



# RESIDENCY IN THE UAE

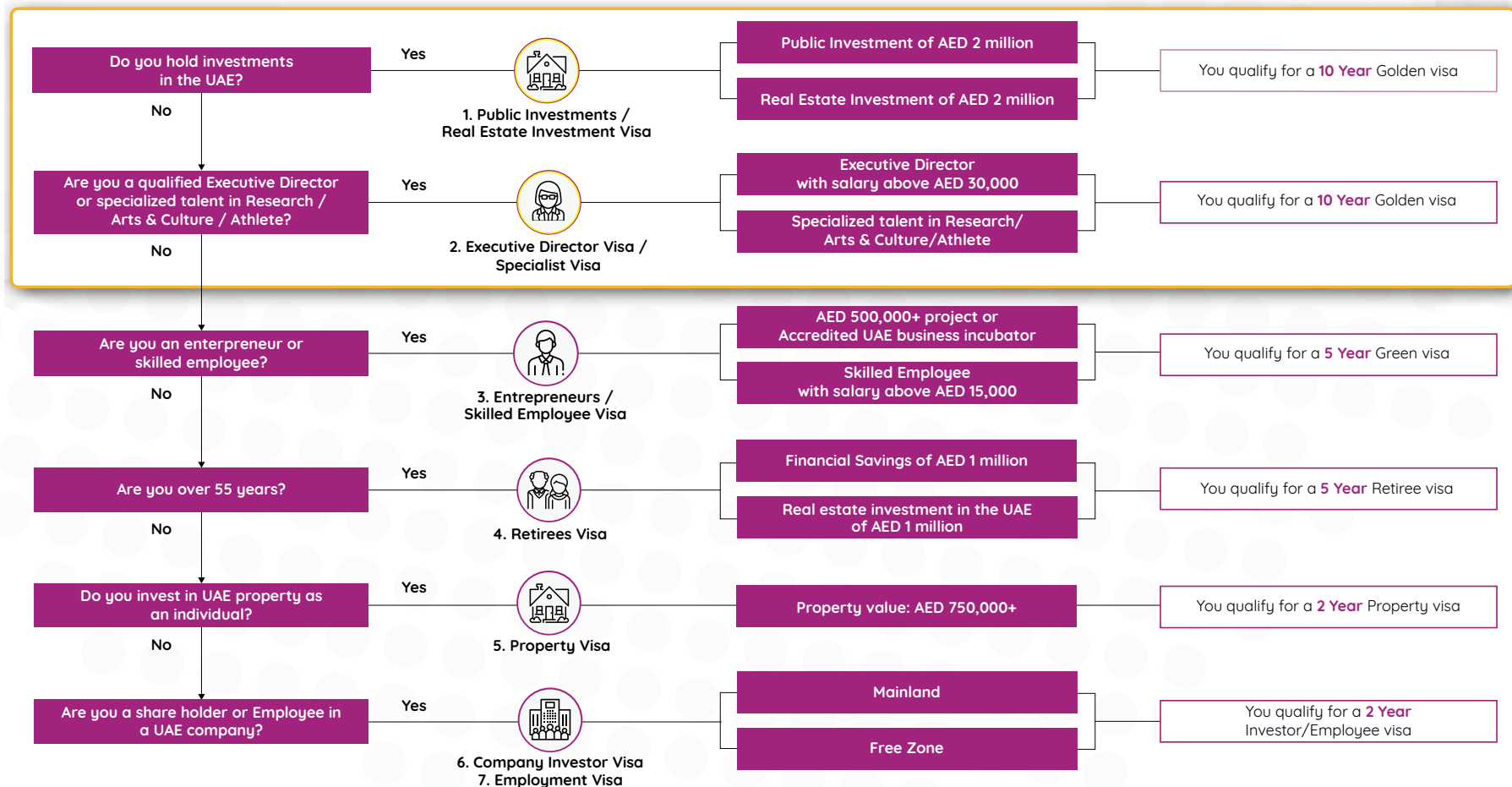
FALL 2024



# UAE Residency Options at a Glance

Over the past decade the UAE has become one of the most popular jurisdictions worldwide for the relocation of individuals. With no taxes applied on individuals, straight forward administrative requirements and low processing costs, coupled with excellent accessibility, high-quality of life, political stability and sunny weather year-round, the UAE is indeed a very attractive proposal as a residency jurisdiction. The UAE’s position has further been reinforced by the ongoing tax backlash in other relocation hubs – e.g. amended UK tax regimes pertaining to “non-doms”, increased costs of the lump-sum tax system in Switzerland – as well as plans from various countries to “tighten the screw” on Europe’s tax heavens.

Following the introduction of long-term visa options, the present fact sheet – and its illustrative chart below – help you navigate the different visa options available in the UAE.







# Residency in the UAE

## What's new in 2024?

During 2024 there have been several noteworthy updates regarding visas and residency in the UAE. The country continues to enhance its options to attract global talent and investment.

**Golden Visa:** The Golden Visa program, which allows long-term residency for investors, entrepreneurs, specialized talents, researchers, and outstanding students, has seen the eligibility criteria tighten for one category. Applicants using the 'Executive Director' route previously needed to evidence a minimum *gross* salary of AED 30,000 per month. However, the position that was based on Article 17 of Cabinet Resolution 2022 has now changed, meaning applicants must now show a monthly *basic* salary of AED 30,000 to be eligible.

**Retirement Visa:** The retirement visa program has been refined to cater to expatriates aged 55 and above (previously only available to those who were 60 and above), allowing them to retire in the UAE under specific financial criteria.

**Visa on arrival:** The permitted duration of a stay for visa-on-arrival holders for nationals of the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States has increased from 30 to 90 days. The duration of of the visa permits multi-entry within a period of 180 days.

## Taxation

A residence permit holder is not subject to income tax and wealth tax in the UAE. He/she may claim additional tax relief through UAE's vast network of double tax treaties. A residence permit allows its holder to reside anywhere in the UAE and authorizes him/her to enter and exit the country an unlimited amount of times.

## Why the UAE?

- Total exemption from income tax and wealth tax for individuals
- No quotas on the number of issued residence permits
- No requirement to obtain a fiscal quitus from the foreign country
- No minimum requirement regarding the time spent annually in the jurisdiction<sup>1</sup>
- Competitive costs for issuance and renewal of the residence permit
- Presence of internationally recognized financial, legal and tax services providers
- Primary hub and platform to access international business
- Political stability
- Yearly sunny climate

## What are the other specific regulatory changes related to visas?

- Extension of business trip permits from three months to six months
- Sponsorship of parents under the visa of direct family members
- One-year residency extension for humanitarian cases
- Extension of children's age limit on parents' residency from 18 to 25 years
- Extension of grace period upon job loss or retirement to 90 to 180 days

1. Other than visiting the UAE at least once every six months; however, in order to obtain a tax residence certificate, an applicant must in principle reside in the UAE for at least 180 days in the past year. Exemptions - based on subjective "close ties to the country" criteria are available.



Golden Visa							
Residence Visa Type	Validity & Renewability	Key Conditions	Documents Required	Presence required in the UAE	Timeframe	Sponsorship visa	Required legal presence "day counting"
Public Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 years</li> <li>Renewable automatically on completion of 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investor in a UAE company with revenue more than AED 2 million for at least last 2 years</li> <li><b>or</b></li> <li>Investor in an investment fund more than AED 2 million (fixed deposit, placed for 2 years in local bank account)</li> <li><b>or</b></li> <li>Investor in Tax Return for more than AED 2 million</li> <li><b>or</b></li> <li>Investor in UAE Property worth more than AED 2 million. This also now applies to owners who have chosen to mortgage the purchase or have entered into an off-plan agreement with a developer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current passport copy</li> <li>Passport size photo</li> <li>Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>Profile [Comprehensive CV]</li> <li>Latest Utility bills/ security deposit slip</li> <li>Subject to qualifying route of investment</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsorship of spouse and children till the age of 25 (instead of 18 previously).</li> <li>Visa can be extended to include business partners, on the condition that each partner contributes AED 2 million.</li> <li>The long-term visa can include the spouse and children, as well as one executive director and one advisor.</li> <li>Investors from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a six-month period.</li> <li>Can include limit less number of sponsorship visas (kids, domestic help, executives)</li> </ul>	Can enter UAE every 9 years vs once 365 days



Golden Visa							
Residence Visa Type	Validity & Renewability	Key Conditions	Documents Required	Presence required in the UAE	Timeframe	Sponsorship visa	Required legal presence "day counting"
<b>Specialised talents &amp; Researchers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 years</li> <li>Renewable automatically on completion of 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holder of PhD degree from one of the top 500 universities in the world</li> <li>Mohammed bin Rashid Medal for Scientific Excellence</li> <li>Contribution to major scientific research</li> <li>Published articles/scientific books in distinguished publications</li> <li>Membership in an organization associated, which requires excellent work</li> <li>10-year professional experience</li> <li>Specialization in areas of priority to the UAE (additional requirement for doctors)</li> <li>Emirates Scientists Council must accredit scientists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current passport copy</li> <li>PHD degree (legalized, translated and super legalized)</li> <li>Valid Employment Contract</li> <li>Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>Subject to qualifying the route of investment</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsorship of spouse and children till the age of 25 (instead of 18 previously).</li> <li>Applicant is qualified to sponsor dependents' visa for spouse and children under 18 years subject to certain conditions.</li> <li>Investors from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a six-month period.</li> </ul>	Can enter UAE every 9 years vs once 365 days
<b>Executive Director</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 years</li> <li>Renewable automatically on completion of 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attested degree (bachelor's degree or higher)</li> <li>Salary certificate showing not less than <b>AED 30,000 (USD 8,169) basic</b> per month</li> <li>Employment contract with the same profession and salary on the salary certificate for the past 1 year</li> <li>NOC form existing company to obtain golden visa</li> <li>UAE bank statement (last 6 months)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current passport copy</li> <li>Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>Comprehensive CV</li> <li>Required documents based on the qualifying route</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsorship of spouse and children till the age of 25 (instead of 18 previously).</li> <li>The long-term visa can include the spouse and children, as well as one executive director and one advisor.</li> <li>Applicants from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a six-month period.</li> <li>Can include limit less number of sponsorship visas (kids, domestic help, executives)</li> </ul>	Can enter UAE every 9 years vs once 365 days



Golden Visa							
Residence Visa Type	Validity & Renewability	Key Conditions	Documents Required	Presence required in the UAE	Timeframe	Sponsorship visa	Required legal presence "day counting"
<b>Culture Specialist in Culture and Art</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 years</li> <li>• Renewable automatically on completion of 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background from Culture and Arts</li> <li>• Recommendation letter from <b>Dubai Culture and Arts Authority</b> based on comprehensive background related to this specialization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current passport copy</li> <li>• Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>• Comprehensive CV</li> <li>• Required documents based on the qualifying route</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsorship of spouse and children till the age of 25 (instead of 18 previously).</li> <li>• The long-term visa can include the spouse and children, as well as one executive director and one advisor.</li> <li>• Applicants from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a six-month period.</li> <li>• Can include limit less number of sponsorship visas (kids, domestic help, executives)</li> </ul>	Can enter UAE every 9 years vs once 365 days
<b>Athletes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 years</li> <li>• Renewable automatically on completion of 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background from sports</li> <li>• Recommendation letter from <b>General Authority of Sports in Dubai</b> or <b>Dubai Sports Council</b> issued based on comprehensive background related to this specialization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current passport copy</li> <li>• Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>• Comprehensive CV</li> <li>• Required documents based on the qualifying route</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsorship of spouse and children till the age of 25 (instead of 18 previously).</li> <li>• The long-term visa can include the spouse and children, as well as one executive director and one advisor.</li> <li>• Applicants from abroad may apply for a multiple-entry permit for a six-month period.</li> <li>• Can include limit less number of sponsorship visas (kids, domestic help, executives)</li> </ul>	Can enter UAE every 9 years vs once 365 days



### 5 Years Long Term Visa

Residence Visa Type	Validity & Renewability	Key Conditions	Documents Required	Presence required in the UAE	Timeframe	Sponsorship visa	Required legal presence "day counting"
<b>Green Visa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years</li> <li>Renewable automatically on completion of 5 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-residency status has been further expanded to investors, entrepreneurs, highly-skilled individuals, top students and graduates. Those running Small and Medium Enterprises, scientists and other talented people will also be considered.</li> <li>Precise Key conditions - TBC</li> <li><b>Skilled employee applicants must:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have a valid employment contract;</li> <li>be working in jobs in the first, second or third occupational level as defined by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization;</li> <li>have at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent;</li> <li>earn a salary of at least <b>AED 15,000 (USD4,083.74)</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Freelance and self-employed applicants must:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>obtain a freelance/self-employment permit from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization;</li> <li>have at least a bachelor's degree or specialized diploma;</li> <li>have earned an annual income from self-employment for the previous two years of at least <b>AED 360,000 (USD 98,026)</b>; or be able to prove their financial solvency throughout their stay in the country.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Investor and partner applicants must:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>obtain approval of the planned investment and proof of investment. If the investor (partner) has more than one UAE company licence, the total invested capital will be calculated.</li> <li>obtain approval from the relevant local authority.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current passport and UAE visa copy</li> <li>Medical fitness result</li> <li>Emirates ID registration</li> <li>Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>Subject to qualifying the route of investment</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsorship of children until the age of 25 (instead of 18 previously)</li> <li>Sponsorship of parents</li> <li>Extension of the grace period for leaving the country upon job loss or retirement to 90 to 180 days (instead of 30 days previously).</li> </ul>	Applicant must return to the UAE within 365 days to keep the visa active.



### 5 Years Long Term Visa

Residence Visa Type	Validity & Renewability	Key Conditions	Documents Required	Presence required in the UAE	Timeframe	Sponsorship visa	Required legal presence "day counting"
Retirees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years</li> <li>Renewable automatically on completion of 5 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Real Estate Investment:</b> Own a property in the UAE of a minimum market value of AED 1 million <b>(approx. USD 270,000) OR</b></li> <li><b>Financial Savings:</b> Fixed deposit for 3 years or cash savings in the UAE personal bank account of no less than AED 1 million <b>(approx. USD 275,000) OR</b></li> <li><b>Combination of Property and financial Savings:</b> To combine both real estate investment (option 1) and financial savings (option 2) with both combined the financial savings must be AED 1 million fixed for 1 year and Property worth AED 500,000 <b>(approx. USD 400,000)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current passport, UAE visa copy</li> <li>UAE bank account statements reflecting financial savings of no less than AED 1 million or property worth AED 1 million</li> <li>Valid UAE health insurance</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant is qualified to sponsor dependents' visa for spouse and children under 18 years subject to certain conditions</li> <li>The long-term visa can include the spouse and children, as well as one executive director and one advisor.</li> </ul>	Applicant must return to the UAE within 365 days to keep the visa active.





Standard Visa							
Residence Visa Type	Validity & Renewability	Key Conditions	Documents Required	Presence required in the UAE	Timeframe	Dependents' visa	Required legal presence "day counting"
<b>Company</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainland: 2 Years</li> <li>FreeZone: 2 Years</li> <li>Renewable on completion of 2 year visa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Trade license</li> <li>Valid Immigration Card</li> <li>Medically fit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company trade license copy</li> <li>Current passport copy</li> <li>Medical fitness result</li> <li>Emirates ID registration</li> <li>Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>Subject to qualifying the route of investment</li> </ul>	Yes	7-10 working days	Applicant is qualified to sponsor dependents' visa for spouse and children under 18 years subject to certain conditions	Employee visa - Applicant must return to the UAE within 180 days to keep the visa active. Investor visa - Applicant must return to the UAE within 365 days to keep the visa active.
<b>Real Estate Investment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 years</li> <li>Renewable on completion of 2 year visa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property value must be AED 750k for 2 years visa</li> <li>Property must be constructed and fit for habitation</li> <li>Property must be constructed and fit for habitation</li> <li>Property can be mortgaged with the required investment value to be paid in full</li> <li>Applicant shall present a valid title deed, indicating the Applicant as direct (co-) owner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current passport copy</li> <li>Number of properties under the applicant's name in the UAE</li> <li>Title deed which reflects the property value</li> <li>Latest Utility bills/ security deposit slip</li> <li>Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>Subject to qualifying the route of investment</li> </ul>	Yes	7-10 working days	Applicant is qualified to sponsor dependents' visa for spouse and children under 18 years subject to certain conditions	Applicant must return to the UAE within 365 days to keep the visa active.



Standard Visa							
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<b>Freelance Visa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 years</li> <li>• Renewable on completion of 2 -year visa</li> </ul>	Self-employed workers based in the UAE (i.e Marketing, Event Management, Social Media, Fitness & Yoga, Web Development, Graphic Design, Journalist, Finance/Accounts, Management Consulting, Artist/Musician)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current passport and UAE visa copy</li> <li>• Medical fitness result</li> <li>• Emirates ID registration</li> <li>• Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>• Subject to qualifying the route of investment</li> </ul>	Yes	6-8 weeks	Applicant is qualified to sponsor dependents' visa for spouse and children under 18 years subject to certain conditions	Applicant must return to the UAE within 365 days to keep the visa active.
<b>Remote working visa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year</li> <li>• Renewable completion of 1 year</li> </ul>	If you are an <b>employee</b> , you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide proof of employment with a contract valid for one year from your current employer</li> <li>• earn a salary of minimum USD 5,000 per month</li> <li>• provide the salary slip for the last month and bank statements for the preceding three months.</li> </ul> If you are a <b>company owner</b> , you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide proof of ownership of company for one year or more</li> <li>• have an average monthly income of USD 5,000 per month</li> <li>• provide bank statements of the company's account for the preceding three months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current passport and UAE visa copy</li> <li>• Medical fitness result</li> <li>• Emirates ID registration</li> <li>• Valid UAE health insurance</li> <li>• Subject to qualifying the route of investment</li> </ul>	Yes	7-10 working days	Applicant is qualified to sponsor dependents' visa for spouse and children under 18 years subject to certain conditions	Employee visa - Applicant must return to the UAE within 180 days to keep the visa active.



# Meet the Experts



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**Core Focus**

- Private Wealth
- Legacy Planning & Asset Protection
- Corporate Structuring & Re-structuring



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**Core Focus**

- UAE Market Entry
- Corporate Structuring and Re-structuring
- Ongoing Entity Administration

*“A leading authority in the area  
when it comes to wealth structuring. [...] a go-to”*

*“Acutely aware of international market trends and the way UAE  
platforms provide useful solutions for clients.”*

**Chambers**  
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**M/HQ** is a multi-services platform catering to successful individuals and international families. Our one-stop-shop offering is unique in the Middle East: a holistic and cross-disciplinary combination of a market-leading corporate services firm, a private client specialist team and a regulatory & compliance services practice, all through one single platform.

We have extensive experience advising on a broad range of wealth structuring and legacy planning issues. We particularly assist in establishing and servicing **Single- and Multi- Family offices, Family- and Group- Holdings, Foundations** and other asset consolidation/protection and intergenerational wealth management structures.

Headquartered in the UAE, we are an entrepreneurial firm for entrepreneurial clients.



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