

TECH VISA GUIDE

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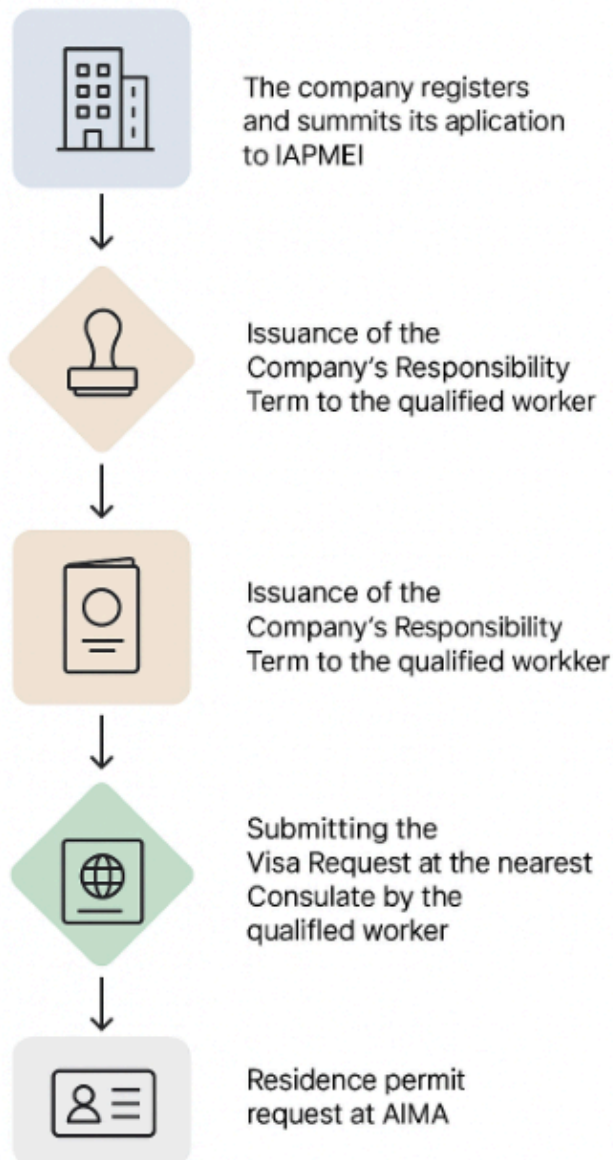
I. Who can apply for a tech visa?

The **Tech Visa programme** targets companies operating in the global market with headquarters or a permanent presence in Portugal that wish to attract highly qualified professionals from outside the European Union. It also streamlines the process for these professionals to access employment opportunities with Portuguese companies.

Tech Visa certification simplifies visa and residence permit procedures at Embassies or Consular offices. It may waive in-person appointments and does not require presenting an employment or promissory contract at ALMA (Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum).

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2. Visa & Residency Process: overview and requirements.



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

- The first stage begins with the company's application to IAPMEI for programme certification and concludes with the applicant submitting a visa application at the Portuguese Consulate or Embassy in their country of residence, where the visa is issued (valid for 4 months).
- Next, 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 for the employee to apply for the Tech Visa are 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.
- Have a degree (level 6 of education, according to ISCED 2011), or a professional technical course (level 5 of education) with 5 years' experience in specialized technical functions.

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- Have a knowledge of Portuguese, English, French, or Spanish, appropriate to the fulfillment of the job.
- Employment contract or promise of employment contract with a minimum duration of 12 months.

3. Rights & Duties of Portuguese Residents

The main advantages of the Tech 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)
- Possibility of accessing the new Non-Habitual Resident regime, established by the State Budget of 2024 (case by case analysis).

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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.

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

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