



Global Immigration alert

August 2024

Pakistan

Pakistan Prime Minister proposes significant amendments to visa rules

Executive summary

On 28 July 2024, the Prime Minister of Pakistan proposed a series of significant visa reforms, including visa fee waivers for eligible nationals of 126 countries and a visa-free policy for qualifying individuals from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. These changes will go into effect once they are officially approved by relevant authorities.

Key developments

If approved, the following changes will be implemented:

- ▶ Eligible businesspersons who are nationals of GCC countries will be able to enter Pakistan without a visa.
- ▶ Visa fees will be waived for qualifying businesspersons, investors and tourists from 126 countries when they submit their visa applications using the appropriate online portal. These individuals will also be issued visas within 24 hours of filing their application.

The authorities have not yet clarified the definition of “businesspersons,” and the full extent to which these changes will impact business visitors is not yet known. The authorities are expected to release further details about these changes in the upcoming months.

Impact

These changes, if approved, would benefit impacted individuals by reducing the time and costs associated with entry to Pakistan and seek to attract further foreign investment and trade in the country.

Key steps

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

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2024 Ernst & Young LLP.
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 007096-24Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

ey.com

Muhammad Awais

Partner - Tax

Tel: +92 42 111113937 (ext. 2115)

Email: muhammad.awais@pk.ey.com

Huma Malik

Manager - Law I Global Immigration

Tel: +92 527062018 (ext. 3117)

Email: huma.malik@pk.ey.com

Touqeer Ansari

Assistant Manager - Law I Global Immigration

Tel: +92 527062018 (ext. 3568)

Email: touqeer.ansari@pk.ey.com