

# FOREIGN NATIONALS INTENDING TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH, TEACH AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR PERFORM A HIGHLY QUALIFIED ACTIVITY IN PORTUGAL

## Information on obtaining visas and residence permits

The Portuguese legal framework for foreign citizens (Law 23/2007 of 4 July) lays down specific rules on entry, stay, exit and removal which apply to foreign nationals of third countries and stateless persons who intend to come to Portugal to carry out research, to teach in a higher education institution or to perform a highly-skilled activity, provided they:

- a) Have been admitted as collaborators at a research centre duly recognized by the Ministry of Science Technology and Higher Education, by means of a work contract, or a written proposal to the same effect, or a contract for the provision of services, or a grant for scientific research;
- b) Hold a work contract or a written proposal to the same effect, or a contract for the provision of teaching services in a Higher Education Institution, or for performing a Highly Skilled Activity in Portuguese territory<sup>1</sup>, including those at the service of privately owned companies.

The criteria for an applicant to be considered a Highly Skilled worker are as follows and proof of meeting these conditions is required:

- Value of salary received;
- The need for the activity;
- The appropriateness of the academic technical qualifications of the applicant to the activity of the employment contract.

When the employer is a company of the private sector, the following should be indicated:

- The company's corporate purpose;
- The functions to be performed by the applicant;
- The specialized or exceptional technical skills that is required.

If the applicant does not hold an academic degree, he or she must make proof of work experience and of a professional qualification that is relevant to the purpose of accomplishing the work contract.

When the conditions for applying for this special regime are fulfilled, the applicant may request for:

- **A Temporary Stay Visa** – if the period of activity is less than one year;
- **A Residence Visa** – if the applicant intends to apply for a residence permit in Portugal.

In addition to the visa application, that must be delivered by the interested party to the respective consulate, the employer (research centers, higher education institutions, or other entities either public or private, including privately owned companies that develop highly qualified activities) may follow a complementary procedure to facilitate the celerity of the visa process. The aforementioned entities may forward a copy of all documents concerning the hiring process<sup>2</sup> to the Secretary-general of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, who then forwards them, or the corresponding information, by electronic means, to the Directorate General of Consular Affairs and to the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The main procedures once the applicant is in Portuguese territory are as follows (at SEF):

- Holders of a **Temporary Stay Visa** may apply for an extension of stay, for up to one year. This may be extended, once, for the same period of time.
- Holders of a **Residence Visa**, must, within a period of 4 months in national territory, submit a request for a Temporary Residence Permit. If necessary, the applicant may later apply for a Renewal of the Temporary Residence Permit.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the provisions of Law n° 23/2007 of July 4, a highly qualified activity requires technical and specialized skills or skills of exceptional nature and thereby requires suitable qualifications, namely academic qualifications.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the provisions of Law n° 23/2007 of July 4 and Regulatory Decree n° 84/2007 of November 5, including the identification and contacts of the applicant in his or her country of residence.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – CONTACTS

- **Consulates:**

(<http://www.consuladovirtual.pt>)

(<http://www.secomunidades.pt>)

- **Directorate-General of Consular Affairs and Portuguese Communities (DGACCP):**

Lubélia Gomes and Catarina Rocha

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[lubelia.gomes@dgaccp.pt](mailto:lubelia.gomes@dgaccp.pt) e [catarina.rocha@dgaccp.pt](mailto:catarina.rocha@dgaccp.pt)

- **Foreign Nationals and Borders Service (SEF):**

[www.sef.pt](http://www.sef.pt)

**Contact Center:** Marta Ferreira and Cristina Vieira Gonçalves

Tel: 00 351 21 711 51 05;

[marta.ferreira@sef.pt](mailto:marta.ferreira@sef.pt) e [Cristina.vieira@sef.pt](mailto:Cristina.vieira@sef.pt)

**REGIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR LISBON:** Manuel Teixeira e Rui Lobo

Tel: 00 351 21 358 55 32 ou 00 351 21 358 55 40

[manuel.teixeira@sef.pt](mailto:manuel.teixeira@sef.pt) e [rui.lobo@sef.pt](mailto:rui.lobo@sef.pt)

- **Secretary-General of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (SG-MCTES):**

[www.sec-geral.mctes.pt](http://www.sec-geral.mctes.pt)

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- **Science and Technology Foundation (FCT):**

[www.fct.mctes.pt](http://www.fct.mctes.pt)

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