

# United Arab Emirates

## Business visitors: FAQs



If planning on traveling to the UAE for temporary business, it is important to remain compliant with the immigration laws of the UAE. The purpose of the visitor's intended travel, duration of stay and citizenship will determine if and what type of visa is required. The information in this document is intended to serve as an informational resource about business visitor requirements in the UAE.

Entry visa requirements for visits to the UAE are dependent upon the applicant's nationality. Citizens of specific designated countries will receive a visa on arrival at the airport for the purposes of visiting for up to 30 days. This can be renewed for an additional 30 days if required. Citizens of countries other than the ones eligible for visa on arrival will need to apply for a prearranged visit visa before travelling. This can be requested for 30 days or 90 days and is non-renewable. No visa is required for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nationals.

### Who needs a business visitor visa for the UAE?

A business visa is required for persons who wish to enter the UAE for the purposes of temporary business. Business visitors are not permitted to engage in employment of any kind while in the UAE.

### What activities are permitted as a business visitor?

Activities permitted: all those activities for which a work authorization is not required. These typically include:

- Attending meetings or conferences
- Conducting or attending training
- Conducting internal audits
- Installing equipment or performing other temporary services for a client, or local affiliate or branch office

Activities not permitted: all those activities for which a different kind of resident permit is required. These typically include:

- Performing productive work
- Accepting paid employment
- Working under the supervision of a host employer
- Attending school or study

These lists are subject to change and are not all-inclusive.

### Who is required to apply for a business visa?

The requirement of applying for a business visa before traveling is dependent upon the visitor's nationality. Citizens of certain countries can obtain a 30-day visit visa upon arrival (which can be extended for an additional 30 days) and do not require a business visa application to be filed prior to travel to the UAE.

### How long can a traveler stay in the UAE on a business visa?

The maximum allowable stay on a business visa in the UAE is 90 consecutive days. Once the applicant leaves the country, the visa is considered null even if the full period of time has not been utilized. A new visit visa can be applied for 30 days after departure from the UAE. For the nationalities eligible to receive a 30-day visit visa upon arrival, it is possible to leave the country at the end of the 30-day period and re-enter immediately for an additional 30 days. Currently, there is no limit to the number of times this can be done.

Countries that participate in the Schengen agreement allow visa-free entry to UAE nationals for 90 days and Schengen passport holders get a 90-day visa in the UAE.

As the United Kingdom and Ireland are not part of the Schengen Zone for visas, British and Irish citizens still get a 30-day visa on arrival.

### Is there a limit on the number of times a visitor may travel to the UAE on a business visa in any given period?

There is no limit on how many visits a person may make to the UAE in any given period, but for certain nationalities a gap of 30 days is required between two visit visas.

### Can a visitor's spouse and children also come to the UAE?

A business visitor's spouse and children can come to the UAE as visitors; however, they must each apply for their own separate visa.

### Penalties related to non-compliance for the business visa category?

Engaging in unlawful work in the UAE can result in serious consequences for both the employer and the business visitor, including:

- Fines
- Bans
- Deportation

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