



*Attorneys at Law*

THE GO TO ATTORNEYS SINCE 2003

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# ECUADOR'S TOP RESIDENCY VISA OPTIONS

# 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 \$133<sup>33</sup>
- 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.



## **Visa for commerce and other activities**

The requirements of this visa will be determined in the pending regulations of this Law.

- It is meant for foreigners who enter Ecuador to carry out business and commercial, administrative or judicial procedures;
- other activities that can qualify for this visa are sports activities, volunteering, studying, academic purposes, or others in the field of science, technology, innovation, art and culture.
- The term of this visa will be up to 180 days and may be granted only once each chronological year counted from the date of its issuance.

# 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 \$40,000<sup>00</sup> 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 SENEKYT (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
- For PHD: a digital copy of your thesis in editable format
- For diplomas related to the medical field the requirements are extensive

# Permanent Residency Visa Conditions

## Who Can Apply?

- Persons who have completed at least 21 months of continuous stay with Temporary Residency in Ecuador
- Persons that marry an Ecuadorian citizen or maintain a legal common law union with an Ecuadorian citizen: registered Marriage/Common law (A “dependent” does not lose the visa category if the principal dies or they get divorced)
- Foreign minors or persons with a disability who depend on an Ecuadorian citizen or a foreigner who has permanent residence
- A relative within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity of an Ecuadorian citizen or a foreign citizen with permanent residence in Ecuador
- 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;
- Valid passport
- Documents proving economic solvency for the principal applicant and their dependents
- Government visa application fee (\$450 and \$550 government fee) dependents pay \$250 and senior citizens pay half price
- And the rest of documents that the pending Application of the Law will determine. \*A national criminal report from the country of origin where you have resided the past 5 years; in the U.S. this is the **FBI report, and a State Police Report** (for U.S. citizens)
- **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:

- Be over 18 years of age or have the consent of parents or legal guardians for minors
- 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
- State in an interview the reasons why they want to acquire Ecuadorian nationality.
- Possess legal economic means in the country
- Not have outstanding obligations with the Ecuadorian State

The naturalization letter is requested and processed in Ecuadorian territory



# Naturalization by marriage or common law union

- Foreigner who is domiciled in Ecuador and who married an Ecuadorian in Ecuador for two years or who, having married abroad, has registered the marriage in Ecuador at least two years before.
- Foreigner who is domiciled in Ecuador and 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
- No pending obligations with the Ecuadorian State

\*All those who have obtained Ecuadorian nationality must obtain the cedula within a maximum period of 45 days from the date they receive their naturalization card.

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