

# France

## 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 France. The information contained in this document is provided as a resource only and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any further enquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact Crown's Immigration Manager, EMEA.

### Overview: Business visas

Entry visa requirements for visits to France are dependent upon the applicant's citizenship. Citizens of many countries do not need a visa to visit France for purposes of business for stays of up to 90 days.

#### Visa types

##### Schengen Visa (Type «C» Visa)

**Summary:** France is a member of the Schengen Agreement and allows short-stay visitors to apply for a "Schengen Visa", which allows entry for purposes of tourism, business or family visit.

**Maximum stay:** A Schengen visa allows a duration of stay up to 90 days within a six-month period.

**Typical processing time:** Varies by applicant citizenship and Consulate.

Activities permitted as a business visitor include:

- Business meetings / discussions
- Negotiations with clients / prospects
- Meet customers / prospects to make presentations
- Submit a proposal or quotation to a client / prospect

- Attend seminars and exhibitions organized by, for example, companies, trade organizations and universities

#### Limitation or special requirements:

Some nationalities do not require a visa to enter France for purposes of tourism, business or family visit for a duration of stay up to 90 days.

### Overview: Employment authorization

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

#### Work permit types

*Salarié en Mission (employee on assignment or secondment)/Intragroup mobility transfer.*

**Summary:** For employees/assignees transferred over 90 days within a group of companies - "intra company transferees". Contract and payroll may be maintained in the home country or transferred to France.

**Maximum stay:** It grants the holder the right to work and reside in France for up to three years, provided the criteria are met (renewable once).

**Processing time:** Approximately one-three months before entry to France (time to obtain the work authorization, Immigration office validation and visa issuance at the French consulate). An additional two-three months post-arrival before entire process completed (the resident permit must be applied for within two months of the arrival in France, it takes about two months to get it).

**Dependents:** Dependents (spouse, children up to 18 years of age) can accompany principal applicant in dependent immigration status. Children can study under this dependent status. Spouse can work with this dependent immigration

status, provided the principal applicant is residing at least six months of the year in France under the work permit.

**Comments:** A specific procedure is in place for short stays (fewer than 90 days) of employees on assignment. The visa allows for a duration of work for up to 90 days within a six-month period. The processing time takes approximately one month before entry to France and no application for a resident permit is required. Contract and payroll must be maintained in the home country. The dependents can apply for a "visitor" visa.

#### Carte bleue européenne (European blue card)

**Summary:** Easy procedure facilitating mobility within the EU. For highly-qualified, third-country nationals in France provided the criteria are met (permanent work contract, salary superior to 54 K /year, five years of experience and/or a Master degree).

**Maximum Stay:** It grants the holder the right to work and reside in France without any limitation as long as they work in France.

**Processing time:** Approximately two months before entry to France. An additional two-three months post-arrival before the entire process is completed.

**Dependents:** Dependents can accompany the applicant and work with a "private and family life" permit which is issued for the same period of validity as the European Blue Card. The application must be submitted during the month following their entry in France and should be issued within a maximum of six months after submission.

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**Limitation or specialist requirements:**

During the first two years of the stay in France. European Blue Card holders may only practise the profession for which they were admitted under this scheme. After this time, they will have access to any highly-qualified employment of their choice.

**Travailleur temporaire (Temporary worker)**

**Summary:** Available for eligible foreign nationals for a determined duration of fewer than 12 months, if the company cannot hire an applicant with the qualifications for the available position from the French labor market.

**Maximum stay:** It grants the holder the right to work and reside in France for up to 12 months, provided the criteria are met.

**Processing time:** Approximately one-three months before entry to France. An additional two-three months post-arrival before the entire process is completed.

**Dependents:** Dependents can apply for a “visitor” visa, without guarantee that the application will be approved. They are not allowed to work and no family reunification is possible since the assignee is on a short stay “travailleur temporaire status” in France.

**Limitation or specialist requirements:**

Employment situation is applicable. The company must provide evidence of its failed search for an applicant from the French labor market. If the planned activity is among the so-called shortage occupations, for which there are recruiting difficulties, the employment situation is not applicable.

**Salarié (Employee)**

**Summary:** Available for eligible foreign nationals for a period of 12 months or longer, (or undetermined duration) if the company cannot find an applicant with the qualifications for the available position from the French labor market.

**Maximum stay:** A long-term visa for the employee is issued for the first year. Then the assignee can apply for a resident card valid for one year, renewable every year if the work contract conditions are similar.

**Processing time:** Approximately three to five months before entry into France. An additional two-three months post-arrival before the entire process is completed.

**Dependents:** Dependents can apply for a “visitor” visa for the first year which doesn’t allow them to work. The assignee can resort to the family reunification process

after 18 months of assignment in France.

**Limitation or specialist requirements:** Employment situation is applicable. The company must provide evidence of its failed search for an applicant from the French labor market. If the planned activity is among the so-called shortage occupations, for which there are recruiting difficulties, the employment situation is not applicable.

*These lists are not all-inclusive; other types of visas exist for the following categories: trainees, students, seasonal workers, scientists and artists.*

**Additional information and resources**

- The most detailed source (in English): [www.immigration-professionnelle.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.immigration-professionnelle.gouv.fr/en/)
- France Immigration Office: [www.ofii.fr](http://www.ofii.fr)
- Embassies Worldwide: [www.embassyworld.org](http://www.embassyworld.org)
- Useful link to check if a foreign national needs a visa (in French): [www.interieur.gouv.fr/A-votre-service/Mes-demarches/Etranger-Europe/Questions-Reponses/Quelles-sont-les-nationalites-dispensees-de-visa-pour-entrer-dans-l-Espace-Schengen](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/A-votre-service/Mes-demarches/Etranger-Europe/Questions-Reponses/Quelles-sont-les-nationalites-dispensees-de-visa-pour-entrer-dans-l-Espace-Schengen)

