



IMMIGRATION DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MENA REGION

Please visit our dedicated microsite <https://www.fragomen.com/about/news/immigration-update-coronavirus> for details on worldwide immigration and travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

United Arab Emirates

08 February 2022 – Wages Protection System Now Optional for Domestic Workers

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization in the United Arab Emirates has implemented a rule whereby salaries of foreign nationals in the domestic worker category can be optionally disbursed by employers through the Wages Protection System (WPS).

The domestic worker category includes individuals working for private households as cooks, drivers, gardeners, housekeepers, nurses, and teachers, among others.

The WPS is designed to protect workers from the delayed payment (or non-payment) of salaries by requiring salaries to be transferred electronically through bank accounts, exchange offices and other financial institutions authorized by the UAE Central Bank. The WPS is currently mandatory for employers in the UAE mainland and in select free zones.

Bahrain

10 February 2022 – New Long-Term Residence Visa Scheme Launched

The Ministry of Interior in Bahrain has announced the launch of a Golden Residency Visa program for existing residents and foreign nationals seeking to live and work in Bahrain.

First [announced in October 2021](#), the program aims to attract and retain investors and highly talented individuals by offering a 10-year, renewable residence permit which guarantees the sponsorship of residence permits for immediate family members as well as the right to work in Bahrain (subject to obtaining a work authorization).

Golden Residency Visa Eligibility Conditions

To benefit from the Golden Residency Visa, applicants must meet any of the following eligibility criteria:

Existing Residents

- must have worked in Bahrain continuously for a minimum of five years with a monthly salary of not less than BHD 2,000; or
- must be retired in Bahrain, having lived in Bahrain for a minimum of five years with a monthly income of not less than BHD 2,000; or
- must own one or more properties in Bahrain with a total purchase value of no less than BHD 200,000; or
- must be recognized by the relevant government authority in Bahrain (including an accredited business incubator) for having exceptional skills or talent in academics, entrepreneurship, science, or sports, among other fields.

Prospective Residents

- must be retired with a minimum monthly income of BHD 4,000 or equivalent in another currency; or
- must own one or more properties in Bahrain with a total purchase value of no less than BHD 200,000; or
- must be recognized by the relevant government authority in Bahrain (including an accredited business incubator) for having exceptional skills or talent in academics, entrepreneurship, science, or sports, among other fields.

Holders of the new visa category must reside in Bahrain for a minimum of 90 days per year to ensure that the visa remains valid.

Foreign nationals can file their visa application electronically through the [e-Government Portal](#). Depending on the category of the applicant, the required supporting documentation includes copies of previous residence permit for Bahrain, certificate of good conduct, proof of retirement, salary certificate, valid health insurance, title deed, and bank statements.

Government fee for the issuance of the Golden Residency Visa is BHD 304.

Additional details relating to terms and conditions of the new visa category are expected to be published in the coming months.

ABOUT FRAGOMEN

Fragomen is the world's leading single-focus provider of immigration services and support. Our firm is comprised of law practices and immigration consultancies that work together to support our clients across all regions globally. At Fragomen, we leverage our collective immigration experience to offer clients targeted and trusted solutions that help them achieve their local, regional and worldwide business goals.

Fragomen's team of dedicated immigration professionals has extensive experience in working with multinational businesses, local employers, start-ups and individual investors. We have a

deep understanding of the region and maintain strong professional relationships with immigration authorities. Our MENA immigration team is supported on a global basis by over 3,800 immigration professionals in more than 50 offices worldwide. Together, we provide comprehensive immigration support in over 170 countries.

All we do is immigration, a sole focus that makes a considerable difference. Unlike many other providers, all of our thinking, passion and resources are dedicated to improving the immigration experiences of our clients and their employees. We have the track record, region specific experience and know-how to provide you with a streamlined and compliant immigration solution.

Visit our website www.fragomen.com or contact us at dubaiinfo@fragomen.com to learn more about our company and services.