



JURIS
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Residency Amendment Laws

Information and FAQ Page

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The following amendments of Article 20 and Chapter 105 of the Immigration and Aliens Law came into force on 23 October 2019 and non-compliance will not be penalised until 23 October 2020. The amendment allows expats above 60 years old a year to get their residence status in order.

General Information:

Citizens of countries that have a representative office in the TRNC and the citizens of the EU countries must have a passport valid for at least 2 months upon initial entry into the TRNC.

Citizens of other countries must have a passport valid for at least 6 months in order to apply for a visa upon arrival to the country.

The length of stay granted at the designated ports and border crossings of the TRNC cannot exceed 90 days within a period of 180 days.

TOURIST VISA

Those who come to the country for touristic visits and plan on staying at a hotel or other accommodation facility and those who have rented a dwelling for this purpose and declare this, can be issued a visa for a maximum of **30 days**. If they can submit documents showing that a prior payment has been made for accommodation, a visa **up to 90 days** may be granted.

RESIDENCE PERMIT VISA

The following types of visas may be issued to foreigners who will enter the country in order to apply for one of the residence permit types.

- **Visa for Family Residence Permit:** Foreigners who will apply for a family residence permit can be given a visa for this purpose up to 90 days upon their arrival.
- **Visa Due to Ownership of Immovable Property:** A visa can be issued up to 90 days for those who have a title deed document indicating that they own an immovable property.
- **Visa for Student Residence Permit Application:** Foreigners who come to the country to obtain a student residence permit may be granted a 60 day visa upon submission of a student registration or pre-registration certificate.
- **Visa for Judicial and Administrative purposes:** Those who come to the country upon the request or decisions of judicial or administrative authorities may be granted a valid visa for the term of their duty.
- **Visa for Scientific Research:** Those who come to the country for scientific research purposes may be granted a valid visa for the duration of the research.
- **Visa for Graduates from Universities in the Country:** Students who have studied and graduated from any of the two-year higher education programs or have studied at least 3 years in any of the four-year higher education programs in the TRNC can be granted a visa valid for 30 days.

*Residence permit is granted to the foreigners who want to stay in the TRNC for **longer than 90 days** given that they apply and meet the requirements for the relevant residence permit.*

FOREIGNERS EXEMPT FROM RESIDENCE PERMIT

- Foreigners who are married to a TRNC citizen,
- Foreigners who are stateless,
- Foreigners who are under 18 years old and live with their parent or guardian,
- Foreigners older than 18 years old who live with their parent or guardian who are either citizens or have a legal permission to stay in the country or who is mentally or at least 50% physically handicapped,
- Foreigners exempt from residence permit as per the agreements signed by the TRNC,
- Foreigners who have a blue identity card and permanent residence permit in accordance with the Permanent Residence Permit Law,
- Foreigners who have a work permit or permit to establish business in accordance with the Law on Work Permits of Foreigners, as long as these permits are valid,
- Diplomats and consulate officers in the TRNC, and the foreigners with diplomatic passport and their families whose information has been conveyed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Foreigners working in the offices of international organizations in the TRNC whose status have been determined by agreements,
- Foreigners who have been temporarily assigned to a foreign mission in the TRNC whose exemption has been conveyed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Personnel who are assigned to work in the TRNC in accordance with international treaties, their spouses and children,
- Military personnel other than those serving in the TRNC and carrying out their compulsory military service and their spouses, children and parents,
- Detainees and convicts, as long as their status continue.

FOREIGNERS WHO ARE OLDER THAN SIXTY YEARS AND HAVE NO LEGAL PERMISSION TO STAY IN TRNC MUST GET A RESIDENCE PERMIT.

Foreigners who have reached the age of sixty before the residence permits and visas regulation has entered into force and who have been living in the TRNC without a legal permission may remain to stay in the country if they obtain a residence permit within one year.

SHORT-TERM RESIDENCE PERMIT

Short-term residence permit is issued, each time, for a period of **maximum 1 year**. The duration of the short-term residence permit is decided based on the person's request, reason and other issues related to residence permit.

The foreigners who are eligible to apply for a short-term residence permit:

- The foreigners who came to the TRNC for scientific research or archaeological excavation,
- The foreigners who own immovable property in the TRNC,
- The foreigners who came to the TRNC for vocational training or an internship,
- The foreigners who came to the TRNC in accordance with international agreements or student exchange programs,
- The foreigners who will be granted residence permit in accordance with a request or decision of the judicial and administrative authorities,
- The foreigners who came to TRNC for the treatment of a medical condition that does not pose a threat to public health,
- The foreigners who complete their higher education in a two-year program or studied and graduated at least in three years from a higher education program that lasts four years or longer can be issued a one-time residence permit for maximum 6 months if they apply within 60 days of their graduation
- The yacht owners or leaseholders, who arrive within the context of yacht tourism, as well as the crew and the passengers can be issued short-term residence permit up to 6 months within a 12 month period provided that they submit the relevant documents regarding the duration of their stay in the TRNC harbour where their yacht is anchored,



- The foreigners who arrive for shooting a movie/documentary can be issued short-term residence permit each time they apply for a period of maximum one year if the visa that they were granted in the first place proved to be not sufficient for the shooting to be completed,
- Short-term residence permit according to income: Short-term residence permit can be issued to the foreigners whose monthly income is equal to the total of 3 times the minimum wage or has the annual equivalent of that amount in a bank account.

DURATION OF THE RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR FOREIGNERS WHO POSSESS IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN THE T.R.N.C

Foreigners who possess immovable property in the TRNC may be granted **1 year** renewable residence permit for the first 3 years and thereafter two years renewable permit provided that they have obtained the title deeds registered to their names.

CRITERIA FOR RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR FOREIGNERS WHO POSSESS IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN THE T.R.N.C

He/she must possess a house suitable for residence that is currently being used for this purpose.

If the title deed of a dwelling is divided into more than one share and one of the shareholders has been issued a short-term residence permit in accordance with this paragraph, no short-term residence permit shall be granted to another shareholder for the same dwelling.

In the event that the immovable property has been purchased through concluding a contract, it is required that the payment for at least one third of the sale price has been made and the applicant must have applied for permission from the Council of Ministers to acquire the immovable property.

If the immovable property has a title deed registered to the name of the applicant, the applicant is required to have an income equal to at least three monthly minimum wages; if the instalments are still being paid for the immovable property that has been acquired through a contract, the applicant must have an income equal to at least three monthly minimum wages in addition to the monthly instalment amount stated in the contract.

FAMILY RESIDENCE PERMIT

The person who is ready to cover the financial expenses of a foreigner who wish to come to Cyprus for the purpose of family unity and whose name is registered in his/her application for residence permit are consider as his/her sponsor. The persons who could be considered as a sponsor are: TRNC citizens, residence permit holders, business permit holders, student residence permit holders and the foreigners who have been legally working in the TRNC at least for a year.

PEOPLE WHO CAN RECEIVE FAMILY RESIDENCE PERMIT

- The sponsor's foreigner spouse who is not a TRNC citizen,
- His/her or spouse's handicapped foreign children who is over eighteen,
- The sponsor's or his/her spouse's parents, if the sponsor and his/her spouse is working and have children under twelve,
- Student resident permit holders' parents and spouses,
- The children of foreigners residing in the TRNC who are not a student, not working, single and under twenty three,
- The parents of the sponsor who is a TRNC citizen.



FAQ

- **My partner owns property in the TRNC but we are not married. We visit the TRNC for more than 30 days but less than 90 days twice a year. Do I need a residence permit?**
 - Your status would fall under a tourist visa as you could prove that you would be staying in your partners property. Your partner may be required to obtain a letter from a Notary public stating that he/she gives you permission to live in this property registered in their name. Hence, you would be granted a **90 day** tourist visa upon arrival or prior.

*Please refer to the paragraph above titled **Tourist Visa**.*

- **I have residency in South Cyprus but rent in North Cyprus, How long can I stay in the TRNC?**
 - You would be eligible to stay under one of two options. The first option would be a tourist visa, according to which you would show that you are renting and will therefore be granted up to 90 days. Alternatively, you could apply for a Short-Term residence permit according to income for which you could be granted up to 1 year residency which would be renewable on an annual basis provided you meet the necessary criteria, i.e. show a monthly income equal to the total of 3 times the minimum wage or the annual equivalent of that amount shown on a bank statement.

*Please refer to the paragraph above titled **Tourist Visa and Short-Term Residence**.*

- **I am a foreigner who lives in the TRNC Part-Time (for around half of the year), what kind of residence permit would I be required to obtain?**
 - In the event that the property you stay in on your visits is a rental, you would need to apply for a Short-Term residence permit according to income for which you could be granted up to 1 year residency which would be renewable on an annual basis. If you own the immovable property you live in during your stays, then you may be granted 1 year renewable residence permit for the first 3 years and thereafter two years renewable permit provided that you have obtained the title deeds registered to your names. Once the permit, regardless of which one it is, has been issued, you will be free to come and go in and out of the TRNC as you please during this year.



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- **I am over the age of 60 and have not needed to obtain a residence permit since reaching the age of 60 per the previous law. Am I required to have one now?**
 - Foreigners who have reached the age of sixty before the residence permits and visas regulation has entered into force and who have been living in the TRNC without a legal permission may remain to stay in the country if they obtain a residence permit within one year. If you do not live here full time, but only come to the TRNC in blocks of a few months at a time, you will still need to make the application for residency as the tourist visa will only be issued for 30-90 days.
- **I am coming to the TRNC on holiday and staying in Holiday accommodation but am planning to move to the TRNC permanently, should I apply for a residence permit on my first (holiday) visit, or on my second visit upon signing a Lease Agreement?**
 - It will not be necessary for you to apply for a residence permit during your first holiday visit provided that your holiday will not extend past 90 days. On your second visit, upon signing a lease or purchase agreement you will then be required to apply for a residence permit prior to the expiration of your visitor visa issued for that second trip.
- **I have a work visa in the TRNC, travelling through the border will I be affected by the new regulations?**
 - Travelling through the border usually results in a tourist visa stamp, however due to the fact that you have an existing, valid, work visa in the TRNC, it should not affect you as 2 different residence permits cannot be issued to any one person.
- **Can I use a private clinic for my blood test requirement when applying for a residence permit?**
 - You cannot use a private clinic for the blood test on your own accord. You will have to go to the Public Hospital in your district who will then send you the daily allocated private clinic at which you will have your tests done. The blood sample is tested for Virus C, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. You will then need to pick up the results which are issued in a sealed envelope stamped by the Public Hospital, from the Public Hospital. Please note that you must not, under any circumstance, open this envelope as Interior affairs will only accept it in its sealed state.



- **I have multiple passports for travelling, which passport should I get my residence permit on?**
 - In the event that you have multiple passports of different nationalities, you may get your residence permit done on whichever passport you please however, it will have to be the one you entered the country with on the trip during which you plan to apply for your residence permit. If one of your multiple passports is a TRNC passport or if you hold a TRNC Kimlik Card, then none of the new regulations affect your status.

- **What if I do not have sufficient income but my Husband/Wife has more than enough to cover the financial requirement?**
 - The person who is ready to cover the financial expenses of a foreigner who wish to come to Cyprus for the purpose of family unity and whose name is registered in his/her application for residence permit are consider as his/her sponsor. The persons who could be considered as a sponsor are: TRNC citizens, residence permit holders, business permit holders, student residence permit holders and the foreigners who have been legally working in the TRNC at least for a year. Once one of you has a residence permit, the other will need to apply for a Family Residence permit which is easier to obtain and does not require the applicant to have their own income.
 - Children and/or babies who are under 18 years old and live with their parent or guardian are exempt from obtaining a residence permit.

- **What are the financial requirements and what is the minimum income needed?**
 - **FOREIGNERS WHO POSSESS IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN THE T.R.N.C :** applicant is required to have an income equal to at least three monthly minimum wages; if the instalments are still being paid for the immovable property that has been acquired through a contract, the applicant must have an income equal to at least three monthly minimum wages in addition to the monthly instalment amount stated in the contract.
 - **Short-term residence permit according to income:** Short-term residence permit can be issued to the foreigners whose monthly income are equal to the total of 3 times the minimum wages or the annual equivalent of that amount in a bank account.
 - Note that the minimum wage in the TRNC is 3,400 TL Gross, and 2,958 TL Net per month.



- **I came via Ercan with my father (above 60) and my son (over 18), I then crossed over to the south and back in order to extend my visa. I need another extensions, how can I achieve this?**
 - The police station in North Cyprus will not be able to extend the 30 days provided by the border control authorities. However, you can apply for a 1 year residency permit for yourself based on the fact that you own property in the TRNC, and then make individual Family Visa applications for both your son (under PEOPLE WHO CAN RECEIVE FAMILY RESIDENCE PERMIT- “The children of foreigners residing in the TRNC who are not a student, not working, single and under twenty three” and father. For their Family Visa applications they will not need to show that they have themselves met the financial requirement as you will have already shown that you have met that requirement in your application.
 - The permit you will be applying for is the Short-Term Residence Permit which is issued to Foreigners who possess immovable property in the TRNC and may be granted for a period of 1 year. It is an annually renewable residence permit for the first 3 years and thereafter two years renewable permit provided that you have obtained the title deeds registered to your name.



Should you require any further information on the matter or personalised tailored answers to any queries or concerns you may have, please do not hesitate to contact us as our team of professionals is ready to be of service.