

# Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2022



## Colombia

### Temporary shutdown of the online visa application platform

#### Executive summary

The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently announced that foreign nationals will not be able to submit Migrant Student, Religious, Spouse, Resident Colombian National Parent and Resident Investor Visa applications between 17 September 2022 and 20 October 2022 as it temporarily shut down its online visa portal. The online portal will also close for all other visa applications (i.e., Migrant Work Visa, Dependents Visas, Migrant Mercosur Visa, Resident Visa for Accumulated Time of Permanence, Visitor Visa for Temporary Services) on 1 October 2022, and it is not yet known when it will be reopened for these visa applications.

#### Key issues

The decision to shut down the online visa application portal comes as the Colombian government prepares to implement Resolution 5477 dated 22 July 2022, which will introduce new immigration regulations starting on 21 October 2022. Several key changes are expected, including the creation of new visa categories, updated documentary requirements for certain visa applicants and revised timelines for application processing. Once the online visa portal is back online, foreign nationals will be able to submit visa applications online in compliance with the new regulations. The upcoming downtime will not impact applications for Tourist Permits and 30-day Permits to Develop Other Activities, as these applications will continue to be processed offline.

#### Impact on employers

Employers that sponsor foreign nationals to reside and work in Colombia may face disruptions to their business and can avail of the remaining time in September to submit visa applications under the current regulations.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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