



**New regulations in migration proceedings in  
Guatemala**

# New regulations in migration proceedings in Guatemala



On 21 March 2019, Agreements 3-2019 and 4-2019 of the National Immigration Authority were published in the Official Gazette, which contain the regulatory provisions for Guatemalan visas and Guatemalan residence.

These provisions detail the specific requirements for obtaining visas and temporary or permanent residence, and they go into effect on 20 April 2019.

Following are some of the main requirements included in both Regulations:

- Tourists or travelers from category “C” countries must submit the original certification of their lack of criminal and police records from the country where they have legally resided on a continuous basis during the last five years; or if the country does not issue such a certification, they must submit a document indicating this situation.
  - In order for a Guatemalan to sponsor a foreigner who wishes to acquire immigrant status, the Guatemalan must previously register with the Sponsor
- Registry of the Guatemalan Immigration Institute, for which the National Immigration Authority will establish the respective regulation.
- Upon receiving notification of the resolution on the respective residence, the foreigners who will work as employees within the Guatemalan territory must present the work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare to the Guatemalan Immigration Institute within a maximum term of three months.
  - Among the requirements established for a temporary residence for immigrant workers, is the need to attach a job offer letter to the application, which establishes the conditions for the employment, such as the term, form of remuneration, and place of work, among others. The residence will be granted for up to a maximum of 5 years, according to the term indicated in the job offer made by the employer, or at the discretion of the immigration authorities.

- In the case of a temporary residence for investors, the regulations establish the requirement to indicate the economic activity that the person will be engaged in and their length of stay in the Guatemalan territory, as well as the need to present documentary evidence that the investment is greater than one hundred thousand dollars of the United States of America.
- To opt for a permanent residence, it is necessary to demonstrate that the foreigner has been a temporary resident for a period equal to or greater than five years.
- The temporary resident must submit the tax solvency document annually to the Office of Immigration Affairs in order to update their records. Failure to comply could result in a fine of two thousand quetzals.
- If the residence application is being processed, all foreigners that leave the country must obtain a single or multiple-entry visa that shall be valid for 90 days and is non-renewable.



## Our Team

At Deloitte, we have a team of experts in immigration matters. To learn more about these services, please contact us:



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