

Mobility: Immigration alert

June 2023



Lithuania

New rules governing the issuance of National Visas

Executive summary

Effective 1 July 2023, several categories of individuals will no longer be eligible to obtain National Visas, and they will instead be required to apply for temporary residence permits. In addition, eligible individuals will be required to submit their National Visa applications via the Migration Department's online platform.

Background

Third-country nationals (i.e., nationals of countries outside the EU and EEA) who seek to work, study or reside in Lithuania for three to 12 months must obtain a National Visa. Currently, individuals must apply for National Visas using the online (EPM) platform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then submit their biometrics at a Lithuanian embassy, consulate or authorized service provider in their country of citizenship or residence.

Key developments

Effective 1 July 2023, the following individuals will no longer be eligible to apply for National Visas, which are generally processed within two to three weeks. Instead, these individuals will be required to apply for temporary residence permits, which are generally processed in one to three months:

- ▶ Individuals who currently hold Lithuanian work permits and seek to extend their stay in Lithuania beyond 1 July 2023
- ▶ Individuals working in professions on Lithuania's Shortage Occupations List (e.g., construction workers, electricians, truck drivers, farm workers)
- ▶ Individuals who applied to obtain a new Lithuanian residence permit or EU Residence Card for non-EU family members

or to renew these documents, and whose applications are pending adjudication as of 1 July 2023

- ▶ Lecturers and researchers who have an employment contract with an institute of higher education in Lithuania
- ▶ Students attending full-time courses at authorized institutes of higher education in Lithuania

National Visas will continue to be available to other eligible applicants (e.g., third-country nationals on assignment, seasonal workers, entrepreneurs). In addition, nationals of Australia, Belarus, Canada, New Zealand, South Korea, the UK and the US will still be eligible to obtain National Visas. However, they will no longer be eligible for simplified application processing, as this procedure will be eliminated as of 1 July 2023.

Effective 1 July 2023, eligible individuals will be required to submit their National Visa applications via the Migration Department's online (MIGRIS) platform.

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to streamline the application process for applicants seeking to obtain National Visas. However, individuals who will be required to obtain residence permits in lieu of National Visas will be subject to lengthier application processing times.

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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EYG no. 005948-23Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

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