

## **Long-term residence visas in the UAE**

In line with Cabinet Resolution No. 56 of 2018 regarding the organisation of Residence Permits for Investors, Entrepreneurs and Professional Talent, in 2019 the UAE introduced new long-term residence visa categories. These newly introduced visas enable expatriates to live, work and study in the UAE without requiring a national sponsor, and allows 100 % ownership of businesses on the UAE's mainland. UAE long-term visas will be issued by the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) for a period of 5 or 10 years and will be renewed automatically.

### **Eligibility criteria for the UAE 10 year visa without a sponsor**

#### **1. Investors in public investments for a minimum amount of AED 10 million**

The investment may take one of the following forms:

- A deposit of at least AED 10 million in an investment fund inside the UAE
- Establishing an entity in the UAE with a capital of no less than AED 10 million
- Partnering in an existing or a new entity with a share value of no less than AED 10 million
- Having a total investment of no less than AED 10 million in all the above mentioned areas, on the condition that the public investment excluding the real estate is no less than 60% of the total investment

#### **Conditions:**

- The amount invested must not be loaned
- The investment should be retained for at least 3 years
- There should be a financial solvency for up to AED 10 million
- The visa can be extended to include business partners, on the condition that each partner contributes AED 10 million
- The long-term visa can include spouse and dependants , as well as one executive director and one advisor

Investors from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a 6-month period.

#### **2. Professional Talent**

This includes specialised talents and researchers in the fields of science and knowledge such as doctors, specialists, scientists, inventors, as well as creative individuals in the field of culture and art. The 5-year visa may extend to the spouse and dependants. All categories are required to have a valid employment contract in a specialised field of a priority in the UAE.

#### **Conditions:**

- Scientists must be accredited by [Emirates Scientists Council](#) or holders of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Medal for Scientific Excellence
- Creative individuals in culture and art must be accredited by [Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development](#)
- Inventors must obtain a patent of value, which adds to the UAE's economy. Patents must be approved by [Ministry of Economy](#)

- Exceptional talents must be documented by patents or a scientific research published in a world-class journal
- Executives must be owners of a leading and internationally recognised company or holders of a high academic achievement and position
- Doctors and specialists must meet at least 2 of the following conditions:
  - A Ph. D. degree from one of the top 500 universities in the world (refer to [ICA](#) for information)
  - An award or certificate of appreciation in the field of the applicant's work
  - Contribution to a major scientific research in the applicant's field of work
  - Published articles or scientific books in distinguished publications in the applicant's field of work
  - Membership in an organisation related to the field
  - A Ph.D. degree, in addition to 10 years professional experience in the applicant's field of work

Specialisation in areas of priority to the UAE. Professional Talent from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a 6-month period.

### **Eligibility for a 5 year visa without a sponsor**

#### **1. Investors in a property in the UAE**

##### **Conditions:**

- The investor must invest in a property of a gross value of none less than AED 5 million
- The amount invested in real estate must not be on a loan basis
- The property must be retained for at least 3 years

#### **2. Entrepreneurs**

##### **Conditions:**

- This category includes those having an existing project with a minimum capital of AED 500,000, or those who have the approval of an accredited business incubator in the UAE
- Entrepreneurs are allowed a multi-entry visa for 6 months to enter the country and apply for a long-term visa. The long-term visa includes the spouse and dependants, a partner and three executives

Entrepreneurs from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a 6-month period.