

## MIGRATORY REGIME

Types of Colombian visas and entry and residence permits, migratory process in Colombia and related entities.

Bogotá has different foreign colonies, is a cosmopolitan and diverse city with more than 27 recognized international schools<sup>6</sup>.

## Restricted and Non-Restricted Nationalities

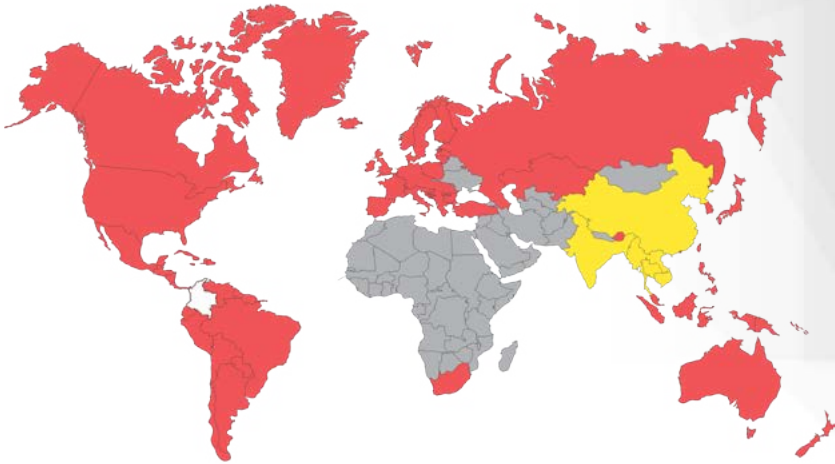
As of the date of publication of this guide, the restricted countries whose citizens require a visa to enter Colombia are:

Albania	Malí
Algeria	Morocco
Armenia	Mauricio
Bahrain	Mauritania
Benin	Moldova
Belarus	Mongolia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro
Botswana	Namibia
Burkina Faso	Nauru
Burundi	Nepal
Cape Verde	Nicaragua
Cameroon	Niger
Chad	Oman
Comoros	Qatar
Congo	Central African Republic
Ivory Coast	Rwanda
Egypt	Sao Tome and Principe
Eritrea	Senegal
Ethiopia	Serbia
Gabon	Seychelles
Gambia	Swaziland
Ghana	Thailand
Guinea	Tanzania
Guinea-Bissau	Tajikistan
Equatorial Guinea	East Timor
Haiti	Togo
India	Tonga
Kenya	Tunisia
Kyrgyzstan	Turkmenistan
Kiribati	Tuvalu
Kosovo	Ukraine
Kuwait	Uzbekistan
Lesotho	Vanuatu
Macedonia	Vietnam
Madagascar	Zambia
Malawi	Zimbabwe
Maldives	

Citizens from Cambodia, India, Myanmar, China, Thailand and Vietnam may be granted a temporary entry and residence permit without visa, insofar as they certify one of the following conditions:

- Hold a residence permit in a member state of the Schengen Area or the United States of America
- Hold a Schengen visa or United States of America visa with a minimum validity of one hundred and eighty (180) day at the time of entering the national territory





- Sin restricción
- Requieren permiso temporal de ingreso y permanencia
- Requieren VISA

**BOGOTÁ**

## Types of Colombian Visas and Entry and Residence Permits

### Entry and residence permits (PIP as per its acronym in Spanish)

When the foreigner's visit is for a short period of time (for 90 days, extendable for other 90 days, 180 days a year as a maximum) and their nationality is not restricted, or they wish to apply for a visa in Colombia, they may enter the country using an Entry and Residence Permit (PIP). There are various types of permits including the following:

- PIP-5: Tourism
- PIP-6: Academic, scientific, artistic, cultural and sports events, interviews, meetings, trainings, and commercial or business arrangements or networking
- PIP-10: European nationality, allows temporary visitor activities

### Types of Colombian visas

In case that the foreigner's activities involve frequent entries and/or a longer stay than a temporary visitor and/or requires a foreigner's ID card and/or carries out activities other than those authorized by the permits mentioned above, the foreigner shall request the appropriate visa.

Considering that there are many reasons that motivate foreigners to visit the country,

Colombia has various types of visas, classified according to the needs of foreign visitors. Each visa application requires a prior review by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or its Consulates abroad. For the review of a visa application, the foreigner must submit the required documentation for the relevant visa and pay US \$52 for such review.

The types of Colombian visas are:

- Business visa
- Temporary visa
- Resident visa
- Beneficiary visa

## Business Visas (NE):

### NE-1

Commercial and business arrangements, promotion of economic exchange, investment and creation of companies.

- Validity: Up to 3 years
- Fee: USD 379\*

### NE-2

Businesspersons in the framework of current international instruments such as treaties, agreements, partnerships.

- Validity: 2 years
- Fee: USD 224\*

### NE-3

Head or representative of a foreign commercial office of governmental nature or whoever acts as such for the promotion of economic or commercial exchange in or with Colombia.

- Validity: Up to 4 years
- Fee: USD 275\*

### NE-4

President or senior manager of a multinational company for making investments and creating companies

- Validity: Up to 5 years
- Fee: USD 275\*

## Resident Visas (RE):

### Resident Visa (RE):

Investors who have registered their foreign investment with the Central Bank for an amount greater than 650 SMMLV. Foreign parent of a Colombian citizen.

- Validity: 5 years
- Fee: USD 391\*

## Temporary Visas (TP):

### TP-3

Visa for students

- Validity: Same as the length of enrollment in the educational institution
- Fee: USD 51

### TP-4

Visa for workers with an employment contract or service agreement with a Colombian company

- Validity: Same as the contract, 3 years as a maximum
- Fee: USD 252

### TP-7

Visa for partners / owners of business establishments with subscribed capital in their name equal to or greater than 100 SMMLV

- Validity: 1 year
- Fee: USD 211

### TP-10

Visas for spouse or de facto partner of a Colombian citizen

- Validity: 3 years
- Fee: USD 211

### TP-15

Mercosur visa granted to citizens whose countries have signed the Mercosur agreement.

- Validity: 2 years
- Fee: USD 211

## Beneficiary Visas (BE):

### Beneficiary Visa (BE):

The beneficiary visa may be requested for relatives of holders of the following visas: NE-2, NE-3, NE-4, TP-3, TP-4, TP-5, TP-7, TP-9, TP-15, RE

- Validity: Same as the holder's
- Fee: Same as the holder's

### Relatives that may apply for the beneficiary visa:

- Children under 25 years old that depend economically on their parents
- Parents
- Spouse or de facto partner
- Children over 25 years old that cannot fend for themselves

## Steps for the Migratory Process

- 1 Apply for the visa.

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- 2 Register your visa and obtain your foreigner's ID card at Migración Colombia.

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- 3 If your profession is regulated, obtain a professional permit from competent councils.

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- 4 The company must report the start of operations to Migración Colombia within the legal term.

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Foreigners have three different options for requesting their Colombian visa:

- Outside Colombia in a Colombian consulate (mandatory in case of restricted nationalities)
- Through the virtual platform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Directly at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

General requirements for the visa application:

- Passport with validity of 180 days and two blank pages as a minimum
- Online visa application form
- 3x4 cm color photo with white background
- Regular stay when the visa is requested from Colombia
- Meet specific requirements for each visa category

## Main Migratory Surveillance and Control Entities

The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main migratory surveillance and control body. However, the Special Administrative Unit Migración Colombia attached to it works in turn with professional councils and the Ministry of Education.

The duties they perform regarding surveillance and control are:

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- Issue Colombian visas
- Process customs clearance

### Special Administrative Unit Migración Colombia:

- Exert migratory control in Colombian borders and ports of entry into the country
- Issue entry and stay permits
- Issue foreigner's ID card
- Sanctioning processes

### Professional Councils:

- Issue temporary permits and licenses

- Issue professional registrations
- Control the exercise of professions in Colombia

### Ministry of Education:

- Validate professional degrees

**NOTE:** From November 1, 2017, Resolution 6045 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on August 2, 2017, which modifies the types of visas, will enter into force. The main changes are:

### Types of visas

Three visa categories are established to carry out the following activities:

1. Visitor Visa or V type visa is granted to foreigners who wish to visit once or several times the national territory, or stay temporarily without settling, for transit, tourism, business visits, academic exchange or non-formal studies, medical treatment, court procedures, crewmen, conferences, internship, volunteering, audiovisual production, journalistic coverage, provision of temporary services, intra-corporate transfer, official or trade representative of a foreign government, vacation-work program and courtesy. Migrant Visa or M type visa is granted to foreigners who intend to settle in the country and do not meet the conditions to apply for an R type visa. It is granted to: spouse of a Colombian, parent of a Colombian by adoption, Mercosur, refugees, workers, partners of trading companies, freelancers, members of a religious order, students, investors in properties, pensioners, and cases not provided.
2. 3. Resident Visa or R type visa is granted to foreigners who wish to settle permanently or domicile in the country and meet the conditions for it. It is granted to those who renounce their Colombian nationality, parents of a Colombian citizen, holders for two continuous and uninterrupted years of an M visa in the capacity of Colombian spouse, parents of a Colombian by adoption or Mercosur, those who stay for five (5) continuous and uninterrupted years with an M visa in the capacity of refugee, worker, partner of trading company, freelance, member of a religious order, student, investor in property or pensioner, beneficiary holders of an R type visa, and investors in large amounts.

**From the different visa categories, we highlight the following:**

Visitor Visa (V)	Migrant Visa (M)
<p><b>Business visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: 180 days</li> <li>• Work permit: NO</li> </ul> <p>Business arrangements, market studies, direct investment plans or procedures and incorporation of trading companies, negotiation and execution of contracts, or business representation.</p> <p><b>Internships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: Up to 2 years</li> <li>• Work permit: YES, for the authorized activity</li> </ul> <p>To do an internship.</p> <p><b>Provision of temporary services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: Up to 2 years</li> <li>• Work permit: YES, for the authorized activity</li> </ul> <p>To provide temporary services to an individual or legal entity in Colombia.</p> <p><b>Intra-corporate transfer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: Up to 2 years</li> <li>• Work permit: YES, for the authorized activity</li> </ul> <p>To hold a position in Colombia in a company with operations abroad due to an intra-corporate transfer of personnel.</p>	<p><b>Spouse and MERCOSUR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: 3 years</li> <li>• Work permit: YES</li> </ul> <p>Spouse or partners of a Colombian citizen or a citizen of a Mercosur state or associates.</p> <p><b>Worker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: Same as the contract, 3 years as a maximum</li> <li>• Work permit: YES</li> </ul> <p>To have a permanent or long-term job in Colombia under an employment contract or service agreement with a person domiciled in Colombia.</p> <p><b>Investor in property</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: 3 years</li> <li>• Work permit: NO</li> </ul> <p>To register direct foreign investment in Colombia intended for a property in an amount of no less than three hundred and fifty (350) SMMLV.</p> <p><b>Resident</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validity: 5 years</li> <li>• Work permit: YES</li> </ul> <p>To settle permanently or establish its domicile in the country.</p>

**Common requirements to all types of visas**

- Any visa application should be filed by completing the visa application form electronically on the platform provided by the Chancellery.
- Passport, current travel document, with a copy, in good condition and with blank pages for a visa. The regulation mentions a specific validity requirement of 180 days or two (2) blank pages.
- Copy of the document that, according to the migratory regulations of the country in which the foreigner is applying for a visa, certifies legal, regular or authorized stay.

The visa authority may verify online the criminal record of the visa applicant on the National

Police database and other databases to which it may have access. It may also request submission of the criminal record in their country of origin.

The documents submitted as support and requirements for visa application other than identification documents shall have an issue date of no longer than three months. However, the visa authority may justify acceptance of older documents.

Visa registration with the Migración Colombia office should be electronically by completing a form that is a prerequisite for Foreigner's ID

application.

The registration and control obligations to Migración Colombia remain as well as the permit for exercising regulated professions.

## **Applicable Regulatory Framework and Links to Relevant Entities**

- Decree 1067 of 2015 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE as per its acronym in Spanish)
- Resolution 5512 of 2015 by the MRE
- Resolution 1112 of 2013 by the Special Administrative Unit Migración Colombia (UAEMC as per its acronym in Spanish)
- Resolution 714 of 2015 by the UAEMC
- Resolution 1743 of 2015 by the MRE
- Resolution 439 of 2016 by the MRE
- Resolution 1241 of 2015 by the UAEMC
- Decree 2235 of 2015 by the MRE
- Resolution 5370 of 2015 by the MRE
- Decree 019 of 2012 by the National Government

### **Links:**

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visa application: <http://www.cancilleria.gov.co>
- Special Administrative Unit Migración Colombia: [www.migracioncolombia.gov.co](http://www.migracioncolombia.gov.co)
- Ministry of National Education, diploma validation: <http://www.mineduccion.gov.co>
- National Accreditation Council, review of regulated professions: <http://www.cna.gov.co/>
- National Professional Engineering Council (COPNIA as per its acronym in Spanish): <https://copnia.gov.co/>

