

# RESIDENCE PERMIT

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A residence permit is a document providing a foreigner with the right to reside in the Republic of Latvia for a definite period (a temporary residence permit) or permanently (a permanent residence permit). A residence permit is necessary if you are willing to reside in the Republic of Latvia for a period exceeding 90 days within half a year, counting from the first day of entrance.

## The main steps to obtain a residence permit

1. Choose the most appropriate residence permit type. Determine if you are on the list of countries that need a visa or not. Contact the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (**OCMA**) to consult – [www.pmlp.gov.lv](http://www.pmlp.gov.lv).
2. Carefully prepare all required documents. Foreign documents (e.g. statements, diplomas, certificates etc.) should be legalized or approved with Apostille stamp and have a notarized and legalized (or with Apostille) translation in accepted languages to be accepted in Latvia.
3. Document submission:
  - a. persons staying legally in Latvia:
    - i. submit electronically, confirming each document with a secure electronic signature;
    - ii. or send by post in an ordinary, unrecorded item, indicating in the application documents e-mail address and telephone number for communication;
  - b. persons residing outside Latvia may submit documents for the first request for a permit to the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia abroad.
4. Receive the confirmation from the OCMA and apply for a visa (if required) for entering Latvia.
5. Visit OCMA and provide additional documents if required and, biometric data to receive a residence permit card with eID and eSignature.

## Initial standard document package for a residence permit

The essential documents when applying for the first time to acquire commercial or investment residence permit types:

1. A valid travel document recognized in Latvia;
2. An application form with 35x45 mm colour photo;
3. A document confirming the necessary subsistence for a living (depending on the type – the employment contract, bank account statement);
4. A document confirming the state duty payment;
5. Legalized (or with Apostille) statement on punishability for citizens of states that require a visa to enter Latvia.

These countries from the list can enter Latvia without obtaining a visa: [Click here](#)





## Submitting the letter of invitation to the OCMA

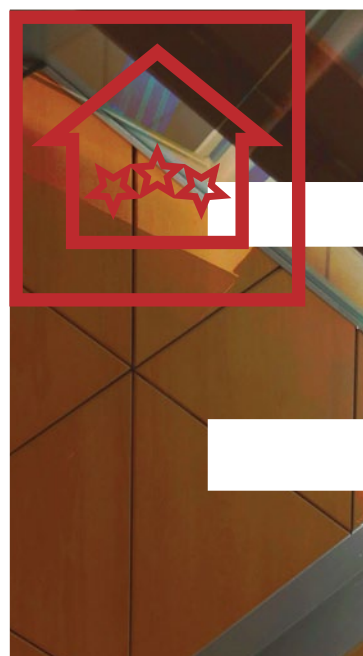
For some types of residence permits a legal entity should submit an invitation letter. A standard invitation letter can be signed with secure e-signature and submitted to the OCMA together with other required documents. Invitations for business partners, investors, members of the board can be also submitted through the government online service portal – [www.latvija.gov.lv](http://www.latvija.gov.lv).

Link to the invitation application – [Approval of an invitation for requesting a visa or an invitation for requesting a residence permit in the Republic of Latvia](#)

Alternatively, a legal entity may electronically send the application and the documents, and each must be electronically signed with a secure electronic signature.

## Tips & recommendations:

1. Invitations are submitted in the Latvian language. Legalized documents of foreign states can be submitted also in English and Russian, French or German are also accepted, but not recommended due to possible extension of the review term).
2. Make sure that all official foreign documents, certificates and statements are properly legalized (or with Apostille stamp) or have a legalized copy, and have notarized translations if required. Documents submitted to the OCMA are not returned to the applicant, thus original certificates (e.g. marriage or birth certificates) should remain with the holder.
3. Startup founders are recommended to review the required information that should be submitted for the idea description at “Startup Latvia” webpage in the “Startup Visa” section – <https://startuplatvia.eu/startup-visa>
4. Spouses and minor children may apply for the residence permit together with the applicant. Additionally, legalized documents such as marriage and birth certificates will be required. Pay attention to the required document that proves the minimum subsistence sum for each adult and child.



## Receiving the residence permit card

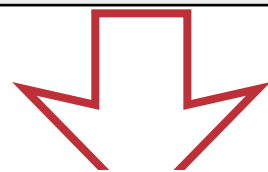
**After the confirmation of the OCMA, the applicant should arrive in Latvia and submit additional documents:**

1. Valid health insurance for a year;
2. A health certificate issued by a Latvian health care institution stating that the foreign national does not suffer from tuberculosis in the active phase (for the initial temporary residence permit or after an interruption exceeding 90 days);
3. [Documents certifying the expected place of residence](#) (should not be submitted if lodged along with a summons or residence permit request, and if the foreign national has a declared place of residence in the Republic of Latvia);
4. The OCMA will collect biometric data for the ID.

# Common types of temporary residence permits for commercial activities and investors

TRP type	Additional documents and requirements
<b>Labour or enterprise agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The employer shall register a vacancy in the State Employment Agency; submits the invitation to the OCMA if there are no applicants within 10 working days; signed employment contract (or at least draft) should be enclosed;</li> <li>Legalized diploma or document confirming 3 years working experience in the profession;</li> <li>Minimum monthly gross wage shall correspond to the average gross wage in Latvia in the respective branch of economic activity.</li> </ul>
<b>EU Blue Card for employees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed invitation from the company; signed employment contract (or at least draft) should be enclosed;</li> <li>Legalised higher education diploma (at least 3-year study programme) or a document confirming 5 years of professional experience in the specialization (3 years for IT specialists);</li> <li><b>1844 €* minimum gross monthly wage</b> for high-demand specialists and <b>2306 €* for others</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Representative of an entity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved invitation letter by the OCMA;</li> <li>The company operates for at least one year and has at least 2800 € equity;</li> <li><b>3074 €* minimum monthly gross income</b>;</li> <li><b>21 350 € minimum annual tax payments</b>, or 1750 € per month for an incomplete taxation year.</li> </ul>
<b>Share capital investor (up to 10 permits per company)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved invitation letter by the OCMA;</li> <li>At least <b>50 000 €</b> (100 000 € for larger companies) equity investment in the existing or newly established company;</li> <li>An additional payment in the state budget of <b>10 000 €</b>;</li> <li><b>40 000 €</b> (100 000 € for large companies) <b>minimum annual tax payments</b>, or 3300 € (8300 €) per month for an incomplete taxation year.</li> </ul>
<b>Real estate owner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchased real estate in specific municipalities worth at least <b>250 000 €</b> and cadastral value should be at least <b>80 000 €</b>;</li> <li>An additional payment of 5% of the real estate purchase value into the state budget;</li> <li>No real estate tax debts, the real estate must not comprise agricultural land or wooded land.</li> </ul>
<b>Investments in credit institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A document issued by the credit institution of the Republic of Latvia, which confirms that the foreigner has subordinate liabilities toward the credit institution of the Republic of Latvia and the transaction term is at least five years in the amount of <b>280 000 €</b>;</li> <li>An additional payment in the state budget of <b>25 000 €</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Investments in government bonds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire interest-free government bonds determined for special purposes with the nominal value of <b>250 000 €</b>;</li> <li>An additional payment in the state budget of <b>38 000 €</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Individual merchant or Self-employed person</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A business plan approved by a sworn auditor for the envisaged operation period;</li> <li>Documents confirming sufficient personal financial means to commence the activities stipulated in the business plan;</li> <li>A permit (a licence, a certificate) if you are engaged in activities that require these documents;</li> <li>For individual merchants – <b>14 230 € minimum annual tax payments</b>, or <b>2254 €</b> per month for an incomplete taxation year.</li> </ul>
<b>Startup founders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the innovative idea according to the requirements of LIAA;</li> <li>A bank account official statement with at least <b>8400 €* per adult</b> and <b>2520 €* per child</b>.</li> </ul>

\* Minimum monthly wages are adjusted annually on April 1st according, to the data of The Central Statistical Bureau.





# Terms & Stamp Duties



## E-Invitation

2-10 workdays with the base fee of 5 €  
if submitted through the government  
e-service portal

+ 55 € for each employee

+ 2 € for each child younger than 6 years

+ 4 € for each child older than 6 years



## EU Blue Card

10 workdays – 100 €

5 workdays – 200 €



## Residence permits

5 workdays – 400 €

10 workdays – 200 €

30 days – 100 €



## Schengen visa (type C)

35-80 € depending  
on the type and terms



## National visa (type D)

60-120 € depending  
on the type and terms



## Residence permit card (eID)

2 workdays – 30 €

10 workdays – 15 €



The full information is available at the OCMA website in  
Latvian, English and Russian languages –  
[www.pmlp.gov.lv](http://www.pmlp.gov.lv).

Government e-service portal – [www.latvija.gov.lv](http://www.latvija.gov.lv).

Not all residence permit types are included in this list, thus  
the stamp duty may vary depending on the specific type of  
the residence permit.

The list of professions in high demand is defined by Regulation  
of the Cabinet of Ministers Nr. 108 “Specialitātes (profesijas),  
kurās prognozē būtisku darbaspēka trūkumu un kurās  
darbā Latvijas Republikā var uzaicināt ārzemniekus”.

The contents of the idea description are stated at Startup  
Latvia page in the Startup Visa Section.