

The D7 Visa: The highly accessible Portuguese residency option you've never heard of

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10 Frequently Asked Questions about the D7 Visa

1. Do I have to buy a property to get it?

No. While applicants are required to have a fixed address while living in Portugal, a property can be rented on a long-term basis to meet this requirement (some Portuguese embassies also accept long-term Airbnb bookings).

And if they were to purchase a home to meet this requirement, there is no minimum pricing required (unlike with the Golden Visa). Furthermore, a letter from a friend or relative who owns a property in Portugal, authorizing the applicant to stay there, can also be used to meet this requirement).

2. Which countries' citizens can apply?

Applications are accepted from citizens of most non-EEA countries. Having said that, some nationalities do face more challenges in obtaining it than others. As of May 2021, for example, Portuguese consular services in Iran aren't processing D7 Visa applications (but they are processing Golden Visa applications).

3. What is the legal basis of the D7 Visa?

Article 58, paragraph 1, of Law number a23/2007, of 4 July, and Article 24 (d) of Regulatory Decree No. 84/2007 of 5 November makes provision for the establishment of the D7 Visa category, which was launched in 2007.

4. How long does it take to get a D7 Visa?

D7 Visa applications are generally adjudicated within 60 days of submission, however it can take up to 2 months or more to obtain a police clearance certificate in your country of origin or residency. Furthermore, Covid has created somewhat of a backlog, which means that your mandatory appointment with the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service (SEF), can be scheduled for up to 4 or 5 months into the future.

The entire process typically takes from 4 to 6 months to complete.

5. What is required to qualify?

- **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:** In order to qualify for the D7 Visa, applicants will have to prove that they earn sufficient, stable income to accommodate and support themselves and any dependents while living in Portugal, and that their income can reasonably be expected to remain stable in the medium to long term.
- **PROOF OF ACCOMMODATION:** You have to submit proof of a fixed address in Portugal. This can be done using a long-term lease, or letter of usage authorization for a property in Portugal. Your application service provider should be able to assist with the former, should you choose to recruit the services of a Portuguese immigration professional (highly recommended, especially if you don't speak Portuguese).
- **CLEAN CRIMINAL RECORD:** A certified police clearance certificate from your country of origin, or current residency, if applicable. (This document may not be older than 3 months at the point of your application submission).

- **COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE:** Both the primary applicant and any dependents should each have comprehensive EU health insurance, paid up-front for a year. The policy should cover medical evacuation and repatriation, without any waiting periods or co-payments.

You can cancel your coverage once you've gained legal residency in Portugal, however you will require it again in order to renew your residency permit after 2 years.

6. How long is the D7 valid for?

The initial D7 *entry* visa is valid for a period of 4 months, and two entries. Once this has been approved, you will need to travel to Portugal for your SEF appointment and apply for a temporary residency permit. This permit is initially valid for 2 years, after which it can be renewed for an additional 3 years, subject to the applicant still meeting the relevant visa and residency requirements.

7. Can the D7 Visa lead to permanent residency or citizenship?

Yes, it can. Apart from continually needing to meet the D7 Visa and residency requirement, you will also be expected to meet the program's minimum stay requirements (more on that below). Yet in principle, you can become eligible to apply for either permanent residency or citizenship after 5 years.

8. Is the D7 Visa only for retirees?

No, on the contrary. Any non-EEA national with sufficient passively sourced, stable income can apply for the D7 Visa.

9. What are the financial requirements for the D7 Visa?

Note: The below amounts are aligned with the minimum wage in Portugal (2021), however these amounts should be treated as the bare minimum. The more passive or stable recurring income applicants can show, the higher their probability of being approved for the visa. Having significant accessible savings may also be advantageous.

MINIMUM PASSIVE INCOME REQUIREMENT (2021)	PER MONTH	PER 2 YEARS
Individual	€665	€15,960
Married Couple	€997.50	€23,940
Per Additional Minor Dependent	€199.50	€4,788
Per Additional Adult Dependent	€199.50	€4,788

10. What are the minimum stay requirements?

TIME PERIOD	MINIMUM STAY	RENEWABLE AT	SUBSEQUENT VALIDITY
Year 1 to 2	6 consecutive months, or 8 non-consecutive months per year.	End of Year 2	3 Years
Year 3 to 5	6 consecutive months, or 8 non-consecutive months per year.	End of Year 5	Another 3-year residency, permanent residency, or citizenship.

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Team D7 Visa