The Portugal Office
RESIDENCY & RELOCATION ADVISORY

VISA GUIDE

Portugal D1 Work Visa

A guide to the requirements, the process and how we can help.

BEST FOR	KEY DOCUMENT	SALARY
People with a job offer in Portugal	Employment contract	At least €920 a month

At a glance

Who it's for	People taking up paid employment with a Portuguese employer
Key document	A signed employment contract, or a binding promise of one, from a registered Portuguese employer
Salary	In line with Portuguese labour law, so at least the minimum wage of €920 a month (2026)
Savings	No fixed amount: your salary is your proof of means. Extra savings help if your salary is near the minimum or family is joining
Residence permit	Issued for two years, then renewable for three, as long as you keep working

Is the D1 the right route? The D1 rests on a job with a Portuguese employer. Without a contract or a promise of one, you can't apply. If you'll keep working remotely for an employer or clients outside Portugal, the D8 is the route. If you're setting up your own business in Portugal, look at the D2, and if you'll live on a pension or other passive income, the D7.

Key requirements

Figures are for 2026. They're linked to Portugal's minimum wage (€920 a month in 2026), which changes each January. The Government has proposed €970 for 2027, which would raise them.

REQUIREMENT	WHAT'S NEEDED
Employment contract	A written contract, or a binding written promise of one, stating the role, place of work, duration and salary. There's no minimum contract length, but a longer contract makes a stronger application.
The employer	A registered Portuguese company, sole trader or institution. Some consulates ask for proof the employer is in good standing with the tax and social security authorities.
Qualifications	No formal qualifications are required for the visa itself. If the job is a regulated profession, you'll need apostilled and translated proof of your qualifications.
Means of support	Your salary, at least €920 a month. Offers close to the minimum wage get closer scrutiny, especially if family is joining.
Tax number and banking	A Portuguese tax number (NIF) and, in most cases, a Portuguese bank account. Wise and Revolut are usually not accepted where a Portuguese account is required.
Accommodation	Normally a signed 12-month lease, property deeds or a notarised statement from a host. Short holiday lets are rarely accepted.
Criminal record certificates	From your country of nationality and from any country you've lived in for a year or more, apostilled or legalised as required. British citizens need an ACRO police certificate apostilled by the FCDO. Certificates are usually expected to be issued within the last 90 days.
Insurance	Travel insurance with at least €30,000 of medical and repatriation cover.
Passport	Valid well beyond your planned stay, with at least two blank pages.

How the process works

1. **Confirm your route**
   We check your job offer meets the D1 requirements and give you a personalised document checklist.
2. **Contract and employer documents**
   Make sure your contract or promise of contract contains everything the consulate needs, and gather any employer documents.
3. **Tax number, bank and accommodation**
   Get your NIF, open a Portuguese bank account if needed, and secure accommodation.
4. **Qualifications and certificates**
   Apostille and translate any qualifications needed, and request your criminal record certificates, timed for your appointment.

5 **Full verification by us**
We check every requirement and document against the current rules. Once everything is verified, we accept the application and book your consulate appointment.

6 **Consulate application**
You apply at the Portuguese consulate or visa centre covering the country where you legally live. Time your criminal record certificates so they're still valid at the appointment. The decision can take up to around two months.

7 **Move and residence permit**
The visa is valid for four months. During that time you travel to Portugal and attend your residence appointment with AIMA, the immigration agency.

> **Bringing family.** Family members can apply with you or join you later. Since 22 April 2026, family joining later has generally required the main applicant to have held a residence permit for two years first. There are exceptions: minor children and a spouse you share children with aren't subject to the wait, and a partner you lived with for 18 months or more before the move can join after 15 months. If family may follow you, plan for it from the start.

Where applications go wrong

Most refusals and delays aren't about eligibility. They're about evidence. These are the issues we check for:

- A contract that doesn't clearly state the role, place of work, duration or salary
- A salary close to the minimum wage with no extra means shown, especially with family joining
- A regulated profession without recognised, apostilled qualifications
- Accommodation that isn't properly documented
- A criminal record certificate that has expired by the appointment, or is missing its apostille

Our service and fee

OUR SERVICE

€1,195

One fixed fee, backed by our money-back guarantee.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A consultation to confirm your route
- A personalised document checklist
- A full check and verification of every requirement and document
- Booking your consulate appointment once verified
- Guidance through to your AIMA residence appointment

Not included (paid to third parties)

Consulate visa fee · AIMA residence permit fees · criminal record certificates and their apostilles or legalisation · translations where required · insurance · travel and accommodation.

Our money-back guarantee

How it works

- If your application doesn't pass our verification before the appointment is booked, we refund your fee in full.
- If we've verified and accepted your application and the consulate refuses the visa, we refund our fee in full.

What isn't covered

- Documents that were missing, incorrect, expired, or changed after we verified them
- Inaccurate information, or changes in your circumstances that weren't disclosed
- Changes to immigration rules after verification
- Missed or cancelled appointments, or a withdrawn application
- Third-party costs

Claims are made within 30 days of the consulate's decision. We respond within 14 days and refund within 30 days of the claim being settled. Full terms are on our website and don't affect your statutory rights.

Next steps

Check your eligibility: our free two-minute assessment at theportugaloffice.com tells you which route fits and what you'd need.

Talk to us: book a free consultation, email info@theportugaloffice.com or call +351 960 429 371.

This guide gives general information based on published requirements as of November 2026. It isn't legal advice. Requirements can vary between consulates and can change, and the consulate makes the final decision on every application.