

# Iraq

Iraq launches new online Visit Visa application platform

#### **Executive summary**

In mid-March 2024, the new electronic platform for filing Visit Visas applications introduced by Iraq's Ministry of Interior went live. The new portal, which benefits business visitors, was initially scheduled to launch in mid-January but was delayed due to technical issues.

## Key developments

The new <u>platform</u> facilitates the submission of applications and supporting documents on behalf of foreign nationals sponsored by Iraqi companies and allows authorized representatives of eligible applicants to obtain Visit Visas for business purposes (e.g., to attend business meetings, conferences) electronically. In order to apply, authorized company or individual representatives are required to first register on the platform to gain access to the service. The fee for the e-visa is approximately IQD 106,000 (approx. USD 81), subject to variations based on the applicant's nationality. In the case of successful applications, authorized representatives will receive the e-visa via email in approximately two weeks (down from approximately four weeks previously), which they can then forward to the applicant. The foreign national must present the e-visa when entering Iraq. It is important to note that applicants themselves are not permitted to submit their own visa applications directly. Applicants must go through a local Iragi company or an authorized representative to facilitate the visa application process.

#### Impact on employers

The new electronic platform and reduced application processing time are expected to streamline the Visit Visa application process and benefit Iraqi organizations that sponsor the entry of foreign business visitors.

# Key steps

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



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