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NEWSLETTER

THE NEW VISA REGIME FOR
 JOB SEEKERS (3/4)

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SUMÁRIO

The new changes to the Foreigners Law brought about the implementation of new visa regimes, among which is the job seeker visa. As such, it is important to point out the general and special conditions for granting this new visa, to whom it can be granted, where the request can be made and how long it is valid for.



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FRAMEWORK

The recent amendments to the Law on Foreigners (Law no. 23/2007, of July 4th), published on August 25th in the Portuguese Official Gazette (see our Newsletter - The New Changes to the Law on Foreigners) brought about the implementation of new visa regimes, among which we highlight the job seeker visa.

Bearing in mind the clear goal of fostering the immigration of the working-age population to Portuguese territory, and consequently tackling the labor shortage, it is now worth pointing out the general and special conditions for granting a visa for seeking work, to whom it may be granted, where the request may be made, and its maximum duration.

GRANTING OF THE JOB-SEEKER VISA

The new visa regime for **seeking work**, implemented through the recent amendments to the legal regime for the entry, stay, exit and deportation of foreigners in Portugal, allows third country nationals to enter and stay in Portuguese territory with the purpose of seeking employment if the requirements for the granting of a visa are met.

Furthermore, the job seeker visa allows the holder to engage in dependent employment until the visa expires or until a residence permit is granted.

The validity period of the job seeker visa, when granted to a foreigner, will last 120 days. However, it is possible to extend it for a further 60 days if the holder is unable to formalize the employment relationship sought.

If after the maximum validity period of the visa - 180 days - its holder does not formally conclude a work contract, the visa expires, and the respective holder will only have the possibility of reapplying for a new visa for this purpose one year after the expiration of the previous visa.

On the other hand, if the holder of a job-seeker visa has managed to establish a labor contract within the legal period, he or she will be entitled to apply for a residence permit, provided that the conditions for granting a temporary residence permit are met.

It is also important to note that this job seeker visa, as well as the temporary stay and residence visas, are only valid in Portuguese territory and must be requested at the Portuguese consular offices.



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