



VISAS/RESIDENCE PERMITS AND THEIR RENEWAL

STUDENT VISAS/ RESIDENCE PERMIT

*It is possible to request different kinds of visas/residence permits. The Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) grants visas/residence permits based on different factors but the most important ones are **purpose** and **length of stay** in the country.*

This document will cover each of the more common study visas/residence permits. Thus, we will highlight the necessary conditions to study in Portugal, be it to complete a course, participate in a mobility programme, volunteer work, internship or even carry out research in your field.

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1. RESIDENCE PERMITS – HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS (ARTICLE 91)

ARTICLE 91 OF REPSAE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARTICLE 57 OF THE RD 84/07 OF 05/11, IN ITS CURRENT WORDING, ORDINANCE NUMBER 1563/2007, OF 11/12.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

TO OBTAIN ▼

The application for residence title should be scheduled (via an electronic platform – to be implemented for holders of residence visas) and submitted personally on a standard form signed by the applicant or his/her legal representative. The application may be submitted at any SEF's directorate or regional delegation, which, after proceedings and decision, will forward it to the directorate or regional delegation of the applicant's area of residence. The following documents are necessary:

- Two recent, identical photographs, in color with blank background, and easily identifiable (only for appointments at Odivelas, Aveiro or Braga SEF bureau);
- Passport or any other valid travel document;
- Valid residence visa issued under article 62 of REPSAE, except in applications submitted under n.º. 4 of article 91;
- Evidence of sufficient means of subsistence, as per the provisions of Order number 1563/2007, of 11/12;
- Evidence that the applicant has adequate accommodation;

- Permission for SEF to check Portuguese criminal record (except for under 16 years old).

SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS

- Evidence of entry into the national territory and the criminal record of the applicant's country of nationality or criminal record of the applicant's country he/she had lived in for over one year, in cases of n.º 4 of article 92 of Law no. 23/2007 – REPSAE (exemption of a residence visa);
- Evidence of registration in a higher education institution;
- Evidence of tuition payment required by the higher education institution, if applicable, attesting by a declaration of that teaching institution;
- Health insurance or evidence in which is covered by the National Health Service;
- Evidence of the means of subsistence and evidence of tuition payment is not required to students of higher education admitted in a higher education institution approved under decree order of the members of the Government of the Interior and High Education, under no. 5 of article 91 of REPSAE.

NOTES

- The granting of a residence permit shall entail: the absence of any fact which, if known to the competent authorities, would preclude the granting of the visa; Absence of conviction for a crime which in Portugal is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year; The applicant is not within a period of prohibition of entry into the national territory, following an expulsion measure from the country; No indication in the Schengen Information System; No indication in SEF's Integrated Information System for non-admission purposes, under article 33 of the Aliens Act.
- For the issuance of the residence permit with visa exemption under no. 4 of article 91 of REPSAE, the applicants must submit all the documentation mentioned and in addition a document supporting the legal entry into national territory, as well as the Criminal Record of the applicant's country of nationality or criminal record of the applicant's residence for over one year (according to no. 4 of article 53 of Regulatory Decree 84/2007).
- Pursuant to article 91, n.º 2, of the Aliens Act, the residence permit for students in higher education is valid for one year, and is renewable, for equal periods of time, if the holder continues to meet the conditions under which the permit has been

granted. Under n.º 3 of the same article, if the permit has been granted to students of higher education covered by the European Union or multilateral programs including mobility measures, or by an agreement between two or more higher education institutions, it is valid for two years or for the duration of the study program, if less (and may be of one year in case the conditions for admission or of sufficient resources are not met by the date of granting the permit). Because these are special legal provisions, the amendment introduced to article 75 of the Aliens Act by article 183 of Act n.º 2/2020 of 31 March – State Budget to 2020 does not apply.

- Under n.º. 2 of article 97 of REPSAE, students may have a remunerated or independent professional activity provided they inform SEF accompanied by a contract of employment or of a declaration of beginning of the activity within the tax authority as well as a supporting evidence of registration within social security.
- Evidence of the school registration and of tuition payment, health insurance and evidence of the means of subsistence will not be required for higher education students with a scholarship of Instituto Camões (no. 2, article 57 of Regulatory Decree 84/07 of 5/11).
- The following administrative offences apply: Article 192 of the Aliens Act (Illegal Stay); Article 197 of the Aliens Act (No entry declaration); Article 199 of the Aliens Act (No travel document).

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2. ARTICLE 91-A – MOBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

ARTICLE 91-A OF THE REPSAE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARTICLE 57 OF THE RD 84/2007 AS AMENDED ORDER NUMBER 1563/2007, OF 11/12

 **PROCEDURE FOR COMMUNICATION OF MOBILITY**

FOR COMMUNICATION 

Students of higher education holders of a residence permit issued by a Member State of the European Union and covered by European Union multilateral programmes with mobility

measures, or by an agreement between the two or more institutions of higher education, are authorized to entry into national territory to study, partially, including to have a professional activity under article 97, for a maximum period of 360 days, provided SEF is informed until 30 days before the beginning of the mobility period.

The mobility communication, which may be carried out by the higher education institution, must be accompanied by:

- Valid passport;
- Copy of the Residence Permit issued by other Member State of his/her residence, valid for the totality of the period of stay;
- Health Insurance of evidence in which he/she is covered by the National Health Service;
- Evidence of the means of subsistence;
- Evidence of having been admitted in a higher education institution under an EU mobility programme or an agreement with the higher education institution of origin;
- Evidence of tuition payment, if applicable;

NOTES

- The granting of a residence permit shall entail: the absence of any fact which, if known to the competent authorities, would preclude the granting of the visa; Absence of conviction for a crime which in Portugal is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year; The applicant is not within a period of prohibition of entry into the national territory, following an expulsion measure from the country; No indication in the Schengen Information System; No indication in SEF's Integrated Information System for non-admission purposes, under article 33 of the Aliens Act.
- Communication of the mobility should preferably be done by mail to the institutional mailbox of the delegation or SEF's regional office of the area of the higher educational institution.
- The residence permit will not be issued as follows: SEF will issue a declaration attesting that the applicant is authorized, or not, to stay in National Territory and to enjoy the rights provided by law, in particular article 83 of REPSAE.
- The following administrative offences apply: Article 198 of the Aliens Act (Unauthorized independent professional activity); Article 199 of the Aliens Act (No travel document).

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3. ARTICLE 91-B – RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR RESEARCHERS

ARTICLE 91-B OF THE ALIENS ACT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARTICLE 57 N.ºS 6, 7 AND 8 OF THE REGULATORY DECREE N.º 84/07 OF 05/11, AS AMENDED ORDER NUMBER 1563/2007, OF 11/12

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

TO OBTAIN ▼

Application for residence card is scheduled (via an electronic platform) submitted personally on a standard form signed by the applicant or his/her legal representative. May be submitted at any SEF's directorate or regional delegation, which, after proceedings and decision, will forward it to the directorate or regional delegation of the applicant's area of residence. The following documents are necessary:

- Two recent, identical photographs, in color with blank background, and easily identifiable (only for appointments at Odivelas, Aveiro or Braga SEF bureau);
- Passport or any other valid travel document;
- Valid residence permit issued under article 62 of REPSAE, except for applications submitted under no. 9 of article 91-B;
- Evidence of sufficient means of subsistence, as per the provisions of Order number 1563/2007, of 11/12;
- Evidence that the applicant has adequate accommodation;
- Permission for SEF to check Portuguese criminal record (except for under 16 years old)
- In situations provided in no. 9 of article 91-B of REPSAE, the applicant shall submit the criminal record of the country of his/her nationality or criminal record of the country of his/her residence for more than one year (according to no. 4 of article 53 of Regulatory Decree no. 84/2007).

SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS

- Contract of Employment, or
- Contract of services, or
- Scientific Research Scholarship, or
- Hosting Agreement;
- Health Insurance or evident of which he/she is covered by the National Health Service;

Under n.º. 2 of article 91-B, researchers admitted in Investigation Centers officially recognized (list to be defined by the members of the Government responsible by the area of sciences and

higher education) are exempted from submitting the documents supporting the means of subsistence, accommodation and registration within social security, when applicable.

NOTES

- The granting of a residence permit shall entail: the absence of any fact which, if known to the competent authorities, would preclude the granting of the visa; Absence of conviction for a crime which in Portugal is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year; The applicant is not within a period of prohibition of entry into the national territory, following an expulsion measure from the country; No indication in the Schengen Information System; No indication in SEF's Integrated Information System for non-admission purposes, under article 33 of the Aliens Act.
- Pursuant to article 91-B, n.º 6, of the Aliens Act, the residence permit for researchers is valid for one year, and is renewable (for two-year periods) under article 78, if the conditions under which the permit has been granted are kept. Under article 91-B, n.º 7, if the permit is granted to researchers covered by the European Union or multilateral programs, including mobility measures, it is valid for two years or for the duration of the hosting agreement, if less, except in cases in which the researchers do not meet the conditions (article 62) on the date of granting, by which it shall be valid for one year only. Because these are special legal provisions, the amendment introduced to article 75 of the Aliens Act by article 183 of Act n. 2/2020 of 31 March – State Budget to 2020 does not apply.
- Under no. 3 of article 97 of REPSAE, researchers may have a teaching activity accordingly. However, they cannot have other activities under the exclusivity of a research scholarship award.
- The deadline for the decision on the application for issuance or renewal is of 60 days for researcher admitted in a hosting entity officially recognized, under nº. 5 of article 96 of REPSAE.
- The following administrative offences apply: Article 192 of the Aliens Act (Illegal Stay); Article 197 of the Aliens Act (No entry declaration); Article 199 of the Aliens Act (No travel document).

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4. ARTICLE 91-C – RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR RESEARCHERS IN MOBILITY

ARTICLE 91-C Nº 2 OF THE ALIENS ACT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARTICLE 58 – B OF THE REGULATORY DECREE N.º 84/07 OF 05/11, AS AMENDED, ORDER NUMBER 1563/2007, OF 11/12

 **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

TO OBTAIN 

A third State national holding a “researcher” or “researcher in mobility” residence permit issued by a Member State of the European Union wishing to stay in national territory for investigation in a hosting body recognized in the national territory, including teaching activity, for a period over 180 days, must submit to SEF an application for a permit residence for long-term mobility (as well as for his/her family members by reunification) – Long-term mobility.

The application for residence title should be scheduled (via an electronic platform – to be implemented for holders of residence visas) and submitted personally on a standard form signed by the applicant or his/her legal representative. The application may be submitted at any SEF’s directorate or regional delegation, which, after proceedings and decision, will forward it to the directorate or regional delegation of the applicant’s area of residence. The following documents are necessary:

- Two recent, identical photographs, in color with blank background, and easily identifiable (only for appointments at Odivelas, Aveiro or Braga SEF bureau);
- Passport;
- Professional certification, whenever needed;
- Health Insurance or registration in the Tax Authority and Social Security, whenever applicable;
- Criminal record of the applicant’s country of origin, or of the country of him/her last residence for more than one year;
- Evidence of sufficient means of subsistence, as per the provisions of Order number 1563/2007, of 11/12;
- Evidence that the applicant has adequate accommodation;
- Permission for SEF to check Portuguese criminal record (except people under 16 years old).

SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS

- Residence Permit of the Member State of residence;
- Contract of services, or
- Scientific Research Scholarship, or
- Hosting Agreement.

Under no. 2 of article 91-B, researchers admitted in officially recognized Research Centers (list to be defined by the members of the Government responsible by the area of sciences and higher

education, see nº. 5) are exempted from submitting the documents supporting the means of subsistence, accommodation and registration within social security, when applicable.

📄 NOTES

- The granting of a residence permit shall entail: the absence of any fact which, if known to the competent authorities, would preclude the granting of the visa; Absence of conviction for a crime which in Portugal is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year; The applicant is not within a period of prohibition of entry into the national territory, following an expulsion measure from the country; No indication in the Schengen Information System; No indication in SEF's Integrated Information System for non-admission purposes, under article 33 of the Aliens Act
- In case the stay in national territory is less than 180 days for each 360-day period (**Short Term Mobility**), the researcher in mobility is exempted from the compliance of any formalities, and the valid passport is required only, under the condition that he/she is not forbidden of entering the Schengen Area
- The application for the issuance of a residence permit shall be submitted within 30 days after the entry in NT, or until 30 days before the end of the 180 days deadline, if the researcher benefits from the provided in no. 1 of article 91-C.
- Pursuant to article 91-B, n.º 6, of the Aliens Act, the residence permit for researchers is valid for one year, and is renewable (for two-year periods) under article 78, if the conditions under which the permit has been granted are kept. Under article 91-B, n.º 7, if the permit is granted to researchers covered by the European Union or multilateral programs, including mobility measures, it is valid for two years or for the duration of the hosting agreement, if less, except in cases in which the researchers do not meet the conditions (article 62) on the date of granting, by which it shall be valid for one year only. Because these are special legal provisions, the amendment introduced to article 75 of the Aliens Act by article 183 of Act n.º 2/2020 of 31 March – State Budget to 2020 does not apply.
- In case of renewal, the residence permit for long-term mobility remains valid even if the residence permit issued by the other Member State has expired.
- The decisions made on the application are informed in writing to the applicant and the authorities of the other Member State issuing the residence permit, in a maximum period of 90 days from the date of its submission.

- In general, the residence permit for Researchers has a validity of one year, renewable for two years under article 7 provided the issuance conditions are maintained.
- Whenever the residence permit has been issued by a Member State which does not applies the Schengen Agreement (Romania, Bulgaria, England, Ireland, Scotland), a declaration of the hosting entity specifying the mobility conditions may be required. In this case, the members of his/her family should have a valid residence permit issued by other Member State and supporting they are accompanying the researcher.
- Under no. 3 of article nº 97 of REPSAE, researchers may have a teaching activity accordingly. However, they cannot have other activities under the exclusivity of a research scholarship award.
- The following administrative offences apply: Article 192 of the Aliens Act (Illegal Stay); Article 197 of the Aliens Act (No entry declaration); Article 199 of the Aliens Act (No travel document).

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5. ARTICLE 93 – RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR TRAINEES

ARTICLE 93 OF THE ALIENS ACT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARTICLE 57 NO. 4 OF THE REGULATORY DECREE N.º 84/07 OF 05/11, AS AMENDED, ORDER NUMBER 1563/2007, OF 11/12

 **DOCUMENTS REQUIRED**

TO OBTAIN ▼

Application for residence card is scheduled (via an electronic platform) submitted personally on a standard form signed by the applicant or his/her legal representative. May be submitted at any SEF's directorate or regional delegation, which, after proceedings and decision, will forward it to the directorate or regional delegation of the applicant's area of residence. The following documents are necessary:

- Two recent, identical photographs, in color with blank background, and easily identifiable (only for appointments at Odivelas, Aveiro or Braga SEF bureau);
- Passport or any other valid travel document;

- Valid residence visa issued under no. 7 of article 62 of Law no. 23/2007 (REPSAE), except in requests submitted under no. 3 of article 93 – possibility of visa exemption;
- Evidence of sufficient means of subsistence, as per the provisions of Order number 1563/2007, of 11/12;
- Evidence that the applicant has adequate accommodation;
- Permission for SEF to check Portuguese criminal record (except for under 16 years old);
- Applications submitted with visa exemption should have attached evidence of legal entry and stay in national territory;
- In the situations provided in nº. 3 of article 93 of REPSAE, the applicant must submit a criminal record of the country of his/her nationality or criminal record of the country of his/her residence for more than one year (according to no. 4 of article 53 of Regulatory Decree 84/2007 – except for anyone under 16 years of age).

SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS

- Training contract celebrated between a professional training company or body issued under nº. 7 of article 62 of REPSAE
- Health insurance or evidence in which he/she is covered by the National Health Service.

NOTES

- The granting of a residence permit shall entail: the absence of any fact which, if known to the competent authorities, would preclude the granting of the visa; Absence of conviction for a crime which in Portugal is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year; The applicant is not within a period of prohibition of entry into the national territory, following an expulsion measure from the country; No indication in the Schengen Information System; No indication in SEF's Integrated Information System for non-admission purposes, under article 33 of the Aliens Act.
- Pursuant to article 93, n.º 2, of the Aliens Act, the residence permit for trainees is valid for six months, or for the duration period of the traineeship, if the latter is higher, and cannot be renewed. Because this is a special legal provision, the amendment introduced to article 75 of the Aliens Act by article 183 of Act n.º 2/2020 of 31 March – State Budget to 2020 does not apply.
- Under number 1 of article 97 of REPSAE, the volunteer is not allowed to have a professional activity
- The following administrative offences apply: Article 192 of the Aliens Act (Illegal Stay); Article 197 of the Aliens Act (No entry declaration); Article 198 of the Aliens Act (Unauthorized independent professional activity); Article 199 of the Aliens Act (No travel document).

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6. ARTICLE 94 – RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR VOLUNTEERS

ARTICLE 94 OF THE REPSAE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARTICLE 57, PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE RD 84/2007 AS AMENDED, ORDER NUMBER 1563/2007, OF 11/12

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

TO OBTAIN ▼

The application for residence title should be scheduled (via an electronic platform – to be implemented for holders of residence visas) and submitted personally on a standard form signed by the applicant or his/her legal representative. The application may be submitted at any SEF's

directorates or regional delegations, which, after proceedings and decision, will forward it to the directorates or regional delegations of the applicant's area of residence. The following documents are necessary:

- Two recent, identical photographs, in color with blank background, and easily identifiable (only for appointments at Odivelas, Aveiro or Braga SEF bureau);
- Passport or any other valid travel document;
- Valid residence visa issued under no. 8 of article 62 of Law no. 23/2007 (REPSAE);
- Evidence of sufficient means of subsistence, as per the provisions of Order number 1563/2007, of 11/12;
- Evidence that the applicant has adequate accommodation;
- Permission for SEF to check Portuguese criminal record (except for under 16 years old);

SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS

- Contract celebrated between the hosting entity responsible for the volunteer programme of which is composed by a description of the contents and duration of the volunteer programme, schedule, supervision conditions and guarantee of covering of food and accommodation expenses, including a minimum amount of allowances or pocket money;
- Evidence in which the hosting entity has subscribed an insurance on civil liability, except in case of volunteers participating in the European Volunteer Service;
- Health Insurance or evidence in which is covered by the National Health Service;

NOTES

- The granting of a residence permit shall entail: the absence of any fact which, if known to the competent authorities, would preclude the granting of the visa; Absence of conviction for a crime which in Portugal is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year; The applicant is not within a period of prohibition of entry into the national territory, following an expulsion measure from the country; No indication in the Schengen Information System; No indication in SEF's Integrated Information System for non-admission purposes, under article 33 of the Aliens Act.
- Pursuant to article 94, n.º 2, of the Aliens Act, the residence permit for volunteers is valid for one year, or for the duration period of the vocational training, and cannot be

renewed. Because this is a special legal provision, the amendment introduced to article 75 of the Aliens Act by article 183 of Act n.º 2/2020 of 31 March – State Budget to 2020 does not apply.

- Under number 1 of article 97 of REPSAE, the volunteer is not allowed to have a professional activity.
- The following administrative offences apply: Article 192 of the Aliens Act (Illegal Stay); Article 197 of the Aliens Act (No entry declaration); Article 198 of the Aliens Act (Unauthorized independent professional activity); Article 199 of the Aliens Act (No travel document).

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7. COMMON TERMS

► Don't know the meaning?

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► This SEF project is aimed at clarifying the outlines of the legal framework in force. [HERE](#) it is possible to check the most common terms applied to migration. This “Migration Glossary” was developed by the International Organization for Migration with the objective to promote the understanding of the terminology applied to migration.

Note: If you were unable to consult the mentioned glossary or, due to some eventuality, it is no longer available online please do not hesitate to contact us at admissions@tecnico.ulisboa.pt We will be very pleased to share it with you.