The social visa is intended for individuals who wish to visit friends or family residing in Myanmar. It allows them to stay for a specific duration to engage in social activities and reunite with their loved ones.
- **Religious visa (single and multiple entry):** The religious visa is granted to individuals who plan to visit Myanmar for religious purposes, such as attending religious ceremonies, participating in religious events, or undertaking religious studies.
- **Transit visa:** The transit visa is applicable for individuals who are passing through Myanmar to reach their final destination. It allows a short stay in the country while in transit.
- **Official visa (single and multiple entry):** The official visa is issued to individuals traveling to Myanmar on official government business or representing an international organization. It allows them to enter the country for specific official purposes.



- **Employment visa:** The employment visa is for individuals who have secured employment in Myanmar and intend to work in the country. It requires the sponsorship of the employing organization and the approval of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population.
- **Education visa (single and multiple entry):** The education visa is for students who have been accepted into an educational institution in Myanmar. It allows them to study and pursue their educational goals in the country.
- **Journalist visa:** Journalists and media professionals traveling to Myanmar for journalistic purposes require a journalist visa. It allows them to cover news events, conduct interviews, and gather information within the country.
- **Crew visa (single and multiple entry):** The crew visa is issued to crew members of airlines or shipping companies who are engaged in regular transportation services to and from Myanmar.
- **Workshop/seminar/meeting/research Visa:** This visa is for individuals attending workshops, seminars, meetings, or conducting research activities in Myanmar. It allows them to participate in specific professional or academic events.
- **Entry visa (for diplomatic guests and non-diplomatic staff and their immediate family members) (Single and Multiple entry):** This visa is granted to diplomatic guests and non-diplomatic staff, as well as their immediate family members, who are visiting Myanmar for official or personal purposes.



LICENSES & DOCUMENTATION

Diplomatic/official courtesy visa:

- Official letter/note verbal from the sending government/ diplomatic mission.
- Diplomatic passport or official/service passport.
- Completed visa application form.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.

Tourist visa:

- Completed visa application form.
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Proof of travel itinerary, such as flight reservations or travel plans.
- Proof of accommodation arrangements, such as hotel bookings.

Business visa (single and multiple entry):

- Completed visa application form.
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Letter of invitation from a registered company/ organization in Myanmar.
- Company registration documents of inviting organization.
- Proof of business activities, such as trade contracts, conference registration, or meeting invitations.
- Financial documents showing sufficient funds to cover the trip.

Social visa (single and multiple entry):

- Completed visa application form.
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Letter of invitation from a Myanmar citizen or resident, specifying the purpose of the visit and the duration of stay.
- Copy of the inviting person's National Registration Card (NRC) or Passport.
- Proof of relationship with the inviting person, such as marriage certificate or birth certificate.



Religious visa (single and multiple entry):

- Completed visa application form.
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Letter of invitation from a religious organization in Myanmar, stating the purpose of the visit and the duration of stay.
- Copy of the registration certificate of the inviting religious organization.

Transit visa:

- Completed visa application form.
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Valid visa for the onward destination.
- Proof of confirmed onward travel, such as flight tickets or travel itinerary.

Official visa (single and multiple entry):

- Completed visa application form.
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Letter of request from the sending government or international organization.
- Official passport or service passport.

Employment visa:

- Completed visa application form.
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Job offer letter or employment contract from a registered employer in Myanmar.
- Copy of the employer's company registration certificate.
- Approved work permit from the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population.



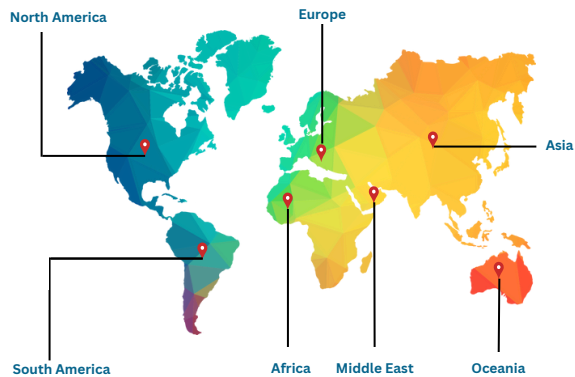


HOW WE CAN HELP?

Our team of dedicated immigration experts understand the complexities and challenges that individuals face when it comes to the immigration process and are committed to providing comprehensive support and supervision to ensure a smooth and hassle-free immigration experience for our clients who are interested in relocating to Myanmar. Here are some of the specific services our Team offers for immigration to Myanmar:

- **Visa application assistance:** Our team guides clients through the entire visa application process, ensuring that all necessary documents are prepared and submitted accurately and on time. Our Team provides step-by-step guidance to help individuals navigate through the complexities of the application process, whether it is for a tourist visa, business visa, social visa, or any other category applicable to their situation.
- **Expert advice on visa types:** Myanmar offers various visa categories, each with its own set of requirements and conditions. Our immigration professionals have a comprehensive understanding of the different visa types and can provide expert advice on choosing the most suitable visa category based on the client's purpose of visit, whether it is for employment, study, investment, or other purposes.
- **Work permit applications:** For individuals seeking employment in Myanmar, provide assistance in obtaining the necessary work permits. Our Team understands the specific requirements and procedures involved in obtaining work permits and strive to make the process as smooth as possible.
- **Post-arrival support:** Our services extend beyond the visa application process. Our Team provides post-arrival support to help individuals settle into their new lives in Myanmar. This includes assistance with accommodation, healthcare, education, and other essential aspects of relocation.

SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



The information contained herein is of a general nature. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. The information is not offered as an advice on any matter, and no one should act or fail to act based on such information without appropriate legal advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation. The information does not make us responsible or liable for any errors and/or omissions, whether it is now or in the future. We do not assume any responsibility and/or liability for any consequences.

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Chandrawat & Partners is a leading and rapidly growing full-service firm providing high quality professional and corporate services to foreign and local clients, representing companies and individuals in a wide range of sectors through separate entities established in various countries worldwide.

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