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Immigration To Estonia

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System of immigration in the country



Anyone wishing to change the scenery and move to Estonia can move there. Nevertheless, the process will change if you are a European Union national or non-European Union National.

- European Union National /European Economic Area and Swiss nationals can move to Estonia without undergoing a visa application process. However, they must complete a few requirements to stay longer than 90 days.
- non-European Union National/European Economic Area/Swiss nationals to move to Estonia must apply for an Estonia long-stay visa. Then with a long-stay (D) visa, they can apply for a temporary residence permit, which allows them to stay longer.

As an EU (European Union) national

- European Union/European Economic Area and Swiss citizens do not need to apply for an Estonia visa. Instead, they can enter the country with only a valid travel document or an identification card and stay up to three months.
- If they wish to stay for a more extended time, they must register their place of residence in the population register of Estonia within the first month in the country. Then they must apply for an Estonian ID card at the Police and Border Guard Board.

As an non- European union national

- Non-European Union National/European Economic Area/Swiss citizens must apply for an Estonia long-stay visa to move into the country. The long-stay visa is valid for a year and can be issued for studies, work, retirement, or family reunification.
- Once they enter the country, they must apply for a temporary residence permit at the Police and Border Guard Board.

The different purposes for which a person can immigrate to Estonia

Moving to Estonia for Work

- As a non-European Union National /European Economic Area/ Swiss citizen, you must apply for a long-stay work visa if you wish to move there and work. The work visa is issued for a year. Once you enter the country, you must apply for a temporary residence permit at the Police and Border Guard Border. The temporary residence permit is issued for five years and can be renewed for up to ten years.
- In addition, freelancers as well can work in Estonia. They can do so through the digital nomad visa. The digital nomad visa is valid for a year. After that, they must apply for another long-stay visa to extend their stay.
- On the other hand, skilled workers can also seek a job in Estonia. But first, they must apply for an Estonia European Union Blue Card residence permit.

Moving to Estonia to Study

- If you wish to move to Estonia to study, you must apply for a student visa. With a student visa, you can study, work, and live for one year. After entering the country, if your studies are longer than a year, you must apply for a temporary residence permit. The temporary residence permit is issued for five years.
- After your studies, you will have another nine months to search for a job. Then you can apply for a temporary residence permit for work purposes if your job search is successful.





Moving to Estonia for Family Reunification

Moving to Estonia for family reunification requires applying for a family visa. To be eligible for the visa, you must be either:

- A spouse/partner of someone living in Estonia.
- A dependent child of someone living in Estonia.
- A parent or grandparent of someone living in Estonia.
- A dependent family member (older than 65 years) of someone living in Estonia who can take care of you.

The validity of the family visa is one year. Nevertheless, after entering the country, you must apply for a temporary residence permit that allows you to stay for up to five years.





Non-direct or other routes of immigration to Estonia

For persons wishing to relocate to Estonia, there are numerous non-direct or alternative immigration procedures available. Here are some common alternatives:

- **Startup visa:**

Estonia has a Startup Visa program designed to attract innovative entrepreneurs and their startups to the country. This visa allows founders to establish and develop their startup in Estonia. Successful applicants must meet specific criteria, including having a scalable business model and the potential for significant growth.

- **Study in Estonia:**

Individuals can apply for a student visa to study at a recognized educational institution in Estonia. By enrolling in an accredited program, individuals can reside in Estonia and pursue their education while potentially exploring work opportunities during and after their studies.

- **Highly qualified specialist:**

Estonia offers a "Highly Qualified Specialist" visa for individuals with specialized skills and expertise. This visa is designed to attract foreign professionals in fields such as IT, engineering, research, or finance. It requires a valid employment offer from an Estonian company and meeting certain salary criteria.



- **Family Reunification:**

If you have immediate family members who are Estonian citizens or legal residents, you may be eligible for a family reunification visa. This allows you to join your family members in Estonia.

- **Business Immigration:**

If you plan to establish or invest in a business in Estonia, there are various options available, such as the Entrepreneur Visa or the Investor Visa. These visas typically require a business plan, sufficient funds, and compliance with specific investment criteria.



Types of visa's that are given for Estonia

There are different types of Estonian visas depending on the occasion:

- **Estonia Schengen Visa.**

It allows you to visit Estonia for 90 days within 180 days. This visa is issued for short visits and tourism. Furthermore, since Estonia is a part of the Schengen Agreement, you can visit other Schengen countries with a Schengen visa for Estonia.

- **Estonia Transit Visa.**

This visa is issued for passengers who need to transit in an Estonian airport while traveling to a third country. EU (European Union National.)/EEA (European Economic Area/ Swiss citizens do not need a visa to transit through Estonia.

- **Estonia Work Visa**

To work in Estonia, citizens outside the European Union National /European Economic Area/Switzerland need to apply for a work visa. However, your employer must register your employment with the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board before you plan to apply for a work visa. Citizens of European Union National /European Economic Area/Swiss will need to register as Estonian residents in the Population Register of Estonia and apply for an ID card in the first three months of their stay.



- **Estonia Student Visa.**

All those who want to study in Estonia and are not from the European Union National /European Economic Area/Swiss need to apply for a student visa. You can only apply for a student visa only after being accepted into an Estonian university or other educational institution. European Union National /European Economic Area/Swiss citizens who will study in Estonia only have to register their residence at the Local Government authority and apply for an ID card within the first month.

- **Estonia Family Visa.**

If you want to join your family members or partner living in Estonia, you must apply for an Estonia family visa and a temporary residence permit. It allows you to settle in Estonia, work, study, and enjoy the same residency rights as your family member.

- **Estonia Investment Visa.**

If you want to invest in a business in Estonia, you must first apply for an Estonian investment visa and a temporary residence permit.

- **Estonia Digital Nomad Visa.**

To allow freelancers work in Estonia, the authorities have created a special visa just for this purpose, which is known as the Estonia digital nomad visa.

- **Estonia European union Blue Card.**

If you are a skilled worker with the right qualifications and you are seeking for a job in Estonia, than you have to apply for Estonia European union Blue Card residence permit.



Licenses and documentation required for immigration

There are a few documents that are required when applying for an Estonian visa, such as:

- **A valid passport.**

The passport must be valid at least three months beyond the return date with two blank pages. Include a copy of previous visas (if any).

- **Application form.**

You must fill out the application form online, print a hard copy, and sign it at the end. Make sure you fill out the application form sincerely and with all the required information.

- **Two passport-sized photos.**

A full-face photo with a bright background. The photo must be taken within the last six months and follow the Schengen visa photo guidelines.

·Schengen Medical insurance.

Valid health insurance with at least €30,000 coverage within Estonia and the Schengen area.

- **A cover letter.**

The cover letter must explain the purpose of your visit to Estonia, the flight date and time, the return date, etc.





- **Proof of accommodation.**

Document proof that you have a place to stay in Estonia.

- **Civil status.**

Document proving your civil status if you are married (marriage certificate), if you have a child (birth certificate of the child), or death certificate of the spouse (if applicable).

- **Bank statement.**

This is a document issued from your bank, and it must prove that you have at least €100 every day for the whole time you are staying in Estonia.

- **Biometric (fingerprints).**

When submitting the requested documents to the embassy or consulate, you must submit your fingerprints.



Recent changes

The Estonian immigration authorities have released the 2023 residence permit quota, providing 1,307 spots for non-European union citizens, down from 1,311 spots in 2022. The quota will be divided among the following sectors: industrial, construction, transportation and storage, business, creative performance, sports and journalism. The quota will also include spots for temporary residence permits based on international agreements. 313 spots will remain for free distribution.

Effective January 1, 2023, quota-exempt individuals who have been working in Estonia for at least nine consecutive months based on short-term employment will be able to apply for a two-year residence permit.

Previously, a residence permit for employment was required for stays longer than one year and since the residence permit quota was easily exhausted, many quota-exempt workers were not able to receive a permit; therefore, this policy should allow these individuals easier access to reside in Estonia for more than one year.

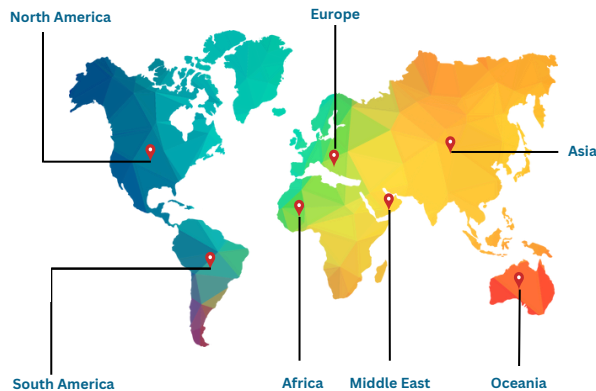
Affected individuals can submit their residence permit applications at the PPA service office or Estonian embassy starting January 1, 2023.



How we can help?

- Immigration law can be complex, and a specialized law firm will have in-depth knowledge of the relevant laws, regulations, and procedures related to immigration to Estonia. We can assess the eligibility, review documents, and provide accurate information tailored to specific circumstances.
- Our firm can assist in preparing and submitting visa application. We can ensure that all necessary documents are complete, accurate, and meet the requirements of the Estonian authorities. This can increase the chances of a successful visa application and minimize the risk of delays or rejections.
- We can help explore and understand the various visa options available for immigration to Estonia. We can assess goals and qualifications and provide advice on the most suitable visa category for various situation, whether it's a short-stay visa, long-stay visa, startup visa, or residence permit.
- Immigration laws and regulations can change, and it is essential to remain compliant throughout the immigration process. Our firm keep's client updated on any changes in immigration policies, informs about rights and obligations, and ensure that our client adhere to the legal requirements during your stay in Estonia.
- If visa application is denied or there is any immigration-related challenges, our firm can assist with filing appeals or providing legal representation. We can help understand the reasons for the denial and explore options for challenging the decision or seeking alternative solutions.
- Beyond immigration matters, our firm can also provide comprehensive legal services related for relocation to Estonia. This may include assistance with business setup, contract review, tax advice, employment matters, and other legal aspects relevant to various situation.

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