

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2022



Bahrain

Bahrain introduces Golden Residence Permits

Executive summary

The Bahraini Government recently began issuing residence permits that are valid for up to 10 years, known as Golden Residence Permits. Holders of this permit still require a work authorization document to work in Bahrain.

Key issues

Eligible individuals may apply for a Golden Residence Permit without being sponsored by a Bahraini employer. The government processing fee is BHD 300 per applicant and each dependent. Successful applicants will be issued a permit that is valid for up to 10 years and can be extended for another 10-year period. Permit holders can sponsor qualifying dependent family members (e.g., spouses, children, parents) for dependent residence permits.

Golden Residence Permit holders must reside in Bahrain for at least 90 days per year to avoid having their permit canceled. They must also be covered by health insurance for the duration of their permit. Golden Residence Permit holders seeking to work in Bahrain must obtain a work authorization document prior to commencing work in Bahrain.

Eligibility criteria

The following categories of foreign nationals are eligible to apply for Golden Residence Permits:

- ▶ Foreign workers who have resided in Bahrain for at least five years and received an average basic monthly salary of BHD 2,000 or more during this period
- ▶ Individuals with specialized talents, as determined by the Bahraini authorities on a case-by-case basis
- ▶ Foreigners who own property in Bahrain that was worth at least BHD 200,000 at the time of purchase
- ▶ Retired foreigners (including those who never resided in Bahrain) who receive a monthly pension of at least BHD 4,000
- ▶ Retired foreigners who worked in Bahrain for at least 15 years and received a monthly pension of BHD 2,000 or more during the last five years that they resided in Bahrain

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, please contact any of our immigration professionals.

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EYG no. 001870-22Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

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