

## Section 3: Immigration and Visas



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The content within this program, including but not limited to videos, written materials, expert interviews, and downloadable resources, is intended to assist individuals in understanding the processes and considerations involved in relocating to Mexico. However, it does not constitute legal, financial, tax, immigration, or real estate advice.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the information provided, laws, regulations, and policies in Mexico are subject to change. Therefore, we strongly recommend consulting with qualified professionals, such as immigration lawyers, financial advisors, tax consultants, and real estate specialists, before making any decisions or taking action related to moving to or investing in Mexico.

# Understanding Mexico's Immigration System

Mexico offers a variety of visa and residency options for expats, whether you're looking to stay short-term, retire, work, or start a business. Navigating the immigration process requires an understanding of the available visas, their requirements, and the steps involved in obtaining them.

## Types of Visas and Residency Permits

Mexico's immigration system primarily consists of three visa categories:

### **1. Visitor Visa (FMM - Forma Migratoria Múltiple)**

This visa is for tourists and short-term visitors who plan to stay in Mexico for up to 180 days. It is issued upon arrival and does not permit work.

- Granted at the airport or border crossing.
- Valid for stays up to 180 days (though officials may grant fewer days at their discretion).
- Not extendable beyond the given period.
- Not intended for long-term residency or employment.

### **2. Temporary Resident Visa (Residente Temporal)**

Ideal for individuals planning to stay in Mexico for longer than six months but less than four years. This visa can be renewed annually up to four years and allows foreign nationals to work, study, or retire in Mexico.

- Common reasons for obtaining this visa include financial solvency, employment, or family ties.
- Requires proof of sufficient income or financial stability.
- Allows conversion to a permanent resident visa after four years.
- Includes permission to bring family members under certain conditions.

### **3. Permanent Resident Visa (Residente Permanente)**

This visa is for individuals who plan to live in Mexico indefinitely. It is commonly obtained after holding a temporary resident visa for four years or by meeting specific financial requirements.

- Provides indefinite residency with no need for renewals.
- Requires a higher financial threshold than a temporary visa.
- Grants the ability to work without additional permits.
- A direct path for retirees who meet income requirements.

## **Visa Application Process and Timelines**

The process for obtaining a visa typically involves multiple steps and varies depending on the type of visa. Below is an overview of the general process:

### **Step 1: Apply at a Mexican Consulate**

Most visa applications begin at a Mexican consulate outside of Mexico. Applicants must:

- Schedule an appointment at the nearest consulate.
- Provide necessary documentation (passport, financial records, proof of income, etc.).
- Pay application fees (varies by location).
- Attend an in-person interview.

### **Step 2: Receive a Visa Sticker in Your Passport**

If approved, the consulate will place a visa sticker in your passport, which allows entry into Mexico for residency processing.

### Step 3: Complete the Residency Process in Mexico

Upon arrival in Mexico, applicants have 30 days to:

- Visit the National Institute of Migration (INM).
- Submit additional paperwork, including proof of address in Mexico.
- Obtain a residency card (tarjeta de residencia).

## Legal Requirements for Temporary and Permanent Stays

To maintain legal status in Mexico, visa holders must adhere to the following:

- Keep residency cards up to date and renew them on time.
- Notify INM of any address or marital status changes.
- Avoid exceeding the permitted time outside Mexico (varies by visa type).
- Ensure that work permissions are correctly granted if engaging in employment.

## Working with Immigration Consultants or Lawyers

While some expats navigate the visa process independently, many choose to hire an immigration consultant or lawyer to assist with:

- Preparing documentation and application forms.
- Attending INM appointments and handling paperwork.
- Ensuring compliance with Mexican immigration laws.

Professional assistance can help avoid delays and streamline the process, especially for those unfamiliar with Spanish or legal procedures.

**\*\*\*\*Please watch the conversation I had with immigration Mexico Lawyer, Jared García Oseguera on the Fast Track to Mexico page [here](#).**