



Brazilian Visas and Residency: Complete Guide

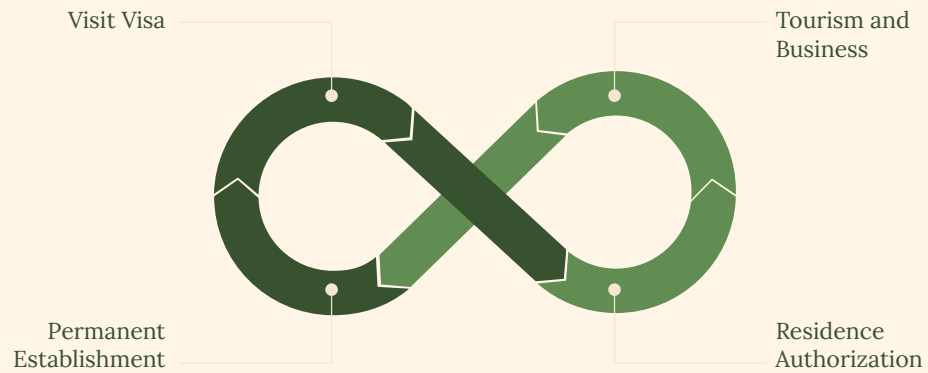
Welcome to your comprehensive guide for navigating the Brazilian immigration system. Whether you are planning a short visit or considering long-term residency, this presentation will walk you through the essential visa categories, requirements, and pathways to make Brazil your temporary or permanent home.



Overview: Understanding Brazilian Immigration

Two Main Pathways

Brazilian immigration operates through two main routes: **Visit Visas** for short-term stays and **Residence Authorizations** for long-term establishment. Each has distinct requirements and purposes.



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| Visit Visas Short-term stays of 90 to 180 days for tourism, business, and transit |
| Residence Authorizations Long-term residency for work, investment, family reunification, and more |

This guide will help you understand which path is right for your situation, covering everything from tourist visits and business trips to work permits, investment opportunities, and naturalization.



Visit Visas: Business and Tourism

Visit visas allow foreign citizens to enter Brazil for short-term purposes, without establishing permanent residency. These visas are ideal for tourists, business professionals, athletes, artists, and those in transit through Brazilian territory.



Tourism Activities

Cultural visits, educational trips, family reunions, conferences, seminars, congresses, volunteer work, research, teaching, or academic extension – provided that activities are unpaid and do not exceed the permitted duration.



Business Activities

Participation in meetings, trade fairs, business events, journalistic coverage, filming, prospecting for commercial opportunities, signing contracts, audits, consultancies, and work as aircraft or vessel crew – without receiving remuneration in Brazil.



Transit and Special Cases

Transit through Brazilian territory, artistic and sporting activities, or exceptional situations of national interest as determined by the authorities.

Visitor Visa: Key Timelines

Validity Period: 1 Year

The visa remains valid for one year from its issuance, allowing multiple entries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs may reduce this period at its discretion based on specific circumstances or bilateral agreements.

Initial Stay Duration: Up to 90 Days

The initial authorized stay is 90 days from the first entry. The Federal Police may extend this period for an additional 90 days, ensuring that the total stay does not exceed 180 days per migratory year.

Extension: Additional 90 Days

Extensions are granted by the Federal Police upon request, provided that the cumulative stay does not exceed 180 days within a single migratory year. Time is counted from the first entry and is paused upon leaving Brazil.

Annual Limit: 180 Days

The maximum permitted stay is 180 days per migratory year, whether consecutive or accumulated across multiple visits during the visa's validity period.



Visa Exemptions and Transformations

Visa-Exempt Countries




The Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains updated regulations on visa exemptions and simplified procedures. Many countries enjoy visa-free entry to Brazil for tourism and business purposes. This table is regularly updated to reflect new bilateral agreements and policy changes.

[View Current Exemption List](#)

Visa Transformation Options

Brazilian legislation allows the transformation of visitor visas into other categories without leaving the country. A visitor visa can be converted into:

 Residence Authorization

 Diplomatic Visa

 Official Visa

 Courtesy Visa

The transformation is subject to compliance with all legal requirements for the desired visa category and approval by immigration authorities.



Residency Permits: Overview

Residency permits allow foreign citizens to establish long-term residence in Brazil. Brazil offers various paths to residency tailored to different circumstances — from family ties to professional opportunities, investments, studies, and retirement.

Each permit category has specific requirements, documentation needs, and validity periods. Understanding these options helps identify the most appropriate path for your situation. The following sections detail the main categories of residency permits available to foreign citizens.

Mercosur Residence Agreement

Eligible Nationalities

Citizens of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay

Equal Labor Rights

Permission to work in any role, equivalent to Brazilian citizens

Simplified Documentation

Valid passport or ID, CPF (Brazilian individual taxpayer registry), birth/marriage certificate, and proof of Brazilian address

Family Inclusion

Family members acquire the same rights, even if from non-signatory countries


Initial residence is granted for two years (temporary status). After this period, and upon fulfillment of requirements, it can be converted into indefinite residence. The application is made directly to the Federal Police with the required documentation and applicable fees.







Residence Authorization for Administrators

→ **Who Qualifies**
Foreign citizens who come to Brazil to act as administrators, managers, directors, or executives with management powers in civil or commercial companies, economic groups, or conglomerates.

 **Standard Investment**
With registration at the Central Bank and exchange contract from the receiving bank
\$600K

→ **Essential Investment Requirement**
The foreign investment must be made and fully integrated into the share capital of the Brazilian company, duly registered with the Commercial Board or Civil Registry Office.

 **Path to Job Creation**
Lower limit requires a plan to generate a minimum of 10 new jobs within two years
\$150K

 **Key Considerations:** The migrant remains linked to the company and role designated in the corporate documents. Concurrent positions in other companies within the same economic group require prior authorization from the Ministry of Justice. Additional documentation from regulatory bodies is mandatory for positions in insurance, capitalization, pension funds, financial institutions, or airlines. The migrant qualifies as a tax resident. The validity is indefinite or corresponds to the term in the corporate documents, with renewal permitted under the same conditions.

Retirees and Pension Beneficiaries

Eligibility

Foreign citizens who are retired or receive death pension benefits from their countries of origin or international organizations

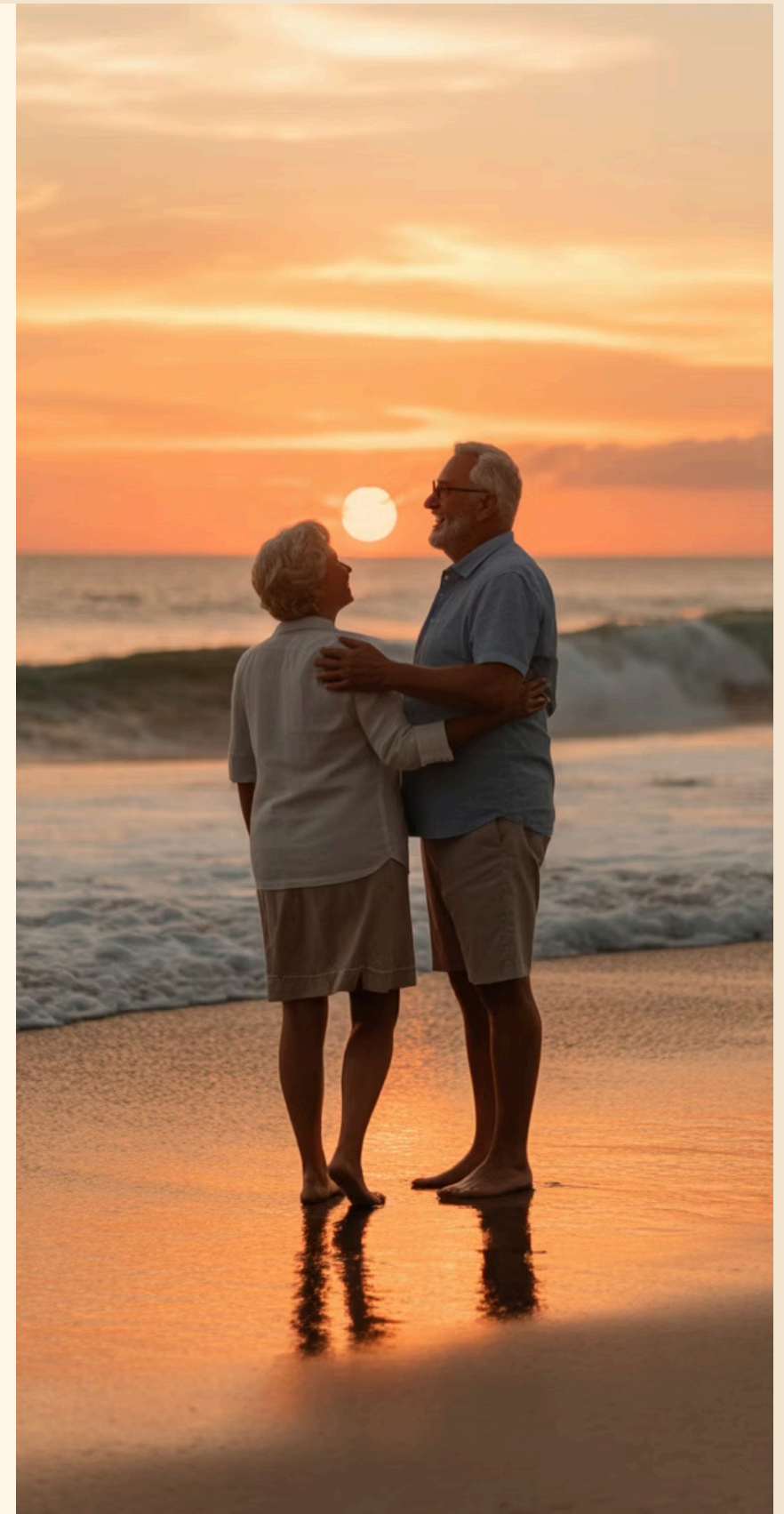
Income Requirement

Proof of monthly retirement or pension income of at least US\$2,000, or supplementary regular income to reach this limit

Proof of Transfer

Documentation demonstrating the ability to transfer the required monthly amount to Brazil through appropriate banking channels

- The initial residence authorization is granted for up to two years. Renewal is possible upon continuous proof of retirement income and means of subsistence. This path offers an attractive option for retirees seeking to enjoy Brazil's climate, culture, and quality of life, while maintaining financial independence through foreign pension income.





Residency for Artists and Athletes

Who Qualifies

Migrants who stay in Brazil for more than 90 days as artists or athletes without an employment contract. This includes technical staff and professionals who support the activities of the artist or athlete.

Main Requirement

Participation in exhibitions, performances, artistic presentations, artist meetings, sports competitions, and similar activities.

Important Notes: The registration of the contract with professional associations (such as the Order of Musicians of Brazil) and tax/labor obligations are the sole responsibility of the contractor. Remunerated activity is permitted if it is artistic or sports-related. This authorization does not apply to artists or athletes entering with individual employment contracts. Valid for up to one year from 90 days, with renewal permitted. For minors (14-18 years old), renewal requires proof of school enrollment and academic progress.

Artists and Athletes: Contract Requirements



Qualifications of Parties

Qualifications of all involved parties and their responsibilities.



Event Details

Program/event title, details of the character or work, event locations and dates.



Logistics and Credits

Travel arrangements and credit placement agreements.



Term and Obligations

Defined term of the agreement and specific obligations of each party.



Remuneration

Total remuneration and payment conditions, including detailed fees per performance.



Legal Representation

Contact information for the legal representative for each state involved.





Technical Assistance Residency



Contractual Basis

Technical services provided without employment ties, based on contracts, cooperation agreements, or covenants between Brazilian and foreign companies.



Scope of Services

Assistance related to equipment or technical cooperation between companies of the same group. Excludes purely administrative, financial, or managerial functions.



Duration

Valid for up to one year, except for warranty contracts that follow the contractual term. Changes of location must be reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Who Can Apply: The receiving company, a company from the same economic group as the foreign employer, or an intermediary company with an exclusivity clause in Brazilian territory.

Special Provisions: In proven urgent situations, authorization can be granted for 180 days within five business days. For emergencies, a simplified procedure allows approval in two business days. If the services are deemed to constitute an employment relationship under Brazilian labor law, authorization may be denied or revoked. The Brazilian company receiving the service is responsible for the migrant. Fiscal residency status applies after 183 days of physical presence (consecutive or not) within a 12-month period.



Requirements for Residency by Employment Contract

This authorization allows migrants to work in Brazil under employment contracts with Brazilian companies. Qualification, experience, and hiring limits are key factors for approval.

Educational/Experience Compatibility

Activities must align with the migrant's professional qualifications and work experience documented in the country of origin.

Compliance with Employment Index

The company must maintain the limit of foreign employees: a maximum of 1/3 of foreign workers relative to Brazilian employees, both for the number of employees and the payroll.

Proof of Minimum Qualification

Master's/doctorate, OR postgraduate degree (360+ hours) plus 1 year of experience, OR bachelor's degree plus 2 years, OR technical course plus 3 years, OR 12 years of schooling plus 4 years of professional experience.

Employment Contract

Formal work agreement between the Brazilian legal entity and the migrant, governed by Brazilian labor law throughout the employment period.

Special Considerations: Migrants cannot hold management positions or appear in corporate documents with powers to represent the company as an administrator. In exceptional cases, five years of relevant professional experience may substitute educational requirements, at the discretion of the Ministry of Justice. The employment relationship follows Brazilian labor law. The migrant qualifies as a tax resident. Initial validity is up to two years, renewable indefinitely.

Residency for Internships in Brazil

Brazil offers opportunities for international individuals seeking temporary residency for academic or professional development through internship authorizations. This path supports personal and career growth, with distinct requirements and conditions.



Internship Authorization

Designed for international socio-labor learning experiences in work environments, aiming to enhance academic training and exchange cultural and professional knowledge.

- Proof of enrollment in an undergraduate or postgraduate course, or graduation within the last twelve months.
- Temporary employment contract (part-time or full-time) or internship scholarship.
- Agreement between the migrant and the employer, with the participation of the Brazilian exchange entity, when applicable.

This authorization may or may not involve an employment relationship. It is valid for one year with no possibility of renewal. A special provision allows for a non-renewable 90-day authorization for holiday work, requiring proof of enrollment and a fixed-term contract.





Student Residency in Brazil

Brazil welcomes international students seeking to pursue academic studies or research, offering a vibrant cultural experience alongside educational opportunities. This authorization is specific to individuals enrolled in recognized educational programs.

- **Financial Capability**

Applicants must provide proof of sufficient financial resources to cover their expenses during their stay in Brazil, including tuition fees, accommodation, and living costs.

- **Permission for Paid Work**

Students are permitted to engage in paid work for up to 30 hours per week, provided the work is compatible with their study schedule and does not interfere with their academic performance.

- **Enrollment Confirmation**

A formal letter of acceptance or enrollment confirmation from a recognized Brazilian educational institution (university, college, or language school) is required, specifying the course duration and program details.

- **Renewal Requirements**

For renewal, students must present proof of continuous enrollment and academic progress, along with updated financial capability documentation.

- **Proof of Enrollment in Foreign Institution**

For exchange or dual degree programs, proof of enrollment at the foreign institution with which the Brazilian institution has an agreement must be submitted.

- **Terms of Commitment**

Any terms of commitment between the student, the educational institution, and, where applicable, the foreign institution or a sponsoring entity, detailing the terms of study and stay.

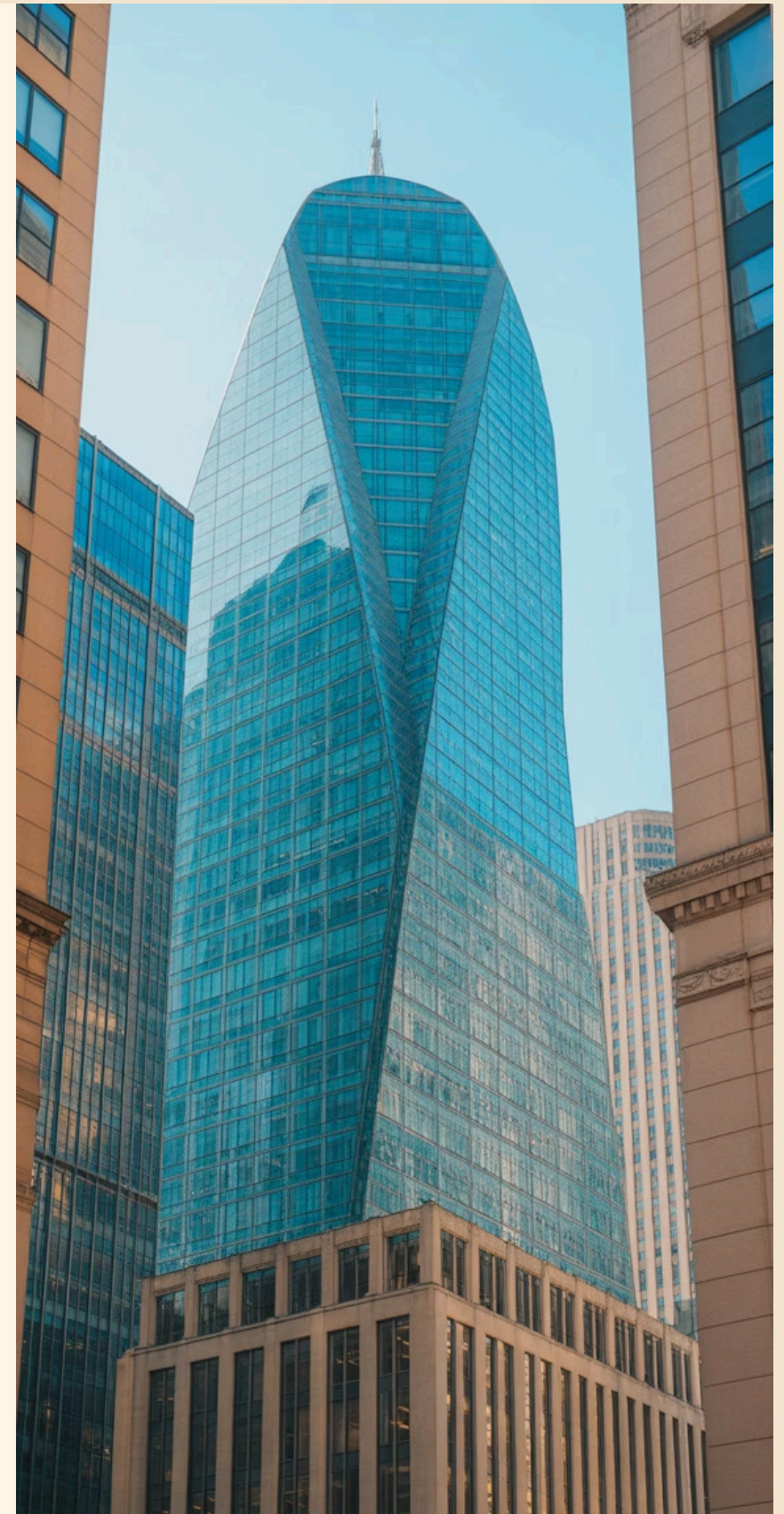
- **Validity and Renewal**

The initial authorization is valid for one year and is renewable for the entire duration of the course or academic program, subject to compliance with all renewal criteria.

Investment-Based Residency Options

- **Standard Investor**
Minimum: R\$500,000
External capital investment in a Brazilian company registered with the Central Bank and foreign exchange documentation. Valid for an indefinite period or according to the terms of the corporate document.
- **Innovation Investor**
Minimum: R\$150,000
For innovation, research, scientific, or technological ventures. Requires a 3-year business plan addressing business definition, objectives, and job/income generation. The receiving entity must meet government criteria.
- **Real Estate Investor**
Minimum: R\$1,000,000 (R\$700K North/Northeast)
Purchase of urban property, built or under construction.
Initial term of 4 years requires a minimum presence of 14 days every 2 years. Renewable for an indefinite period. Fiscal resident status applies.

☐ All investment authorizations require proper corporate documentation, valid travel documents, and CNPJ registration. The Ministry of Justice may conduct due diligence to verify business plan compatibility and request additional documentation. Multiple properties can be combined to meet minimum investment thresholds. Real estate investors may finance amounts exceeding the minimum requirement.





Residency for Academic and Research Purposes



Scholars

Researchers and professors who receive grants from Brazilian institutions or international programs. Requires a statement from the responsible institution confirming the grant details and the duration of the academic activity.



International Agreements

Scientists and researchers covered by bilateral or multilateral agreements recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The invitation must refer to the applicable international agreement and specify the scope of the research.



Institutional Support

Professionals sponsored by foreign institutions through inter-institutional agreements between Brazilian and foreign higher education or research institutions. The agreement must detail objectives and responsibilities.

Payment and Compensation:

Scientists and researchers may receive payments from government entities, Brazilian employers, or private entities such as daily allowances, cost-of-living assistance, fees, pro-labore, or travel expenses. They may compete for awards, including monetary rewards, in science, technology, and innovation contests. Activities must remain non-employment in nature.

Terms:

Valid for up to two years, with renewal permitted. Fiscal resident status applies after 183 days of presence (consecutive or not) within 12 months. Perfect for academics seeking extended research periods while maintaining international institutional ties.



Residency for Family Reunion

The family reunion authorization allows relatives of Brazilian citizens or foreign residents to establish residency in Brazil, strengthening family ties across borders.



Spouse/Partner

Legally married or in a proven stable union



Children

Biological children or stepchildren under 18, students up to 24 years old, or financially dependent individuals of any age



Parents/Grandparents

Ascendants up to the second degree of a Brazilian citizen or authorized resident



Siblings

Siblings under 18, students up to 24 years old, or financially dependent individuals of any age



Parents of Brazilians

Those who have Brazilian children or children with residency authorization



Legal Guardians

Those with Brazilian minors under guardianship, curatorship, or custody

Key Benefits: Beneficiaries of family reunion can engage in any activity in Brazil, including paid employment, under the same conditions as Brazilian citizens. Applications can be submitted simultaneously with the inviting family member's visa application. Expiration dates are aligned when based on temporarily resident family members.



Residency for Technology Transfer and Training

• Authorization for Technology Transfer

For migrants who come to provide technology transfer services without an employment relationship, based on contracts, cooperation agreements, or covenants between Brazilian and foreign companies.

Who Can Apply:

- Company receiving the technology transfer services
- Company from the same economic group as the foreign employer
- Intermediary company with an exclusivity clause in Brazilian territory

Required Documentation:

- Contract/agreement specifying the objectives of technology transfer for Brazilian professionals, value, and execution schedule
- Training plan covering migrant qualifications, scope, execution method, number of Brazilians to be trained, location, duration, and expected results
- Company documents and CNPJ (National Registry of Legal Entities)

The service provision location must be reported to the Ministry of Justice. Valid for up to one year, renewable. If an employment relationship is identified, the authorization may be denied or canceled. Fiscal residency after 183 days of presence.

• Authorization for Professional Training

For migrants receiving professional training at a Brazilian branch, subsidiary, or head office of the same economic group as the foreign company.

Definition: Training means an activity that develops skills and knowledge through practical work.

Required Documentation:

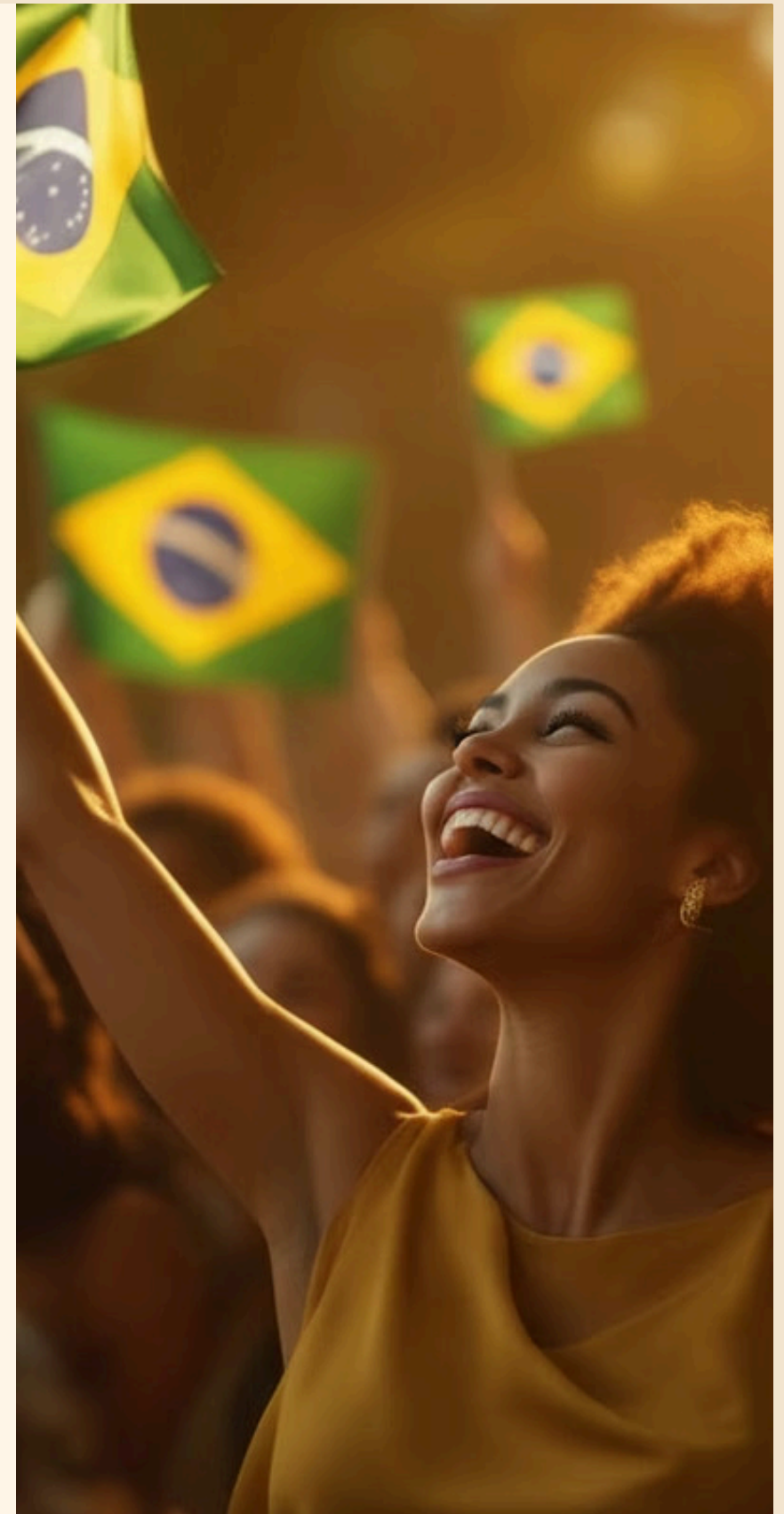
- Proof of connection between the Brazilian subsidiary/branch/head office and the foreign company
- Proof of employment relationship between the migrant and the foreign company
- Training plan with justification, scope, execution method, location, host company, duration, and expected results
- Company documents and CNPJ (National Registry of Legal Entities)

Special Considerations: The employment relationship remains with the foreign company throughout the training period. The migrant becomes a tax resident after 183 days of physical presence within 12 months. Valid for up to two years, not renewable — this is a unique training opportunity.

Path to Brazilian Citizenship: Naturalization

Naturalization transforms foreigners into Brazilian citizens, granting full civil and political rights. Brazil offers various routes to naturalization, depending on circumstances and length of residence.

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|  <p>Ordinary Naturalization 4-year path (1 year if married to a Brazilian or with Brazilian children) Requirements: civil capacity according to Brazilian law, permanent residency status, ability to communicate in Portuguese, and absence of criminal record or rehabilitation.</p> |  <p>Extraordinary Naturalization 15 years of uninterrupted residency Available for people of any nationality residing in Brazil for more than 15 consecutive years without criminal conviction. Simpler application process for long-term residents.</p> |
|  <p>Special Naturalization For diplomatic families and public servants Granted to spouses/partners (5+ years) of members of the Brazilian Foreign Service or those serving the Brazilian State abroad, or individuals employed for more than 10 years in diplomatic missions/consular offices.</p> |  <p>Provisional Naturalization For children who arrived before age 10 Requested by the legal representative for minors who established residence before turning 10 years old. Becomes definitive upon express request within 2 years after reaching legal majority.</p> |





Naturalization: Process and Timeline



Application Submission

Submit the complete application to the Ministry of Justice, including all required documentation, proof of residence, Portuguese proficiency, and criminal record certificates.



Analysis Period: 1-3 Years

Based on precedents, the Ministry of Justice's review typically takes one to three years from the complete submission. Additional documentation or clarifications may be requested during the review.



Official Publication

Upon approval, the naturalization is published in the Official Gazette. The applicant receives formal notification from the Federal Justice system.



Citizenship Ceremony

Participate in the official ceremony before the Federal Justice to formally become a Brazilian citizen. Return the CRNM (foreign resident card) and receive the naturalization certificate.



Important Notes: Naturalization only takes effect with the delivery of the certificate, granting all civil and political rights guaranteed by the Federal Constitution. The process is individual – naturalization does not automatically extend to dependents, who must apply separately. For provisional naturalization, the conversion to definitive status must be requested within two years after reaching legal age. Validity is indefinite once granted.



Your Journey to Brazil Starts Here

Understanding your options is the foundation for a successful immigration journey.

Visit Visas

Offer flexibility for short-term tourism and business activities for up to 180 days per year.

Investment Thresholds

Vary from R\$150K to R\$1M depending on the category and region.

Naturalization Pathways

Exist after 1, 4, or 15 years, depending on circumstances.

Residency Permits

Offer various pathways – work, investment, family, study, and more.

Family Reunion

Family members can often join main visa holders under favorable conditions.