

START UP VISA GUIDE

 **MATLAW**

MESTRE ASSOCIATE LAWYERS
SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS, SP. RL.



START UP VISA GUIDE

1. Who can apply for a Start Up Visa?

The Start-up Visa is a programme designed to attract foreign entrepreneurs without permanent residence in the Schengen Area who wish to develop an entrepreneurial and innovative project in Portugal, to obtain a residence visa and permit. This visa grants the right to live in Portugal and to move freely within the Schengen Area.

This visa is particularly suitable for:

- Entrepreneurs who wish to develop an innovative project in Portugal, even if they have not yet established a company;
- Entrepreneurs who already manage business projects in their countries of origin and wish to expand or carry out their activities in Portugal.

2. Visa & Residency Process: overview and requirements

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

A. Registration and submission of the application

- The applicant registers and waits for a business incubator to express interest in the project.
- The project application is submitted to IAPMEI (Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) for evaluation.

START UP VISA GUIDE

B. Evaluation and final decision by IAPMEI;

C. Incubation and hosting contracts:

- The incubation contract is formalized.

D. Visa request and residence permit application:

- 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 the Start Up Visa will be the following:

- Be a Non-European Union Citizen;
- Provide proof of accommodation in Portugal, such as a rental agreement or a deed of purchase for a residential property.
- Having a Declaration of Acceptance to the Start-up Visa programme, confirming the signing of an incubation contract with a certified incubator.

START UP VISA GUIDE

3. Rights & Duties of Portuguese residents

The main advantages of the Start-Up Visa 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 (available for the applicant's spouse/partner, dependent children, and dependent parents).

The temporary residence permit is valid for 2 years and can be renewed for an additional 3 years. After 5 years of temporary residence, the applicant may apply for a permanent residence permit, and after 10 years, for Portuguese nationality.

START UP VISA GUIDE

Moving to Portugal and obtaining a residence permit will most likely have implications on the tax framework applicable to the new resident, amongst other. 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.