

A Simple Guide to the Saudi Residence Permit

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



**GLOBAL
EXPANSION**



Table of Contents

01	Introduction	P1
02	What is an Iqama in Saudi Arabia?	P2
03	Is an Iqama Necessary to Start a Business in Saudi Arabia?	P3
04	Types of Iqama in Saudi Arabia	P4
05	Requirements for Securing a Saudi Iqama	P5
06	Steps to Acquire a Saudi Iqama	P6
07	Iqama Validity	P7
08	Understanding the Saudi Iqama Process	P8

01

INTRODUCTION

With its rich culture and fast-growing economy Saudi Arabia is a popular destination for expats. Whether you want to work, invest, or live with your family there, knowing how to get a residence permit, or Iqama is essential.

This guide provides detailed information on the types of Iqamas, the requirements, the application steps, and how to maintain your Iqama status. Following this guide will help expats smoothly transition to life in Saudi Arabia.



02

WHAT IS AN IQAMA IN SAUDI ARABIA?

An Iqama is a residence permit issued by the Saudi government to foreign expats employed or residing in the kingdom. It serves as official identification and grants access to essential services and rights, such as opening a bank account, getting a driver's license, and accessing healthcare services.

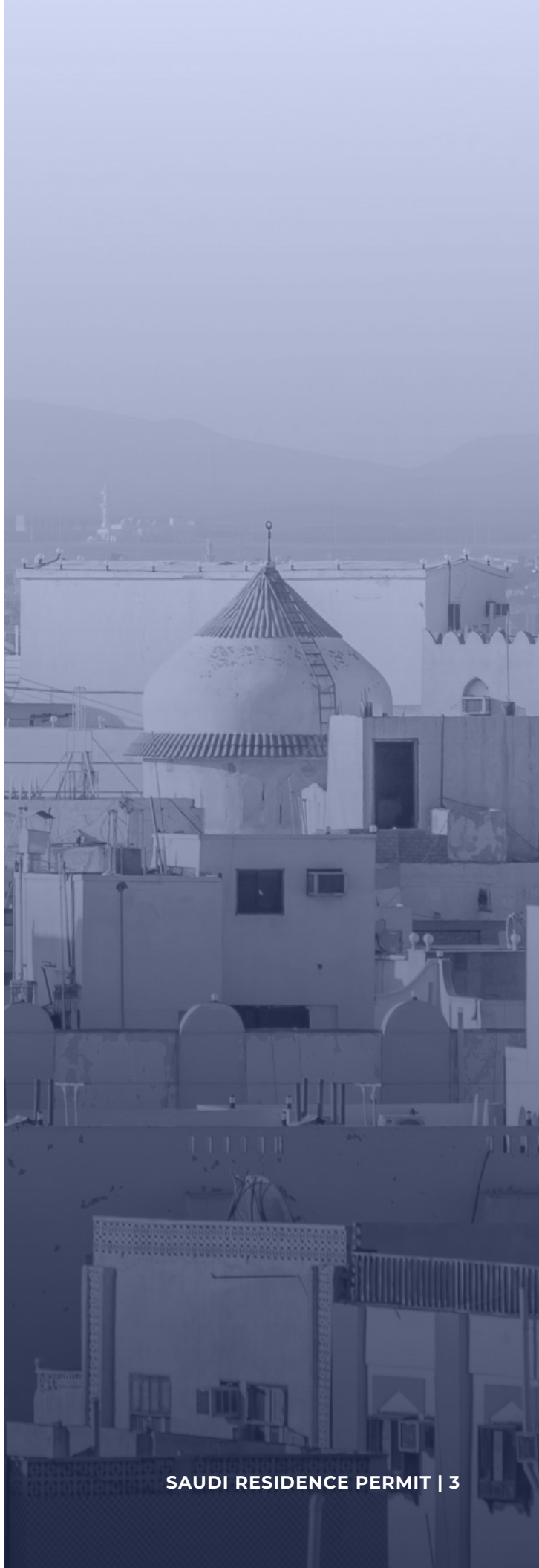
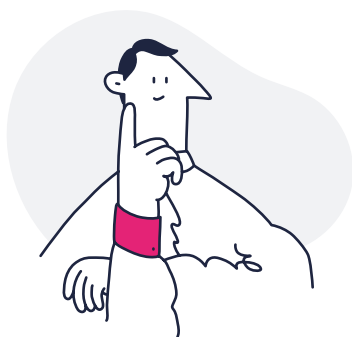


03

IS AN IQAMA NECESSARY TO START A BUSINESS IN SAUDI ARABIA?

For foreign investors, an Iqama is essential for establishing a business in Saudi Arabia. Acquiring a 'Business Iqama' is the first step for individuals looking to manage the business landscape in the kingdom.

Without an Iqama, foreign nationals cannot legally conduct business or engage in commercial activities within Saudi Arabia.



04

TYPES OF IQAMA IN SAUDI ARABIA

The Saudi government issues various types of Iqamas based on the purpose of your stay:



Professional Class Iqama:

For professionals with degrees



Dependents Iqama:

For family members of expatriates



Government Employees Iqama:

For foreigners employed by the Saudi government



Business Iqama:

For businessmen and investors



Special Privileged Iqama:

Premium residency Iqama



Domestic Worker Iqama:

For household help



Labor Class Iqama:

For manual laborers



05

REQUIREMENTS FOR SECURING A SAUDI IQAMA

To apply for a Saudi Iqama, expatriates and their sponsors must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ A valid employment contract
- ✓ A clean medical certificate attesting to good health
- ✓ Health insurance
- ✓ An active work permit



06

STEPS TO ACQUIRE A SAUDI IQAMA

Here is a detailed plan for obtaining an Iqama in Saudi Arabia:

1

Apply for a Block Visa: Your Saudi employer (sponsor) must request a block visa from the [Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development \(MHRSD\)](#), reserving a visa slot for your position.

2

Get Visa Authorization and Power of Attorney:

After block visa approval, your employer approaches the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MOFA\)](#) for a visa authorization number and power of attorney, allowing them to act on your behalf.

3

Apply for a Work Permit: Your employer applies for a work permit, which the Ministry of Labor reviews to ensure your qualifications for the job.

4

Enter Saudi Arabia: Once your work permit is approved, you can enter Saudi Arabia and start working.

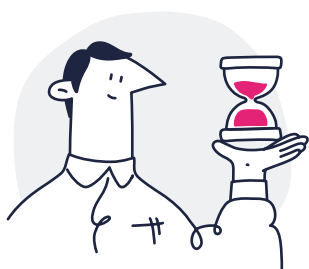
5

Iqama Application: Within 90 days of arrival, your employer initiates the Iqama application process, requiring a medical examination, document submission, and biometric data. For a detailed step-by-step guide, refer to the official Saudi eGovernment Portal.

07

IQAMA VALIDITY

A Saudi Arabian Iqama is valid for one year and can be renewed annually. Renewal should be done at least three days before expiry. More information about the renewal process can be found on the [General Directorate of Passports \(Jawazat\)](#).



08

UNDERSTANDING THE SAUDI IQAMA PROCESS

Managing the Saudi Iqama process is essential for expatriates and foreign investors starting their lives and businesses in the kingdom. Knowing the types of Iqamas, the requirements, and the application steps ensures compliance with Saudi regulations.

Staying informed about validity and renewal procedures helps avoid legal issues and ensures uninterrupted residency and work rights. This guide, with referenced government resources, is your source for a seamless experience in Saudi Arabia.





©2024 Global Expansion. All rights reserved.