

RESIDENCE PERMIT

invest@liaa.gov.lv
www.investinlatvia.org
+371 67039473

2 Perses Street, Riga, Latvia, LV-1442

A residence permit is a document providing a foreigner with the right to reside in the Republic of Latvia for a definite period (a temporary residence permit) or permanently (a permanent residence permit). A residence permit is necessary if you are willing to reside in the Republic of Latvia for a period exceeding 90 days within half a year, counting from the first day of entrance.

The main steps to obtain a residence permit

1. Choose the most appropriate residence permit type. Determine if you are on the list of countries that need a visa or not. Contact the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (**OCMA**) to consult – www.pmlp.gov.lv
2. Carefully prepare all required documents. Foreign documents (e.g. statements, diplomas, certificates etc.) should be legalized (with Apostille stamp and have a notarized translation in accepted languages) to be accepted in Latvia.
3. Document submission during the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - a. persons located in Latvia:
 - i. submit electronically, confirming each document with a secure electronic signature;
 - ii. or send by post in an ordinary, unrecorded item, indicating in the application documents e-mail address and telephone number for communication;
 - b. persons residing outside Latvia may submit documents for the first request for a permit to the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia abroad.
4. Receive the confirmation from the OCMA and apply for a visa (if required) for entering Latvia.
5. Check the current restrictions and entry policy related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Reserve a visit at the OCMA and provide additional documents, biometric data (if required) to receive a residence permit card with eID and eSignature.

Initial standard document package for a residence permit

The essential documents when applying for the first time to acquire commercial or investment residence permit types:

1. A valid travel document admitted in Latvia;
2. An application form with 35x45 mm colour photo;
3. A document confirming the necessary subsistence for a living (depending on the type - the employment contract, bank account statement);
4. A document confirming the state duty payment;
5. Legalized (with Apostille) statement on punishability for citizens of states that require a visa to enter Latvia.

These countries from the list can enter Latvia without obtaining a visa: [Click here](#)



Submitting the letter of invitation to the OCMA

For some types of residence permits a legal entity should submit an invitation letter. A standard invitation letter can be signed with secure e-signature and submitted to the OCMA together with other required documents. Invitations for business partners, investors, members of the board can be also submitted through the government online service portal www.latvija.lv.

Link to the invitation application – ["Approval of an invitation for requesting a visa or an invitation for requesting a residence permit in the Republic of Latvia"](#)

Alternatively, a legal entity may electronically send the application and the documents, and each must be electronically signed with a secure electronic signature.

Tips & recommendations:

1. Invitations are submitted in the Latvian language. Legalized documents of foreign states can be submitted also in English and Russian (French and German are also accepted, but not recommended due to possible extension of the review term).
2. Make sure that all official foreign documents, certificates and statements are properly legalized (with Apostille stamp) or have a legalized copy, and have notarized translations if required. Documents submitted to the OCMA are not returned to the applicant, thus original certificates (e.g. marriage or birth certificates) should remain with the holder.
3. Startup founders are recommended to review the required information that should be submitted for the idea description at "Startup Latvia" webpage in the "Startup Visa" section – <https://startuplatvia.eu/startup-visa>
4. Spouses and minor children may apply for the residence permit together with the applicant. Additionally, legalized documents such as marriage and birth certificates will be required. Pay attention to the required document that proves the minimum subsistence sum for each adult and child.



Receiving the residence permit card

After the confirmation of the OCMA, the applicant should arrive in Latvia and submit additional documents:

1. Valid health insurance for a year;
2. A health certificate issued by a Latvian health care institution stating that the foreign national does not suffer from tuberculosis in the active phase (for the initial temporary residence permit or after an interruption exceeding 90 days);
3. [Documents certifying the expected place of residence](#) (should not be submitted if lodged along with a summons or residence permit request, and if the foreign national has a declared place of residence in the Republic of Latvia);
4. The OCMA will collect biometric data for the ID.



Common types of temporary residence permits for commercial activities and investors

TRP type	Additional documents and requirements
Labour or enterprise agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The employer shall register a vacancy in the State Employment Agency; submits the invitation to the OCMA if there are no applicants within 10 working days; signed employment contract (or at least draft) should be enclosed; Legalized diploma or document confirming 3 years working experience in the profession; 1143 €* minimum monthly gross wage (or less for some seasonal workers in agriculture).
EU Blue Card for employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed invitation from the company; signed employment contract (or at least draft) should be enclosed; Legalised higher education diploma (at least 3-year study programme) or a document confirming 5 years of professional experience in the specialization; 1372 €* minimum gross monthly wage for high-demand specialists and 1715 €* for others.
Representative of an entity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved invitation letter by the OCMA; The company operates for at least one year and has at least 2800 € equity; 2286 €* minimum monthly gross wage; 21 350 € minimum annual tax payments, or 1750 € per month for an incomplete taxation year.
Share capital investor (up to 10 permits per company)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved invitation letter by the OCMA; At least EUR 50 000 (EUR 100 000 for larger companies) equity investment in the existing or newly established company; An additional payment in the state budget of 10 000 €; 40 000 € (100 000 € for large companies) minimum annual tax payments, or EUR 3300 (EUR 8300) per month for an incomplete taxation year.
Real estate owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchased real estate in specific municipalities worth at least 250 000 € and cadastral value should be at least 80 000 €; An additional payment of 5% of the real estate purchase value into the state budget; No real estate tax debts, the real estate must not comprise agricultural land or wooded land.
Investments in credit institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A document issued by the credit institution of the Republic of Latvia, which confirms that the foreigner has subordinate liabilities toward the credit institution of the Republic of Latvia and the transaction term is at least five years in the amount of 280 000 €; An additional payment in the state budget of 25 000 €.
Investments in government bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire interest-free government bonds determined for special purposes with the nominal value of 250 000 €; An additional payment in the state budget of 38 000 €
Individual merchant or Self-employed person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A business plan approved by a sworn auditor for the envisaged operation period; Documents confirming sufficient personal financial means to commence the activities stipulated in the business plan; A permit (a licence, a certificate) if you are engaged in activities that require these documents; For individual merchants – 14 230 € minimum annual tax payments, or 1150 € per month for an incomplete taxation year.
Startup founders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of the innovative idea according to the requirements of LIAA; A bank account official statement with at least 6000 €* per adult and 1800 €* per child.

* Minimum monthly wages are adjusted annually on April 1st according, to the data of The Central Statistical Bureau.



Terms & Stamp Duties



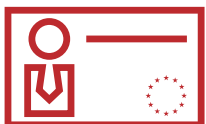
E-Invitation

2-10 workdays with the base fee of 5 € if submitted through the government e-service portal

+ 55 € for each employee

+ 2 € for each child younger than 6 years

+ 4 € for each child older than 6 years



EU Blue Card

10 workdays – 100 €

5 workdays – 200 €



Residence permits

5 workdays – 400 €

10 workdays – 200 €

30 days – 100 €



Schengen visa (type C)

35-80 € depending on the type and terms



National visa (type D)

60-120 € depending on the type and terms



Residence permit card (eID)

2 workdays – 30 €

10 workdays – 15 €



The full information is available at the OCMA website in Latvian, English and Russian languages –

www.pmlp.gov.lv

Government e-service portal www.latvija.lv

Not all residence permit types are included in this list, thus the stamp duty may vary depending on the specific type of the residence permit.

The list of professions in high demand is defined by Ministru kabineta noteikumi Nr. 108 “Specialitātes (profesijas), kurās prognozē būtisku darbaspēka trūkumu un kurās darbā Latvijas Republikā var uzaicināt ārzemniekus”.

The contents of the idea description are stated at Startup Latvia page in the Startup Visa Section.

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Contents of the idea description are stated at Startup Latvia page in the [Startup Visa Section](#)