

Brazil

Immigration country brief



The purpose of this Immigration Country Brief is to serve as a resource and provide a general overview of the immigration requirements related to business visitors and employment authorization in Brazil. The information contained in this document is provided as a resource only and should not be construed as legal advice. Processing times are estimated only and are subject to change regularly. If you have any further inquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact the Crown World Mobility Regional Immigration Manager, Americas.

Overview: Business visas

Entry visa requirements for visits to Brazil are dependent upon the applicant's citizenship. Based on reciprocity agreements, citizens of some countries may not need a visa to visit Brazil for stays of up to 90 days.

Visa types

Visit Visa (VIVIS)

Summary: The visa allows an individual entry to Brazil for the purposes of tourism or a short business visit. The traveler should inform the immigration officer at the port of entry regarding the purpose of the visit.

Maximum stay: 90 days, renewable for another 90 days, depending on the nationality.

Processing time: Typically, a visa takes anywhere from two days to three weeks depending on the Embassy/Consulate.

Electronic Visit Visa

The new law has implemented an e-visa process according to reciprocity with individual countries. The e-visa streamlines the application process, document submission and processing time.

Maximum stay: 90 days, may be extended for a further 90 days.

Processing time: Five working days

Eligible nationalities: Japan, Australia, USA and Canada.

Activities permitted:

- Attend business meetings, seminars, conferences.
- Participate or be an exhibitor in a trade/ industrial conference.
- Explore business opportunities.
- Negotiate contracts.
- Provide audits for a period of less than 90 days
- News coverage, filing or video production

Limitation or special requirements: If the individual will generate profit for the host entity, receive compensation from the host entity or take direction from the host entity, a work permit may be required. It is unlawful to provide professional training or technical assistance or to engage in voluntary work or any professional activities on a visit visa. Transgressors are subject to heavy immigration penalties applicable in Brazil.

Certain categories such as auditors, consultants, maritime, artists and athletes are not allowed to extend their visitor status.

Visit visa holders are able to change their status while in Brazil, based on an offer of employment.

Overview: Residence Permits

Foreign nationals who wish to work or undertake gainful employment in Brazil are required to obtain a residence permit. Several categories are available for application depending on purpose and length of stay.

Residence permit types

Temporary Residence (VITEM V) – Employment contract with the Brazilian entity

This program is open to all foreigners who are interested in working in Brazil. This type of visa can be issued to persons who travel to Brazil to work, provided they hold a labor contract with the Brazilian entity. The new immigration law establishes pre-arrival and post arrival residence applications.

Maximum stay: Two years, with the option to renew residence for a further two years.

Processing time: Approximately two to three months until entry to Brazil, from document preparation and visa stamping at the Consulate, and an additional three months until the identity card is received. It is important to observe that the Brazilian company must enroll its assignee within 30 days from the date of arrival. Assignees are allowed to work after the employment workbook is processed at the Ministry of Labor.

Dependents: Temporary Residence holders can bring their spouses and children who are aged 21 years or under to live with them while on assignment in Brazil. Over 24 if studying.

Temporary Residence (VITEM V) - Trainee

This program is for nationals who will undertake training at a Brazilian branch of their company.

Maximum stay: Up to one year, non-extendable.

Processing time: Approximately two to three months until entry to Brazil, from document preparation and visa stamping at the Consulate, and an additional three months until the identity card is received.

The assignee is allowed to work after the visa is registered at the Federal Police, which must be done within 90 days of arriving in Brazil. .

Dependents: Temporary Residence holders can bring their spouses and children who are aged 21 years or under to live with them while on assignment in Brazil. Over 24 if studying.

Temporary Residence (VITEM – V) – Technical Assistance (up to 180 days)

This process is applicable to foreign nationals who will enter Brazil for up to 180 days to provide technical assistance services based on a cooperation agreement and/or technical service agreement. The temporary residence can be applied for once every migratory year, valid for 180 days.

Maximum Stay: Up to 180 days, multiple entries, non-extendable.

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Processing time: Approximately two to three months until entry to Brazil, from document preparation and visa stamping at the Consulate, and an additional three months until receiving the identity card. The assignee is allowed to work after the visa is registered at the Federal Police, which must be done within 90 days of arriving in Brazil.

Dependents: Not permitted to accompany on this type of permit.

Temporary Residence (VITEM – V) – Technical Assistance (up to 1 year)

This process is applicable to foreign nationals who will enter Brazil for up to one year to provide technical assistance services or transfer technology pursuant to a technical assistance or technology transfer contract.

Maximum Stay: Up to one year, multiple entries. Option to extend for another one year.

Processing time: Approximately two to three months until entry to Brazil, from document preparation and visa stamping at the Consulate, and an additional three months until receiving the identity card. The assignee is allowed to work after the visa is registered at the Federal Police, which must be done within 90 days of arriving in Brazil.

Dependents: Temporary Residence holders can bring their spouses and children who are aged 21 years or under to live with them while on assignment in Brazil. Over 24 if studying.

Temporary Residence (VITEM XII) - Artists/ Sportspeople

This program is designed for professional artists, musicians or sports people wishing to perform in Brazil, provided they hold a labour contract with the Brazilian entity.

Maximum stay: 90 days.

Processing time: Approximately one to two months until entry to Brazil, from document preparation and visa stamping at the Consulate. Assignee is allowed to work upon entry in Brazil.

Dependents: Temporary Residence holders can bring their spouses and children who are aged 21 years or under to live with them while on assignment in Brazil.

Temporary residence visa for nationals of Mercosur member countries

Nationals of Mercosur member countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador Paraguay and Uruguay) and their dependents, regardless of nationality, are eligible to apply for a temporary residence permit to live in Brazil. This temporary residence permit, called Residência Temporária, is a temporary visa valid for two years (it may be upgraded to a permanent one later on).

Maximum stay: Two years, with the option to renew for a further two years.

Processing time: Approximately one to two months until entry to Brazil, from document preparation in country of origin, and an additional three months until the identity card is received. The assignee is allowed to work after the visa is registered at the Federal Police, which must be done within 90 days of arrival date.

Temporary visa for Administrator

This process is applicable to applicants being transferred to work in a senior management role at a Brazilian subsidiary. To be eligible, there is a minimum external investment requirement amount of equal to or greater than BRL 600,000 (six hundred thousand reais) for Administrator, Manager, Director or Executive positions, or a requirement of proof of foreign investment equal to or greater than BRL 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand reais) for Administrator, Manager, Director

or Executive positions with the condition to generate a minimum of ten new jobs during the two years following the installation of the company or entry of the Administrator, Manager, Director or Executive. Residence permits are also granted to Administrators, Managers or Directors of start-up companies who are not required to meet the minimum investment or job creation criteria that apply to established companies.

Maximum stay: Two years, with the option to renew for a further two years.

Processing time: Approximately three to six months until entry to Brazil, and an additional four-six months post-arrival.

Dependents: Foreign nationals who have acquired temporary residency can also sponsor their spouses, immediate family members or dependents to live with them in Brazil.

Additional information and resources

- Brazilian Ministry of Labor: portal.mte.gov.br/portal-mte
- Brazilian Embassies/Consulates www.embassy.goabroad.com

Please note:

A new law (No. 13.445) was approved in May 2017 and implemented in November 2017 by Decree No. 9.199. Additional normative resolutions are expected to be addressed shortly in further publications covering certain scenarios such as requirements for adjustment of status, family reunion and extensions.

