FAQs

Visa Procedures

Visa Related

1. What does the salary threshold limit of $ 25,000 per annum for employment visa include?

The salary threshold limit of $ 25,000 per annum includes salary and all other allowances paid to the foreign national in cash. Prerequisites like rent free accommodation, etc. which are included in ‘ salary ’ for the purpose of calculating the income tax may also be taken into account for this purpose. However, prerequisites which are not included for working out the income tax should not be taken into account for working out the salary threshold limit of $ 25,000 per annum. The company / organisation concerned should clearly indicate in the employment contract: i) the salary and allowances being paid in cash. ii) all other prerequisites like rent free accommodation, which would be taken into account for the purpose of working out the income tax payable by the employee. Such prerequisites should also be quantified and indicated in the employment contract. For more details, please refer the following link.

2. Can a foreign national holding ‘ E ’ visa coming for honorary work draw a salary?

A foreign national coming as a volunteer for honorary work with the NGOs registered in the country, may be paid an honorarium up-to a ceiling of INR 10,000 per month ($ 154 per month, subject to exchange rate fluctuations).

3. Is it possible to apply for an Indian visa at the airport?

No, it is not possible to apply for an India visa at the airport. Eligible citizens traveling for leisure/tourism purposes have the option to apply for an Indian e-visa online, before they depart for India. Once the visa is granted, citizens will have to get biometric information taken at the airport and the visa stamped on the passport on arrival in India. For more information, click here

4. Do I need a visa to go to India?

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Yes, all foreigners except for nationals of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives, need a visa to enter India. With regard to Maldives' nationals, a visa is required if intended stay in India would be longer than 90 days. Nationals of Nepal would need a visa , if they enter India via China. A citizen of Bhutan entering India by land or air does not require passport or visa for entry into India, unless entering India from a place other than Bhutan. In that case, passport is must. However, he/she must have a passport and visa for India if he/she is entering in India from China. For diplomatic and official passport holders, many nationalities are exempted from the Indian Visa. The detailed list can be accessed at link.

5. What is the processing time for Indian Visa?

If applying for Visa other than the tourist visa, it is recommended that you apply 3 to 4 weeks before your travel date. For Tourist visa (eTA), upon receipt of the Visa Application through Indian Visa Application Center or directly, the Indian Mission/ Post requires a minimum of three working days to process the case and issue a visa depending upon the nationality and excluding special cases. For more information, click here

6. What activities are permissible under Tourist Visa?

Tourist Visa can be granted to a foreigner whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight seeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, attending a short-term yoga programme, etc. and no other purpose/ activity.

7. Can foreign nationals already in India for executing projects on business visas be allowed to convert their business visas to employment visas without leaving the country?

Business Visa shall be non-convertible to any other type of visa except in specific cases. For more details, please refer the following link.

8. If the Indian organization/entity sponsors an employment visa, does this mean that the Indian organization/entity has to necessarily be the legal employer of the person?

No, it is not necessary for Indian organization/entity sponsoring an employment visa to necessarily be the legal employer of the person.

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9. Can a foreign company/organization that does not have any project office/subsidiary/joint venture/branch office in India, sponsor a foreign national/employee of a foreign company for employment visa?

No, in case the foreign entity does not have any office in India, it cannot sponsor an employment visa. The visa can be sponsored by an Indian ‘ host ’ company,The visa can be sponsored by an Indian ‘ host ’ company subject to following conditions: Ensure good conduct of the foreigner during stay in India and inform Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) or Foreigner ’ s Registration Officer ’ s (FRO) office in case of termination of business contract Produce the foreigner in person at FRRO/ FRO office within 24 hours in case of withdrawal of undertaking for the good conduct of the foreigner. For more information, click here

10. Which type of visa would be granted to senior management personnel and/or specialists employed by foreign firms who are relocated to India to work on specific project/management assignment?

Senior management personnel and/or specialists employed by foreign firms, who are relocated to India to work on specific project/management assignment can apply for employment visa.

11. Can I undertake employment in India on a business visa?

No, a foreign citizen cannot undertake employment on the basis of a business visa. Only on an employment visa can a foreign citizen undertake employment in India For more information, click here.

12. Can a foreigner obtain additional short duration visa while holding an existing long duration visa?

Yes, a relaxation has been provided in this regard. Now, while having a long duration visa (say employment visa, business visa, etc.), a foreigner can also avail a short duration visa (conference visa, transit visa, e-visa and visa-on arrival). In such a scenario, unlike in the past, the long duration visas will not be cancelled but “ kept on hold ” . For more information, click here.

13. Can the employer be changed post arrival in India in case of employment visa?

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Yes, a foreign national is permitted to change employment between a registered holding company and its subsidiaries. Further, such a change is also permissible between joint ventures and Consortiums after obtaining prior approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs. For more information, click here.

14. Do I need a visa to change flights/airport terminals in India?

You need to apply for a Transit Visa if you are going to change from the International Terminal to the Domestic Terminal of any Indian Airport or if you are going to stay in an airport hotel even for a few hours. In case you remain within limits of the waiting area reserved for International Transit Passengers of the Indian Airport and are not going to cross Immigration Controls at any time, you do not need a transit visa. Please note: the maximum period of stay in India permitted for a Transit Visa is 72 hours/3 days for each entry and is issued only when Transit/Travel is by Air. The Transit Visa is valid for 15 days only. For more information, click here

15. How long will my application for Indian Visa be available online?

You can print your Visa Application Form within 30 calendar days of completing it online. To access your completed online application, you are required to note your Web Reference number before you exit. An Email with this information will also be sent to your valid email ID, if provided. . If your application is not submitted for processing within this time, the information will be purged out/deleted from the system and you will need to commence enter your details afresh. Visa Fees will not be refunded in this situation. For more information, click here

16. What is the eligibility criteria for e-Visa in India?

e-Visa is granted to a foreigner whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight-seeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, attending a short term yoga programme, medical treatment including treatment under Indian systems of medicine and business purpose and no other purpose/ activity. For more information, click here

17. What is the eligibility criteria to apply for an employment visa in India?

An Employment visa is granted to a foreigner who is a highly skilled and/or qualified professional.

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The foreign national being sponsored for an employment visa in any sector should draw a gross salary in excess of $ 25,000 per annum. The salary threshold limit of $ 25,000 per annum will be worked out taking into account the salary and all other allowances paid to the foreign national in cash and also perquisites like rent free accommodation etc. which are included in the salary for the purpose of calculating income tax. For more information, click here

18. What is the difference between single and multiple entry visas and e-visas?

A single-entry visa allows you to visit India one time while the visa is valid whereas a multiple-entry visa allows you to enter India several times within the validity period of the visa. In case of e-tourist visa and e-business visa, multiple entry visa is granted with a validity of 1 year. For more information, click here

19. What is the Port of Arrival in India which is to be filled in the application frame?

The port of arrival (POA), commonly called the port of entry (POE), is the location - typically name of the city - from where on the visitor lawfully enters India. For more information, click here

20. What is an e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) in India?

e-Tourist Visa is a completely online application for which no facilitation is required by any intermediary/agents, etc. However, its validity is for 30 days and it is only valid for single entry into India. The e-Tourist visa allows for visa on arrival issuance only for arrival and departure from the airports in Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bengaluru (Bangalore), Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Gaya, Goa, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Tiruchirapalli, Trivandrum and Varanasi. For more information, click here

21. Is it conceivable that the visa allowed to me is for a lesser span than I initially connected?

Visa issued by the Embassy or the Consulate is not a matter of right and is entirely up to the Competent Authority to decide on the issue of such visa. In some circumstances, visa may be issued for a period less than what was requested by the applicant. For more information, click here

22. What is the eligibility criteria for Entry (‘ X ’) Visa in India?

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Entry (‘ X ’) Visa may be granted to a foreigner in the following cases :- A Person of Indian Origin, who do not possess an OCI card, and may be granted ‘ X-1 ’ Visa for five years at a time, with multiple entry facility. Spouse and children of an Indian citizen/ Person of Indian Origin/ OCI cardholder (other than those who are registered as OCI cardholder) may be granted ‘ X-2 ’ visa for five years at a time, with multiple entry facility. For more information, click here

23. Are individuals on visa subject to pay imposes in India?

An expatriate staying in India and not a citizen is liable to pay tax on any income earned by him or her in India, irrespective of the nature of work or the country of citizenship of the expatriate. If income of the expatriate is taxable in India as well as in his or her country of origin, the expatriate can seek benefit of the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) signed between India and several other countries to avoid paying double taxes on such income. For more information, click here

24. I committed an error while topping off the online application. Is it conceivable to make redresses on the web?

The online application form for e-visa cannot be edited once it has been submitted. The applicant must verify all the information entered before submitting the application and taking printout. In case of an error, the applicant must file a new form online. For more information, click here

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