

Global Immigration alert

May 2025

Nigeria

Updates regarding new immigration regulations and upcoming changes

Executive summary

On 1 May 2025, Nigeria's Minister of Interior, in collaboration with the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), introduced several reforms impacting foreign nationals, with additional changes set to be rolled out in the coming months.

Background

On 11 April 2025, Nigeria's Minister of Interior [announced](#) significant reforms to the Expatriate Administration System, aimed at enhancing the monitoring of the Expatriate Quota (EQ) program, digitizing residence permits, simplifying employment and residency processes, and improving national security.

Key developments

The following reforms were launched on 1 May 2025, as per the website of the NIS:

- The NIS launched a new e-Visa program, introducing the following 13 e-Visa types: Transit visa, single entry business visa, multiple entry business visa, tourism, sports, frequently traveled business executives' business visa, creative arts, study tour, academic exchange program, international cultural exchange program, emergency relief work, returning holders of passports who are Nigerians by birth and visiting visa. The e-visa portal is now fully operational and e-Visa applications are expected to be processed within 48 hours of submission. E-Visa holders may stay in Nigeria for up to 90 days based on reciprocity with their home country, but cannot extend their visas.
- The Visa on Arrival (VOA) program was discontinued. Any VOA approvals issued prior to 1 May 2025 will remain valid until 30 May 2025.
- Two new Temporary Work Permit (TWP) visas were introduced:

- R10 TWP Visa: A single-entry visa with a 90-day validity period, which can be extended within the country.
- R11 TWP Visa: A multiple-entry visa with a six-month validity period, which cannot be extended.
- Additional visa types under the Temporary Residence category were introduced for students, academic exchange programs, interns and clerics.
- The EQ understudy program will be subject to enhanced monitoring. This program facilitates the development and transfer of skills and knowledge from foreign workers to local company staff assigned as understudies.
- All inbound travelers (excluding Nigerian nationals) are now required to obtain an electronic Landing Card prior to arrival, and all outbound travelers (including Nigerian nationals) are now required to obtain an electronic Exit Card prior to departure from Nigeria via the [NIS portal](#). This replaces the previous manual process for obtaining Landing and Exit Cards.
- A new penalty system for visa overstays and expired residence permits will go into effect on 2 August 2025, introducing the following penalties:
 - Fines of USD 15 per day for all individuals who remain in Nigeria beyond their permitted period of stay as indicated on their arrival stamps
 - Fines of USD 15 per day and five-year entry bans for all individuals who overstay their visitor's pass by three months or more beyond their permitted period of stay (as indicated on their arrival stamps)
 - Fines of USD 15 per day and 10-year entry bans for all individuals who overstay their visitor's pass by one year or more beyond their permitted period of stay (as indicated on their arrival stamp)



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- An amnesty period has been introduced from 1 May to 1 August 2025, during which individuals with expired visas and residence permits (beyond 30 days) are able to depart the country voluntarily without facing penalties.

The following initiatives are expected to be rolled out in phases, and additional details will be provided by the Nigerian authorities, over the coming months:

- Full automation and higher fees for EQ-related applications: These applications will be subject to higher processing fees. Additionally, the manual phase of the EQ application process, which typically begins after online approval and requires applicants to submit documents in person to the Federal Ministry of Interior, will be eliminated.
- Digitization of CERPAC and Green Card (i.e., long-term employment permit) processes: The processes for the Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Alien Card (CERPAC) and green card will be fully digitized.
- Introduction of Expatriate Comprehensive Insurance (ECI): This initiative aims to reduce reliance on taxpayer funds for repatriating foreign nationals when necessary.
- Introduction of new residency fees for TWP visa holders based on their intended duration of stay in Nigeria.

Impact on employers

Employers may consider these new developments and adopt their internal policies and processes to ensure compliance and mitigate business disruptions and potential penalties.

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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