

Global Immigration alert

November 2025

Malawi

New policies regarding visa-free entry and visa application fees

Executive summary

Effective 21 November 2025, travelers who were previously eligible to enter Malawi without a visa (using only their valid passport) are required to obtain a Malawian visa prior to travel if their country of citizenship requires nationals of Malawi to obtain visas prior to entry. In addition, Malawian visa application fees are now determined on the basis of reciprocity with the applicant's country of citizenship.

Key developments

Nationals of countries that allow Malawian nationals to enter visa free may enter Malawi without a visa (using only their valid passport). All other travelers who previously benefited from Malawi's visa-free policy are now required to apply for a visa prior to travel unless their home country offers visa-free entry to nationals of Malawi.

In addition, visa application fees and entry requirements for all visa categories are now determined based on the fees and requirements imposed by applicants' home countries for nationals of Malawi. This means that if a country requires nationals of Malawi to meet certain entry requirements and pay certain fees for a visa, Malawi will apply similar entry requirements and fees reciprocally to nationals of that country. These changes are part of Malawi's broader fiscal and administrative reforms outlined in the 2025-2026 Mid-Year Budget Statement.

Impact on employers

Employers may update their internal policies and inform impacted employees about the new requirements to manage employee expectations and mitigate potential business disruptions.

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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