



UAE

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Establish a UAE business and secure eligible investor, partner or employment residence status.

XIPHIAS Immigration | Residency - Citizenship & Corporate Services



About UAE Corporate Immigration

The UAE permits foreign investors to establish mainland or free-zone companies under emirate and licensing rules. Many activities allow full foreign ownership, while regulated sectors require additional approvals.

After licensing, eligible owners, partners and employees may complete residence, medical fitness and Emirates ID procedures. Visa type, duration, cost and processing vary by applicant, authority and emirate.

Eligibility

- Select permitted business activity and legal form
- Obtain trade-name reservation and initial approval
- Secure premises where authority requires them
- Complete incorporation, licensing and ownership documentation
- Meet residence, medical fitness and Emirates ID requirements
- Obtain sector-specific approvals for regulated activities

Program Overview

	Program Type Company Setup and Residence		Minimum investment Varies by Authority and Activity
	Processing Time Varies by Authority and Activity		Physical Presence Required Medical and ID Procedures

Costs, capital, office, licensing and visa requirements vary by activity, legal structure, authority, emirate and residence category selected.

Key Benefits

- Full foreign ownership in many mainland activities
- 100% ownership in free zones
- Choice of mainland and sector-specific free-zone structures
- Renewable five-year Green Residence for eligible investors
- Long-term Golden Residence options for qualifying investors
- Family sponsorship subject to eligibility rules



Mainland, Free Zone and Residence Options

UAE business formation involves selecting a mainland or free-zone structure, obtaining the appropriate licence, and completing immigration procedures for eligible investors, partners, owners, employees and eligible family members.

- Mainland companies: Licensed by the economic authority, with full foreign ownership available for many activities; regulated sectors may need approvals.
- Free-zone companies: Formed under the selected zone's rules. Legal forms, capital, premises, activities and visa allocations vary between authorities.
- Licensing: Select the activity and legal form, reserve the trade name, obtain initial approval, prepare documents and secure premises.
- Green Residence: Investors and business partners may obtain renewable five-year self-sponsored residence with proof of investment, licences and approvals.
- Golden Residence: Qualifying investors may receive five- or ten-year residence; public-investment and real-estate categories require AED 2 million.
- Corporate tax: Taxable income up to AED 375,000 is taxed at 0%; excess at 9%. Free-zone rates depend on eligibility conditions.

Process

- 1 Business Structure**
Choose mainland or free-zone formation by activity, market access and regulatory requirements.
- 2 Licensing Plan**
Select the legal form, reserve the trade name and obtain initial approval.
- 3 Company Documents**
Prepare incorporation documents, secure premises and obtain sector-specific government approvals where required.
- 4 Trade Licence**
Submit the authority application, pay applicable fees and receive the business licence.
- 5 Immigration File**
Open establishment and immigration records, then arrange eligible owner or employee permits.
- 6 Residence Formalities**
Complete status adjustment or entry, medical fitness, biometrics and Emirates ID procedures.
- 7 Ongoing Compliance**
Maintain licences, tax registrations, employment records, immigration status and timely renewals thereafter.

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and own your place in the world.
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