

Mexico

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 Mexico. 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: Visitor status for business

Entry visa requirements for visits to Mexico are dependent upon the applicant's citizenship. Based on reciprocity agreements, citizens of some countries may not need to apply for a Consular visa prior to travel for purposes of business for stays of up to 180 days. In these cases, the business visa is issued upon arrival to Mexico and an FMM form will be required to be completed at the border. Further supporting documentation may be requested by the immigration officer on arrival.

Visa types

Business Visa

Summary: For individuals who must apply for a Consular visa in order to enter Mexico for the purposes of a short business visit.

Maximum stay: the applicant can apply for a single entry visa with a maximum stay of 30, 60 or 180 days. However, it is at the discretion of the Consulate as to the duration of stay they grant. Renewals must be applied for outside of Mexico.

Processing time: Typically one to 5 working days, depending on the embassy/consulate.

Activities permitted:

- Attending business meetings, conferences and seminars.
- Visiting companies to explore business opportunities.
- Negotiating a contract.

Limitation or special requirements:

If an 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.

Overview: Employment authorization

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

Work Permit types

Temporary Resident (Non-Lucrative Activities) - Assignee

In order to qualify for this type of visa, the following criteria apply:

- There must be a local entity in Mexico to sponsor the application.
- The employment contract must be outside of Mexico. The assignee cannot have a local contract in Mexico.
- Education: A University Degree or extensive relevant professional experience may be required as part of the application

Maximum stay: One year, renewable for up to a maximum of four years.

Processing time: Four to six weeks

Dependents: Holders of temporary residence can bring their spouses and children who are aged 17 years or under to live with them while on assignment in Mexico. Depending on the nationality, some family members may require a visa to enter Mexico, followed by a residence permit application in Mexico. All dependents will need to provide an apostilled or legalized marriage/ birth certificate in order to obtain a residence permit. The dependent spouse is not allowed to work and the dependent child aged 17 years or under can study.

Temporary Resident – based on job offer (Local Hire)

In order to qualify for this type of visa, the following criteria apply:

- The sponsoring entity in Mexico must be registered with the National Institute of Immigration (INM) National Institute of Immigration (INM) and the employment ratio must be 80 percent Mexican nationals and 20 percent foreign nationals.
- The applicant must have a local contract in place with the sponsoring entity in Mexico.
- Education: A University Degree or extensive relevant professional experience may be required as part of the application.

Maximum stay: One year, renewable for up to a maximum of four years.

Processing time: Eight to thirteen weeks.

Dependents: Holders of temporary residence can bring their spouses and children who are aged 17 years or under to live with them while on assignment in Mexico. Depending on the nationality, some family members may require a visa to enter Mexico, followed by a residence permit application in Mexico. All dependents will need to provide an apostilled or legalized marriage/ birth certificate in order to obtain a residence permit. The dependent spouse is not allowed to work and the dependent child aged 17 years or under can study.

Graduates /trainees:

Graduates are eligible and qualify for a temporary residence permit provided:

- They have an offer letter.
- The sponsoring entity in Mexico has permission to employ foreign nationals (constancia de empleador) granted by the INM (immigration authorities). The employment ratio must be 80 percent Mexican nationals and 20 percent foreign nationals.

The above is applicable in cases where the graduate's employment history with the company is one year or less.

Additional information and resources

- Mexican Embassies/Consulates
www.embassy.goabroad.com