

Chandrawat
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IMMIGRATION TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE



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THE SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION TO UAE

United Arab Emirates (“UAE”) is known for its astounding infrastructure, iconic landmarks, and a blend of modernity with cultural heritage. UAE paves the way for an ambitious career with new opportunities in the healthcare sector, real estate, infrastructure, etc. It also has a thriving economy with huge employment opportunities. One of the advantages of working in the UAE is that the salaries in the UAE are tax-free.

The UAE also took several measures to diversify its economy, transitioning from its heavy reliance on the oil industries to embracing a range of technological and tourism industries. As a result, it has achieved a flourishing dependable economy, supported by a stable economy.

The immigration regulation of the UAE made significant modifications to the country’s immigration system by introducing new visa and residency visit systems. The regulation classifies visas into majorly five categories. Additionally, the regulation introduced long-term resident visas in the form of Green Visa (five long terms) and Golden Visa (ten long terms).



PURPOSES FOR IMMIGRATION

The direct routes for immigration to UAE are as follows:

- **Education facilities-** Dubai has a huge range of schools and educational institutions. Expatriates from the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (“USA”) have a great choice of schools, as many schools in UAE follow the British and USA curriculum. Moreover, schools also provide specific curricula according to the education system of the child’s home country. Apart from schools, UAE also has several universities and colleges offering higher education.
- **Remarkable healthcare-** The healthcare of UAE is known to be among the best healthcare in the world. It has a government-aided health service and a rapidly developing private health sector that aims at a high standard of health care for the population. Healthcare is provided both by the state and privately but the cost of the same depends on the immigration status.
- **Investment opportunities-** There is a vast range of investment opportunities in the UAE. The government of UAE is shifting its focus from the oil sector to the non-oil sector such as real estate, financial services such as asset management, etc. The enticing tax environment is one of the primary factors influencing businesses to set up their operations in the UAE. While no personal income taxes are charged, the corporation tax rate in the country will be levied at 9% for corporations earning income of more than AED 375,000.
- **Touristic centre-** The UAE is a desirable destination for tourists seeking a mix of modern architecture, cultural experiences, and luxurious gateways. The UAE is home to architectural marvels and iconic landmarks that attract tourists from around the world. The UAE is also known for its exceptional and luxurious shopping malls with two shopping festivals hosted each year.



The other routes for immigration to UAE are as follows:

- **Layover at UAE-** Having one of the largest international airports in the world, many flights has their layover at UAE airports whereby the passengers are provided transit visa for forty-eight hours or ninety-six hours.
- **World-class adventures, sports, and entertainment-** The UAE is home to several entertainment events and attractions. Dubai is particularly well-known for its lavish nightlife, star-studded events, and high-profile performances by foreign artists. The UAE also has a variety of sports and adventure opportunities, such as camel racing, skydiving, desert safaris, and water sports. Both thrill-seekers and people looking for uncommon outdoor activities are drawn to these encounters.
- **International Festivals and Events-** The UAE hosts a wide range of international festivals and events that act as forums for cross-cultural interaction.

TYPES OF VISAS AND PERMIT

- **Residence visa**

A residence visa, also known as a residency permit, allows individuals to reside in the UAE for an extended period, typically for employment, business, or family reunification purposes. It grants individuals the right to legally live, work, and enjoy various benefits and services provided by the UAE government.

Types of Residence Visa:

Work Visa	Issued to foreigners who have found employment in the UAE and obtained a Work Permit.
Student Visa	Issued for foreign nationals who have been accepted into a UAE educational institution.
Family visa	Issued to the close family members of UAE citizens or foreign residents
UAE investment visa	Issued to foreign nationals who make a substantial investment in the UAE. This type of visa is issued for a longer duration than other types of residence visas (up to ten years)
UAE retirement visa	Issued to elderly foreigners who want to retire in the UAE and have the necessary financial means to do so.
Work remotely from the Dubai program	Issued to foreign freelancers who want to work in Dubai remotely.

An applicant for a residence visa

The applicant can only apply for a residence visa through a sponsor. However, in certain cases, the applicant may be his sponsor.

Types of Visa	Sponsor
Work Visa	Employer
Student visa	School
Family visa	Family member
Investor/buying property	The applicant can apply themselves/the company.

Duration of residence visa

The duration of UAE Residence Visas depends on the purpose of travel: they are issued for one, two, or three years and can be renewed. However, Investment visas are also issued for five or ten years and are renewable.

Visas especially for investors

Green visa- UAE introduced the green visa to attract and support foreign freelancers and self-employed individuals in the UAE. The residency period is five years and, unlike the standard UAE work visa, does not require employer sponsorship.

Golden visa- The UAE’s golden visa is an extended residence permit that allows professionals with exceptional qualifications to live, work, and study in the UAE for ten years without a local sponsor.

Work permit

The eligibility for acquiring a work permit is that any foreigner who is over the age of eighteen can work in the UAE, provided that they meet the standards set by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (“MoHRE”). The employer has to obtain the work permit on its employee’s behalf. It is the MoHRE that’s in charge of issuing work permits for the UAE.

The foreign workers are divided into three categories, based on their academic qualifications/skill sets:

- Category 1: Having at least a bachelor’s degree.
- Category 2: Having a post-secondary diploma in any field.
- Category 3: Having a high school diploma.

Upon the complete submission of documents, it usually takes about five working days for the Ministry to issue the work permit.

Duration of validity of work permit

Once the work permit for the UAE is approved, it serves as an entry permit, allowing one to enter the UAE on the grounds of employment. This permit is valid for thirty days and can be extended once, allowing for a maximum stay of 60 days during which the employer has to arrange for the Residence Visa. The UAE employment visa procedure starts only after the applicant enters the country.





- **Tourist visa**

A tourist visa is for those who are not eligible for a visa on arrival or a visa-free entry to the UAE. Tourist visas can be applied through airlines, hotels, and travel agents. Females below the age of eighteen are not eligible to apply for this type of visa unless they are traveling with their parents. Moreover, children under the age of eighteen years who are accompanied by adults can get a free visa for their visit from 15 July to 15 September each year.

There are thirty days or ninety days visas on arrival for a few countries. The citizens who get thirty days visa can be granted an extension of ten days as a grace period. Visa-free entry is available for Gulf Corporation Citizen (“GCC”) nationals who do not require a visa, permit, or sponsorship from a UAE national or resident. At the time of entry into the UAE, they need to present their passport or national ID card from a GCC country.

Applicants for a tourist visa:

Through agencies and hotels- Licensed travel agents and hotels in the UAE can arrange a tourist visa provided the candidate purchases the ticket through them and maintain a hotel reservation with the specific hotel.

Through airlines- Each airline has some conditions, which must be met for the tourist visa to be arranged them. One of the conditions is flying with them.



- **Transit Visa**

Applicable to those nationals who are not eligible for visa-free entry or visa on arrival to UAE. The UAE issues two types of transit visas:

1. For forty-eight hours which is free of cost,
2. For ninety-six hours which costs AED 50.

These visas are sponsored only by UAE-based airlines and are to be processed and approved before entering the UAE. Neither of the visas is either extendable or renewable.

- **Student Visa**

A student can stay in the UAE for their education either through the sponsorship of their parents, who must be UAE residents, or through the sponsorship of the accredited university or college where they are studying. The student affairs offices at universities will help students to process their visas.

The duration of a student visa is for one year at a time and is extendable for another year upon presentation of documentation from their place of study attesting to their intention to continue their studies. Until the age of twenty-five, expatriate residents may sponsor their male child.

Therefore, male students over the age of twenty-five who can provide evidence of having attended a higher education institution for a minimum of one year's course can continue to be sponsored by their parents. However, for a female child, the expatriate residents may continue to support her education until she gets married.



- **E-Visa for GCC residents**

GCC residents and their companions need to apply online for a visa and must obtain the same before arriving in the UAE. The e-Visa will be sent to the resident on their registered email address once such an application is approved. The application of GCC expatriate residents and companions traveling along with GCC citizens will not be approved if their sponsor is not traveling with them.

The GCC residents' entry permit is valid for 30 days from the date of issue and is extendable once for 30 days. While the entry permit for companions traveling with GCC citizens is valid for 60 days from the date of issue and is extendable once for 60 days.

- **Retirement Visa for UAE resident**

Retired residents above the age of 55 years can apply for a 5 years long-term visa. The visa is renewable provided the eligibility criteria is met.

- **Patient and his/her companion entry permits**

Foreign patients can enter the UAE for treatment under the sponsorship of medical establishments and government and private hospitals. The sponsor (medical establishment) takes the responsibility of processing entry permits for treatment upon the patient's request.

LICENSE AND DOCUMENTATION



Immigrating to the UAE entails fulfilling certain requirements and obtaining the necessary licenses and documentation. The UAE has a set of guidelines to regulate immigration and ensure smooth entry and stay for individuals.

Residence visa

- The UAE Visa application form obtained online or through the relevant typing center
- Original passport
- Two passport-size pictures, as per the UAE visa photo requirements
- Entry visa
- Proof of sponsor's legal residency / UAE citizenship.
- Proof of passing a medical fitness test. (All foreign nationals who want to live in the UAE on a Residence Visa have to pass a medical exam proving their fitness.)
- Proof of UAE health insurance plan.
- For family visas, include proof of family ties, such as birth/marriage certificates.
- For a work visa, the sponsor must include the work contract and copies of the company's valid trade license and valid firm card

Tourist Visa

- A coloured photo
- A copy of the passport
- The bank balance of 4,000 USD or its equivalent in foreign currencies during the last six months.
- Ticket to and from the UAE
- Proof of stay in the UAE
- Health insurance policy

Transit visa

- A passport/travel document with a minimum validity of 3 months (for a transit visa of 48 hours) and 6 months (for a transit visa of 96 hours)
- A picture of the passport holder against a white background.
- An onward ticket booking to a 3rd destination, other than the one coming from.

Student visa

- Certificate issued by the university or institute specifying the duration of the study.
- Other general requirements of the residence visa

E-Visa for GCC resident

- The GCC residency and passport must be valid for at least 3 months from the date of arrival.
- If the profession of the GCC resident is found to be changed after the issuance of the entry permit, the holder will be denied entry.

Retirement visa:

- Worked for not less than 15 years inside or outside the UAE or must be 55 years of age at the time of retirement.
- Own property/ies worth not less than AED 1 million, have financial savings of not less than AED 1 million or a monthly income of AED 20,000 and provide the bank statement for the last 6 months.



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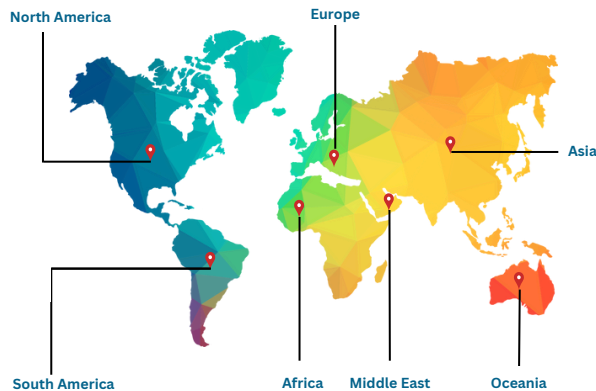


HOW WE CAN HELP?

If an applicant is looking to immigrate to the UAE, Chandrawat & Partners can be a valuable resource to help them navigate the complex immigration process. Here are a few ways how the firm can assist them:

- **Visa and Work Permit:** The firm can assist the applicant understand the various visa options available to them, as well as the requirements for obtaining a work permit if they are planning to work in the UAE. The firm can guide the applicant through the application process and ensure that all necessary documents are properly completed and submitted.
- **Legal Advice:** The firm can provide legal advice on the immigration process and the various requirements and regulations involved. The firm can also help the applicant understand the legal implications of their immigration status, and advise them on the best course of action for their specific situation.
- **Translation and Notarization:** The firm can assist with the translation and notarization of any required documents for the applicant's immigration application. This also includes documents such as the applicant's passport, birth certificate, and marriage certificate

SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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