

D2 VISA GUIDE

Foreign Entrepreneurs Visa

MATLAW

MESTRE ASSOCIATE LAWYERS
SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS, SP. RL.



D2 VISA GUIDE

Foreign Entrepreneurs Visa

I. Who can apply for a Foreign Entrepreneur Visa?

Commonly referred to as the D2 Visa, this is a national visa for Entrepreneurial Immigrants, hence most suitable for those individuals who intend to carry out one or more investment activities in Portugal.

By holding a D2 Visa one is allowed to apply for a temporary residence permit to live in Portugal. This can be obtained through the following ways:

- Self-employed professional activity: Services agreement or a written promissory services agreement for the exercise of an independent business activity.
- Investment activity carried out by entrepreneurial immigrants: this investment must be materialized through the creation of a Commercial Company in Portugal:
 - The type of investments is unlimited, but these must be aimed creating, managing, and growing innovative ventures that drive change and opportunity in the portuguese marketplace. The project will be analysed by AIMA.

D2 VISA GUIDE

Foreign Entrepreneurs Visa

2. Visa & Residency Process: overview and requirements

The process is divided into **two phases**:

- First, the applicant applies for a visa at the Portuguese Consulate or Embassy in their country of residence (valid for 4 months).
- Next, the the second stage is the preparation and request of a temporary residence permit before AIMA (Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum) in Portugal.

The main requirements to apply for a D2 Visa are the following:

- Be a Non-European Union Citizen
- Have clear criminal records
- Have the financial capacity to invest in a business and to maintain the investment or intend to pursue an independent and self-employed activity
- Show proof of accommodation in Portugal, such as a long-term rental agreement or proof of ownership of habitation in Portugal.

D2 VISA GUIDE

Foreign Entrepreneurs Visa

3. Rights & Duties of Portuguese residents

The main advantages of applying for a temporary residence permit under a D2 Visa process are the following:

- Legal residency in Portugal
- Right to travel through the European Schengen Area countries (as tourist, not as a resident)
- Access to several welfare rights, including education, healthcare, and social security, as applicable.
- Right to request family reunification (for the relatives and under the terms set out in the law).

The temporary residence permit is valid for a period of 2 years and renewable for 3 additional years. After 5 years of temporary residency the applicant can require a permanent residence permit. After 10 years, the applicant may require portuguese nationality.

D2 VISA GUIDE

Foreign Entrepreneurs Visa

Once the temporary residence permit is granted, the applicant shall not be absent from the country for six consecutive months or eight non-consecutive months in the total period of validity of the permit.

Moving to Portugal and obtaining a residence permit will most likely have implications on the tax framework applicable to the new resident, among others. It is therefore important to understand those implications, both on a national and international field, and to comply with the Portuguese tax and social security regulations.

For further information, please contact us through the e-mail address geral@matlaw.pt

The information contained in this document is generic and non-exhaustive. It does not constitute, nor shall it be deemed to constitute, in any circumstances, advice to concrete cases.