

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
THE CABINET**

Cabinet Decision No. (56) for the year 2018 regarding
for organizing residence permits for investors,
entrepreneurs & specialized talents

Council of Ministers

- After reviewing the Constitution.
- Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners and its amendments.
- Federal Law Decree No. 2 of 2004, establishing the Federal Authority for Identity, Nationality and its amendments.
- Upon the approval of the Council of Ministers.

It is decided

**Article (1)
Definitions**

In implementing the provisions of this resolution, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each of them unless the context otherwise requires:

The country	:	The United Arab Emirates
The authority	:	The Federal Authority for Identity and Nationality.
The competent authority	:	Any of the federal or local authorities in the UAE.
Foreigner	:	Any natural person who does not possess the nationality of the UAE
Investor	:	A foreigner who spends his capital for financial gain or return, in accordance with the rules referred to in this resolution.
Entrepreneur	:	An foreigner who has an economic project of a technical or futuristic nature based on risk and innovation, in accordance with the rules referred to in this resolution.
Person with special talent	:	Foreigner who has the superiority, skill, leadership, performance, and talent in any field of science and knowledge, in accordance with the rules referred to in this Resolution.

**Article (2)
Validity of the Decision**

The provisions of this resolution shall apply to a foreigner from the following categories:

1. Investor
2. Entrepreneurs

3. Persons with specialized talents and researchers in various fields of science and knowledge.
4. Outstanding students with promising academic abilities.

Article (3)
Residence Permit for Investor

The Authority may grant the Investor and members of his / her family consisting of the husband / wife and children, residence permits for the periods specified below renewable, and without the need for a guarantor in UAE when the rules and regulations specified in this resolution are met.

Article (4)
Rules and Regulations of Residence Permit for the Investor

1.	A residence permit for the investor in public investments is required to fulfil one of the following conditions:
a.	Should have a deposit of not less than 10 million dirhams in an investment fund in UAE
b.	Or establish a company in the UAE with a capital of not less than 10 million dirhams or be a partner in an existing or new company with a financial share of not less than 10 million dirhams.
c.	Or should have investments in UAE with a total value of not less than 10 million dirhams (provided that not less than 60% of the total investment in non-real estate)
2.	To grant a residence permit to an investor in a property, the investment in one or more properties with a total value of the real estate asset should not be less than 5 million dirhams.
3.	In addition to the above conditions, it is necessary to fulfil the followings:
a.	The amount invested shall be wholly owned by the investor and not a loan and shall provide proof thereof.
b.	To remain an investor for at least 3 years from the date of issuance of residence permit.
c.	The financial liability of the investor shall not be burdened with claims or civil judgments that will reduce the financial solvency of not less than 10 million dirhams.
d.	To provide a comprehensive health insurance document for him and his family throughout his stay in the UAE.
4.	The duration of the residence permit for the investor in public investments is 10 years and for the investor in the property 5 years automatically renewable on condition that the fees are paid and the requirements determined by the Authority are fulfilled.
5.	The investor can obtain a visa for not more than 3 assistant workers according to the size of the family and in accordance with the legislation governing it.
6.	The investor from outside the UAE is granted a six month multiple entry visa to the UAE renewable for another period of six months to facilitate the completion of the procedures for establishing his / her project in accordance with the conditions and regulations applicable to the Authority for issuance of entry permits.

Article (5)

Conditions and regulations for issuance of residence permit for senior employees of the investor

An investor who establishes a company in the UAE can apply for a residence permit for one of the senior employees of the company who is working on the position of executive director or consultant and their family members for a period of 10 years without the need for a guarantor within the UAE if he fulfils the following conditions:

1. Be committed to work with the foreign investor facility for the duration of the residence permit.
2. To provide a comprehensive health insurance document for him and his family throughout his stay in the UAE.
3. Obtain the approval of the Committee concerned.

Article (6)

Rules for issuance of residence permit for entrepreneurs

a.	The Authority shall grant the entrepreneur, members of his family consisting of the husband or wife and the children, a renewable residence permits for a period of five (5) years, without the need for a guarantor within the State if he meets the following conditions:	
	1.	Owning a successful previous project of AED 500 thousand minimum in an approved area approved by the committee.
	2.	Or to be approved by a business incubator accredited by the Authority in UAE to establish the proposed activity in the UAE
	3.	To provide a comprehensive health insurance document for him and his family throughout his stay in the UAE
b.	The Authority is granted residence permits for a period of 5 years renewable for 3 executive managers who work for the entrepreneur according to the following conditions	
	1.	Be committed to working with the entrepreneur throughout the validity of the residence permit
	2.	To provide a comprehensive health insurance document for him and his family throughout his stay in the UAE
	3.	Approval of the Committee concerned
c.	The entrepreneur shall obtain a visa for a number of auxiliary workers in accordance with the applicable legislation.	
d.	The Entrepreneur shall be granted a multi-entry entry visa to the UAE for a period of six months, to facilitate the completion of the procedures of establishing his project in accordance with the conditions and controls in place for the Authority to issue entry permits.	

Article (7)
Issuing residence permit for specialized talents and researchers in various fields of science and knowledge

The Authority shall grant the specialized talented persons and researchers in any fields of science and knowledge, members of his family consisting of husband and wife, and children, residence permits for 10 years renewable, without the need for a guarantor within the UAE if he meets the conditions set out below

Article (8)
Specialists and researchers in various fields of science and knowledge and Rules for their residence permits

The Authority has the right to grant residence permits to specialized talents and researchers in the various fields of science and knowledge according to the conditions described below for the following categories:

1.	<p>Doctors and specialists In order to grant a residence permit for doctors and specialists, it is required to meet at least two of the following conditions:</p>
a.	Holding a doctorate degree from one of the top 500 universities in the world accredited by the Ministry of Education.
b.	Should be awarded an award or certificates of appreciation for the work in the applicant's field of specialization.
c.	To be involved in conducting major research of an academic or practical nature related to the applicant's field of work.
d.	Academic books or articles published in a distinguished publications in the field of work of the applicant.
e.	To be a member of an organization related to the applicant's field of work that requires an outstanding work for membership.
f.	Must have achieved at least a high academic achievement of not less than a doctorate degree in addition to practical experience of not less than 10 years in the field of work of the applicant.
g.	To be specialized in scientific fields required and of importance to the UAE
2.	<p>Scientists To grant a residence permit to scientists, one of the following conditions is required to be fulfilled</p>
a.	To be accredited by the Emirates Council of Scholars
b.	Or have won the Mohammed bin Rashid Medal for Scientific Excellence
3.	<p>Creators of culture and art In order to grant a residence permit to the creators of culture and art, he should be accredited by the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development.</p>
4.	<p>Inventors In order to issue a residence permit for the inventor, it is required to obtain a value added patent to the economy of the UAE with the approval of the Ministry of Economy.</p>

5. Elite Persons	A residence permit is granted to persons with distinctive intellectual skills, documented by patents or scientific research published in world-class journals.
6. Executives	To grant a residence permit to the Executive Director, it is necessary to meet the following conditions.
a.	The academic qualifications should not be less than a bachelor's degree or its equivalent.
b.	He should have working experience of not less than five years.
c.	His monthly salary should not be less than AED 30,000
d.	He should have a valid employment contract in UAE.
e.	He should have a comprehensive health insurance policy for him and his family members throughout his stay in the UAE.
7. Specialists in priority areas of education	To grant a residence permit to specialists in the educational fields, it is required to meet the following conditions :
a.	He should be a specialist in one of the rare fields or specializations of priority for the UAE as determined by the concerned committee.
b.	He should provide a comprehensive health insurance document for him and his family members for the duration of his stay in UAE.
c.	Approval of the concerned Committee.
The above mentioned categories may obtain an entry visa to the UAE for a period of six months, in accordance with the conditions and regulations of the Authority for issuance of entry permits. They may also obtain a visa for (one) auxiliary worker in accordance with the applicable legislation.	

Article (9)

Regulations for issuance of residence permit for outstanding students having promising academic skills

The Authority may grant an outstanding student possessing the most promising academic abilities, a residence permit for himself and his family members for a period of five (5) years, renewable without the need for a guarantor within the UAE if he fulfils the following conditions:	
1.	The student must have obtained the grade of excellence or at least 95% average in the senior secondary certificate or equivalent, provided that the certificate is approved by the competent authority in the country.
2.	Or that the student is enrolled in any of the universities accredited in the country and should obtained the cumulative average not less than (3.75) or its equivalent, in any academic disciplines specified by the Commission in coordination with the competent authority.
3.	Approval of the competent committee.
4.	Provide proof of registration at an accredited university or institute in the country.
5.	To provide a comprehensive health insurance document for him and his family members for the duration of his stay in the UAE.

6.	An outstanding student possessing most promising academic abilities, could be granted six months multi-entry visa to UAE, to facilitate the completion of registration procedures in accordance with the conditions and regulations in place for the Authority to issue entry permits.
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Article (10)
General Provisions

1.	The Authority may take the necessary measures to ensure that the persons covered by the provisions of this Resolution continue to meet the conditions referred to therein, during the validity of the residence permit.
2.	The provisions of the executive regulations of Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners and its amendments, and the resolutions and regulations in force in the UAE, shall be applicable, in the absence of a specific provision in the present resolution.
3.	Upon a decision of the Chairman of the Commission, two committees for the implementation of this resolution are formed, as follows:
a.	The Investor Committee shall be headed by a representative of the Authority and shall be competent to study applications for residence permits for investors referred to it by the Commission.
b.	The Committee of Entrepreneurs and specialized talents shall be chaired by the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers. It shall be competent to study the applications of the entrepreneurs and the specialized talents assigned to it by the Authority and to express its views.
c.	The chairman of both the Committees shall propose the Committee members the mechanism of its meetings and shall submitted it to the Chair for adoption.
d.	The two Committees shall submit their recommendations to the Commission
4.	The terms and conditions set out in this resolution shall not prejudice any requirements, conditions or relevant documents applicable to the Authority in respect of the issuance of visas and residence to foreigners in the United Arab Emirates;
5.	Any provision contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution shall be repealed.

Article (11)

The Chairman of the Commission shall issue the necessary decisions to implement the provisions of this Resolution.

Article (12)

This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into effect on the 3rd of February 2019.