

Portugal Visa & Residency Guide

A comprehensive overview of the main pathways to live, work, and invest in Portugal.

Portugal offers some of Europe's most accessible and attractive residency programmes for non-EU nationals and EU citizens alike. Whether you are a retiree, remote worker, entrepreneur, or investor, there is a legal pathway suited to your profile. Portugal Bridge guides you through every step — from choosing the right visa to achieving permanent residency and citizenship.

D-Visa Pathways

D7 Visa

D7 — Passive Income & Retirement Visa

Who qualifies:

Non-EU nationals with stable passive income (pension, rental income, dividends, investments) of at least the Portuguese minimum wage (~€820/month). Retirees are a primary target profile.

Key benefits:

- 5-year residency with annual renewals leading to permanent residency
- Right to work and study in Portugal
- Access to NHR tax regime (significant tax advantages for 10 years)
- Path to Portuguese citizenship after 5 years
- Family reunification included

■ *Most popular visa for retirees and those living off passive income.*



D8 Visa

D8 — Digital Nomad Visa

Who qualifies:

Remote workers and freelancers employed by or providing services to companies outside Portugal, earning at least 4x the minimum wage (~€3,280/month). Both employees and self-employed qualify.

Key benefits:

- Legal right to reside in Portugal while working remotely
- Renewable residency leading to permanent status after 5 years
- Eligible for NHR tax benefits
- Family members can be included
- No requirement to work for a Portuguese employer

■ *Ideal for location-independent professionals seeking a European base.*



D2 Visa

D2 — Entrepreneur & Startup Visa

Who qualifies:

Entrepreneurs, freelancers, and independent service providers who intend to set up or have already set up a business in Portugal, or who provide independent professional services to Portuguese or international clients.

Key benefits:

- Residency permit for self-employed and business owners
- Access to Portugal's growing startup and tech ecosystem
- Path to permanent residency and citizenship
- Eligible for NHR tax regime
- Access to EU market and freedom of movement

■ Business plan review and local entity setup support available through our partner network.



Other D-Visa Categories

Visa	Category	For whom
D3	Highly Qualified Activity	Professionals in science, technology, research, or senior management roles for Portuguese entities.
D4	Student & Research Visa	Full-time students enrolled in Portuguese universities or accredited research programmes.
D5	Internship Visa	Individuals undertaking professional internships or vocational training in Portugal.
D6	Family Reunification	Spouses, dependent children (under 18 or studying full-time), and dependent parents of legal residents.

Golden Visa — ARI (Autorização de Residência para Investimento)

Portugal's Golden Visa (ARI) grants residency to non-EU nationals in exchange for qualifying investments in Portugal. The programme has been updated — real estate purchases in most areas no longer qualify, but several strong investment routes remain.

Investment Route	Minimum Amount	Notes
Capital transfer	€500,000	Transfer to Portuguese financial institution
Investment funds / PE funds	€500,000	Into qualifying Portuguese investment or venture capital fund
Scientific or tech research	€500,000	Into public or private R&D activity
Arts / cultural heritage	€250,000	Support for national arts or cultural preservation

Job creation	10 jobs	Creating at least 10 full-time jobs in Portugal
Company incorporation	€500,000 + 5 jobs	New company or capital increase in existing Portuguese company

Golden Visa key benefits:

- Minimum physical presence: only 7 days per year in Portugal
- Full residency rights — live, work, and study in Portugal
- Visa-free travel across the Schengen Area
- Family reunification for spouse, dependent children, and parents
- Path to permanent residency after 5 years and citizenship after 5 years
- No requirement to be a tax resident (though NHR can apply if you choose to be)

Family Reunification

Legal residents in Portugal may bring their immediate family members through the Family Reunification process. The applicant must hold a valid residence permit (temporary or permanent) and demonstrate sufficient income and suitable accommodation.

Who qualifies as a dependent	Conditions
Spouse or civil partner	Valid marriage or registered civil union
Children under 18	Biological or legally adopted children
Adult children (18+)	Financially dependent and unmarried, enrolled in full-time education
Parents of the applicant	Financially dependent on the resident; age 65+ or proven dependency
Parents of the spouse	Same conditions as above
Minor siblings	If the resident is the legal guardian

Residency & Citizenship Timeline

Year 1	Arrive in Portugal on your chosen visa. Register with local authorities, obtain NIF, open bank account.
Year 1–2	First residency permit renewal. Continue meeting visa conditions (income, presence, tax filing if applicable).
Year 2–3	Second renewal. Begin building ties — language, community, property. Consider NHR tax registration.
Year 4–5	Third renewal. Accumulate 5 years of legal residency, meeting minimum stay requirements.
Year 5+	Apply for Permanent Residency (TRP) — no further renewals required. Alternatively, apply for Portuguese Citizenship (passport).

NHR — Non-Habitual Residency Tax Regime

The NHR regime (now updated as IFICI from 2024) offers significant tax advantages for new tax residents in Portugal for a period of 10 years. It is available to individuals who have not been Portuguese tax residents in the previous 5 years.

- Flat 20% tax rate on Portuguese-sourced professional income (qualifying professions)
- Foreign-sourced income may be exempt from Portuguese tax (subject to conditions)
- Pension income: 10% flat rate (IFICI update — check current rules with your advisor)
- Capital gains and dividend income from abroad: often exempt
- No wealth tax in Portugal
- Must apply within the year of becoming a Portuguese tax resident

Important: NHR/IFICI rules have changed. Portugal Bridge connects you with specialist tax advisors to assess your specific profile and maximise your benefits.

Get Started with Portugal Bridge

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■ www.portugalbridge.net

■ Sintra, Portugal

This document is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Visa and tax regulations change frequently. Always consult a qualified legal professional before making any relocation decisions.