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# Global Immigration alert

February 2026

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## Qatar

### New residency visas introduced for senior executives and high-growth entrepreneurs

#### Executive summary

On 1 February 2026, Qatar announced during the opening of Web Summit Qatar 2026 the launch of two new long-term residency visa categories aimed at attracting senior executives and high-growth entrepreneurs, according to press reports. These visas support Qatar's strategy to strengthen its position as a global hub for innovation, investment and talent. The new visas also offer streamlined procedures, long-term residency options and access to Qatar's expanding business ecosystem for eligible individuals.

#### Key developments

This initiative reinforces Qatar's commitment to attracting top global talent and fostering high-impact ventures that support long-term economic growth. The Residency Visa for executives targets senior professionals driving private sector advancement, while the Residency Visa for entrepreneurs is designed for founders and innovators building or expanding ventures in Qatar. Both visa types offer long-term residency with renewal options and streamlined, preferential procedures. The eligibility criteria for qualifying individuals include:

- **Senior executives:** Individuals must hold senior leadership roles, including chairman, CEO, CFO, COO, CTO and Executive Director roles. They should have at least five years of experience in the relevant role, within or outside Qatar. The minimum monthly income for chairman and C-suite positions should be QAR50,000 (US\$13,700) and for other executive director roles QAR80,000 (US\$22,000). A valid employment contract with one of the following Qatar employers is mandatory:
  - Companies listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange
  - Banks and financial institutions approved by the Qatar Central Bank
  - Insurance companies regulated by the Qatar Central Bank or the Qatar Financial Center Regulatory Authority
  - Consulting firms that provide services to government or semi-government companies

- **High-growth entrepreneurs:** Eligible individuals must obtain an endorsement from a recognized Qatari business incubator, such as Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) and Qatar Development Bank. The entrepreneur residency visa also supports entrepreneurs endorsed by Startup Qatar. They must demonstrate a minimum bank balance of QAR36,500 for three months preceding the filing of their application. Eligible individuals also gain access to Qatar's broader ecosystem of business incubators, accelerators and strategic partners, enabling stronger support for business growth.

#### Impact on employers

Employers stand to benefit from the introduction of these new residency visas as they enhance employers' ability to attract and retain leadership and entrepreneurial talent. Employers may revise their internal processes, stay updated and inform impacted employees about the new visa categories.

#### 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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