



Global Immigration alert

September 2024

Brazil

Qualifying foreign students now eligible for residence authorization for work purposes

Executive summary

Effective 5 September 2024, foreign students who complete qualifying undergraduate or postgraduate studies in Brazil can apply for residence authorization for work purposes.

Key developments

Residence authorization for work purposes is now available to foreign students who:

- ▶ Are admitted to an undergraduate or postgraduate course at a Brazilian institute accredited by the Ministry of Education and complete more than 50% of the course at that institute
- ▶ Attend classes in person or using a hybrid model (i.e., a mix of attending classes in-person and virtually)
- ▶ Clear the course's final evaluation in person (if they attend classes using a hybrid model)
- ▶ Seek to reside in Brazil after completing their course

These individuals can apply for residence authorization for work purposes after they receive a certificate or diploma upon course completion. If they need to complete additional formalities based on their field of graduation or profession (e.g., registering with professional councils), they may still apply for and obtain residence authorization for work purposes once they receive a diploma or certificate. However, they can begin working only after completing all applicable formalities.

Foreign students participating in the federal government's Programa de Estudantes-Convênio de Graduação ([PEC-G](#), or

the Undergraduate Student-Agreement Program) and those attending the University of International Integration of Afro-Brazilian Lusophony (UNILAB) can apply for residence authorization for work purposes in Brazil only after completing all program requirements and returning to their country of origin.

Impact on employers

This change aims to facilitate the integration of qualified foreign nationals into the Brazilian job market and benefit employers by providing them further access to international talent.

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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