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THE GO TO ATTORNEYS SINCE 2003

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ECUADOR'S TOP RESIDENCY VISA OPTIONS

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Tourists

- Tourists can stay up to 90 days within a period of one year counted from the day of their first entry, extendable once for up to 90 additional days upon request and payment of the respective fee of \$133³³
- If a tourist exceeds these times, they will not be able to enter the country for a year counted from their departure. If they want to return earlier they must pay a fine equivalent to one basic salary (\$ 400) or obtain a consular visa.



Temporary Residency Visa for a period of 2 years

This visa will not be subject to the “out of the country” restrictions and will allow its holder multiple entrances to the country

- It can be renewed multiple times
- Applicants are authorized to carry out activities based on their visa type
- Dependents: spouse, partner in common law union and children

Temporary Residency Visa Categories

- Work Visa
- Rentista (based on a person's income)
- Retirement
- Investor
- Scientist, Investigator or Academic
- Athlete, Artist or Cultural Manager
- Religious or Religious Volunteer
- Volunteer
- Student
- Professional
- Government, NGO Cooperators, and Foreign Press Correspondents
- Residency by Treaty
- Dependents
- Asylees and Refugees
- Marine crew members

For Dependents of Persons Holding a Temporary Residency Visa

- Marriage Certificate
- Document showing the legalized common law union;
- Birth Certificates of children

Documents of foreign origin must be duly legalized or apostilled and translated into Spanish

Work Visa

- For applicants authorized to perform a remunerated activity under a contract in the public, private or autonomous sector.
- Registered Work contract
- Proof of enrollment with the IESS

Retirement Visa

- For applicants receiving retirement income from the exterior for a minimum of a basic monthly salary of Ecuador. SS Pensioner's, IRA, 401 k, State retirement plans or others.
- A current official proof of permanent income from Social Security or other pension plan stating the current amount of income you receive each month, APOSTILLED/legalized.

Investor

Your investment is Linked to Your Visa

- An investment for a minimum amount of \$40,000⁰⁰ invested in the following:
- A certificate of deposit for a minimum of 2 years
- A registered deed of ownership

Also, legal representatives, POA, commercial representatives of national or foreign companies, to carry out commercial, productive activities or develop business in Ecuador.



Rentista

(Based on a Person's Income)

- RENTAL INCOME VISA
- Document that certifies the applicant's licit income in the exterior or in Ecuador such as rental contracts, trusts, investments, annuities, etc.

Professional, Technical Professional, Technologist or Artisan

- Diploma; bachelor's degree or higher
- Register the degree or diploma in Ecuador at SENECYT (within 3 months after the visa's approval, but before obtaining the cedula)
- For Artisans: registration of their activity and validation before the National Board of Artisans
- Proof of economic solvency

Requirements to Register your University Degree

- A certified copy of the university degree
- The university transcripts
- A certificate from the university stating the modality of studies

Permanent Residency Visa Conditions

Who Can Apply?

- Persons who have completed at least 21 months of continuous stay with Temporary Residency in Ecuador
- The spouse or a common law partner of an Ecuadorian citizen or a permanent resident
- A relative within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity of an Ecuadorian citizen or a foreign citizen with permanent residence in Ecuador

A “dependent” does not lose the visa category if the principal dies or they get divorced

You can leave the country for 180 days per year in the first two years and up to 2 years beginning the third year

General Requirements for Temporary and Permanent Residency Visas

- Official document that supports the conditions for the visa you wish to apply;
- Documents proving economic solvency for the principal applicant and their dependents
- Government visa application fee
- *A national criminal report from the country of origin where you have resided the past 5 years;
- **Not having been convicted with a sentence for crimes such as murder, homicide, rape, kidnapping and others punished with imprisonment greater than five years.**

Citizenship

Who Can Apply?

Permanent Residents that have resided regularly and continuously for at least 3 years in Ecuador

Requirements:

- Apostille birth certificate
- Know the culture, history, geography and current reality of Ecuador (except those over 65 years of age or those who have obtained a university degree in Ecuador, the disabled or minors)
- Speak and write the Spanish language
- Possess legal economic means in the country
- Not have outstanding obligations with the Ecuadorian State



Naturalization by marriage or common law union

- Foreigner who has registered a marriage with an Ecuadorian two years prior to the request for citizenship.
- Foreigner who maintains a civil union registered for two years with an Ecuadorian
- The procedure takes 90 days.

Requirements

- The foreigner must prove resident status in Ecuador under any of the Resident Visa category
- Apostilled/legalized birth certificate or other
- Marriage certificate or Civil Union registered in the Civil Registry of Ecuador
- State in an interview the reasons why you want to acquire Ecuadorian nationality



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