

Mobility: Immigration alert

April 2024

Qatar

Qatar announces new five-year Mustaqel residence visa for foreign talent and entrepreneurs

Executive summary

In February 2024, the Qatari government [announced](#) the creation of a new residence permit called the “[Mustaqel Visa](#)” for eligible talented individuals and entrepreneurs. The Mustaqel Visa will be processed by [Jusour](#), a manpower company wholly owned by the Qatari government.

Key developments

The newly introduced Mustaqel Visa will allow eligible individuals to reside in Qatar for up to five years. The following individuals will be eligible to apply:

- ▶ Talented individuals who are approved by Qatari Talent Endorsement (i.e., relevant Qatari authorities) in one of 13 sectors (arts, sports, education, management, financial services, etc); it is not yet known which government body will be responsible for endorsements in each sector
- ▶ Entrepreneurs approved by any of the business incubators listed in the Mustaqel page, who have a minimum project value of QAR 250,000 (approx. USD 68,500)

Several details remain unknown and are expected to be clarified in the near future, including whether the visa will confer work authorization in addition to residence authorization (or whether Mustaqel visa holders will require a separate work authorization document, and if so, which one), when the authorities will begin issuing these visas and which government bodies will be responsible for endorsing applications.

Impact on employers

The new visa will offer qualifying individuals increased flexibility, as their ability to stay in Qatar will not be dependent on their employer. This is expected to enable Qatari employers to further attract foreign workers.

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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ey.com

Roman Gusev

Partner - People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration
Tel: +973 3365 1121
Email: roman.gusev@bh.ey.com

Xavier Delaunay

Partner - People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration
Tel: +971 5640 61072
Email: xavier.delaunay@ae.ey.com

Sana Sheikh

Director - People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration
Tel: +971 5593 88963
Email: sana.sheikh@ae.ey.com

Saima Syed

Assistant Manager - People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration
Tel: +974 5076 3814
Email: saima.syed@qa.ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

Seema Farazi

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122
Email: seema.farazi@uk.ey.com