

**Chandrawat
& Partners**

Immigration to Saudi Arabia

enquiries@chandrawatpartners.com | www.chandrawatpartners.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The system of immigration	02
Different purposes for immigration	03
Non-direct or other routes of immigration	04
Types of visas in Saudi Arabia	06
Licenses and documentation	08
Recent changes in the Immigration policy	10
How we can help?	11

THE SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION

The immigration system in Saudi Arabia is designed to regulate the entry, stay, and departure of foreign nationals in the country. Here are some key features of the immigration system in Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia offers various types of visas to accommodate different purposes of entry. Common visa categories include:

- **Visit visa:** Issued for short-term visits, such as tourism or attending business meetings.
- **Work visa:** Required for foreign nationals seeking employment in Saudi Arabia. It is sponsored by an employer and is tied to a specific job.
- **Residence permit:** Also known as Iqama, it allows foreign nationals to live and work in Saudi Arabia for an extended period. It is typically obtained after entering the country on a work visa.
- **Student visa:** Granted to foreign students accepted into Saudi educational institutions.
- **Business visa:** Issued to individuals engaged in business activities or attending conferences or exhibitions.
- **Family visa:** Available for family members of Saudi citizens or residents.



THE DIFFERENT PURPOSES FOR IMMIGRATION



1. Earning:

The number one reason many expats consider moving to Saudi Arabia is the financial prospects. Salaries are tax-free; that's a huge incentive considering in many countries one can expect to pay taxes worth up to 40-50% of your earnings. Savings will be easier as the salaries are higher here than in most parts of the world.

2. Career:

Saudi Arabia can be one of the hardest places to do business, but also one of the most rewarding experiences. Employers will look upon that with great interest as one demonstrate your adaptability and global business skills.

3. Lifestyle:

The standard of living is high in Saudi Arabia, as the cost of living is low. It is very common for expats to enlist the services of drivers, maids, nannies, and gardeners.

4. Culture:

In addition to experiencing the local cultures and learning about the famous Arabic hospitality, one will quickly learn how welcoming and friendly Saudis can be. There are some interesting places to visit in Saudi itself.

NON-DIRECT OR OTHER ROUTES OF IMMIGRATION

Employment sponsorship:

This is the most common route for foreign workers to enter Saudi Arabia. Individuals can secure employment in the country through sponsorship by a Saudi employer. The employer becomes their sponsor and takes responsibility for their visa and legal status.

Business visit visa:

Businessmen and investors can apply for a business visit visa to explore potential business opportunities in Saudi Arabia. This allows them to attend meetings, and conferences, and conduct business-related activities. However, it does not grant long-term residency or work authorization.

Family joining visas:

Foreign nationals who have immediate family members (spouse, children, parents) residing in Saudi Arabia may be eligible to apply for family joining visas. This allows them to join their family members in the country.



**Medical treatment visas:**

Individuals seeking medical treatment in Saudi Arabia can apply for medical treatment visas. These visas are issued for the duration of the treatment and are facilitated through designated medical institutions in the country.

Pilgrimage visas:

Saudi Arabia welcomes millions of Muslim pilgrims every year for the Hajj and Umrah. Pilgrimage visas are issued specifically to participate in these religious activities.

Diplomatic and official visas:

Individuals who hold diplomatic or official positions may enter Saudi Arabia on diplomatic or official visas. These visas are granted based on the diplomatic relations between countries.

TYPES OF VISAS IN SAUDI ARABIA

Government visa: This type of visa is issued to individuals who are invited by the Saudi Arabian government or its agencies to participate in official government-related activities, conferences, or events.

Diplomatic & official visas: Diplomatic and Official Visas are granted to diplomats, government officials, and their accompanying family members who are representing their countries in Saudi Arabia.

Diplomatic missions & organizations: Refers to the foreign embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic offices established by foreign countries in Saudi Arabia.

Tourist visa: A Tourist Visa allows individuals to visit Saudi Arabia for leisure, tourism, or sightseeing purposes. Saudi Arabia has recently opened its doors to international tourism and offers e-visas or visas on arrival to eligible visitors from selected countries.

Business visit visa: This visa is designed for individuals who plan to visit Saudi Arabia for business-related activities, such as attending meetings, conferences, negotiations, or exploring potential business opportunities.

Employment visa: An Employment Visa is granted to foreign nationals who have secured a job offer from a Saudi employer. It allows them to reside and work in the country for a specific period.



Premium residency visa: The Premium Residency Visa, also known as the "Saudi Green Card," offers long-term residency to foreign investors, highly skilled professionals, and their families.

Newborn visa: This visa is issued to children born to foreign parents in Saudi Arabia. It allows them to legally reside in the country and can be obtained through the appropriate government authorities.

Extension of exit/re-entry visa: This visa category allows individuals already in Saudi Arabia to extend their stay by extending the validity of their exit/re-entry visa.

Family visit visa: Family Visit Visa enables immediate family members (spouse, children, parents, etc.) of residents or citizens of Saudi Arabia to visit and stay in the country for a specific duration.

Companion visa: The Companion Visa allows individuals with disabilities or special needs to be accompanied by a caregiver or companion during their stay in Saudi Arabia.

Personal visit visa: Personal Visit Visa allows individuals to visit Saudi Arabia for personal reasons, such as visiting friends or relatives, attending social events, or undergoing medical treatment.

Hajj and Umrah visa: These visas are specifically for individuals who wish to undertake the religious pilgrimage of Hajj or Umrah in Saudi Arabia.

Student visa: A Student Visa is issued to foreign students who have been accepted into a Saudi educational institution. It allows them to reside in Saudi Arabia for the duration of their studies and is sponsored by the educational institution.

Residence visa: A Residence Visa is obtained after entering Saudi Arabia on an employment or business visit visa. It allows individuals to legally reside and work in the country for an extended period.

LICENSES AND DOCUMENTATION



Immigration requirements and documentation can vary depending on the specific circumstances and the type of visa or residency one is applying for in Saudi Arabia. However, here are some general requirements and documents commonly required for immigration purposes in Saudi Arabia:

- **Valid passport:** One will need a valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining. Make sure your passport is in good condition and has blank pages for the visa stamp.
- **Visa application:** One will need to complete a visa application form. The specific form will depend on the type of visa one is applying for, such as a work visa, visit visa, or family visa.
- **Sponsorship:** In most cases, one will need a sponsor in Saudi Arabia, such as an employer or a close family member who is a Saudi national or resident. The sponsor will typically be responsible for initiating and supporting the owner's immigration process.
- **Employment contract:** If one is applying for a work visa, one will usually need an employment contract or a job offer letter from your employer in Saudi Arabia. The contract should outline the terms and conditions of your employment, including salary, benefits, and duration of the contract.

- **Medical examination:** One may be required to undergo a medical examination at an approved medical center in your home country or in Saudi Arabia. This is to ensure that one is in good health and free from any contagious diseases.
- **Police clearance certificate:** Some visa categories may require one to provide a police clearance certificate from your home country or any other country where one has resided for a certain period. This certificate confirms that one has no criminal record.
- **Educational and professional documents:** Depending on your visa type, one may need to provide educational certificates, professional qualifications, and work experience documents to support your application.
- **Financial documents:** One may be required to provide proof of financial stability, such as bank statements, to demonstrate your ability to support oneself or your family members during your stay in Saudi Arabia.
- **Passport-sized photographs:** One will need to provide recent passport-sized photographs according to the specifications set by the Saudi immigration authorities.

Additional documents: Depending on owner specific circumstances, there may be additional requirements and documents needed. It is essential to check the requirements specific to any visa category and consult with the Saudi embassy or consulate in one country for accurate and up-to-date information.



RECENT CHANGES IN THE IMMIGRATION POLICY



The Gulf Cooperation Council ("GCC") countries, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), host over 30 million migrants, comprising 51 percent of their total population. These migrants play a significant role in the region's economy, sending home USD 115 billion in remittances in 2019. However, the kafala sponsorship system, which has been widely criticized, grants employers substantial power over migrant workers' rights. Reforms are now being implemented in the GCC countries, with Saudi Arabia leading the way.

Saudi Arabia has recently announced a new contract-based system to replace the kafala policy. The reforms grant most foreign workers the freedom to enter and exit the country and the ability to change employers after one year. This move is expected to improve labor allocation and economic growth in Saudi Arabia. However, the legislative change is just the beginning. It necessitates the development of information channels for job opportunities and matching services for both migrant workers and Saudi employers.

The reforms have potentially positive impacts on migrant-sending countries, initially increasing remittances and potentially shifting the recruitment focus to more skilled workers. However, the introduction of MSAs could lead to a decrease in remittances if more of the migrants' income remains in the GCC countries.

HOW WE CAN HELP?

The firm can provide valuable assistance to individuals or businesses seeking to navigate the immigration process in Saudi Arabia. Here are some ways our firm can help with immigration to Saudi Arabia:

Expertise and knowledge:

Our firm is having in-depth knowledge of the country's immigration laws, regulations, and procedures. Our firm can provide accurate and up-to-date information, ensuring that clients understand the requirements and steps involved in the immigration process.

Assessment and eligibility:

Our firm can assess an individual's or a company's eligibility for immigration to Saudi Arabia. The firm can review the client's qualifications, work experience, and other relevant factors to determine the most suitable immigration category or visa type.

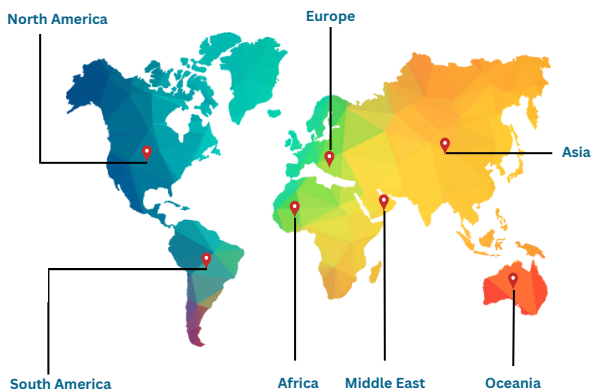
Visa applications:

Our firm can assist with the preparation and submission of visa applications. The team will guide clients through the documentation requirements, help them gather the necessary paperwork, and ensure that the applications are completed accurately and submitted on time.

Work permits and sponsorship:

In Saudi Arabia, many immigration categories require sponsorship from a Saudi employer or company. The firm can help individuals or businesses find suitable sponsors, navigate the process of obtaining work permits, and facilitate the necessary arrangements between the sponsor and the applicant.

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.

Key Contact



Surendra Singh Chandrawat

Managing Partner

✉ surendra@chandrawatpartners.com

Connect Surendra on

[LinkedIn](#)

[WhatsApp](#)

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.

Copyright © 2025 | All rights reserved | Chandrawat & Partners | Email: enquiries@chandrawatpartners.com | Website: www.chandrawatpartners.com

Follow us on:

