

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Lithuania

Blue Card and Temporary Residence Permit applications can now be submitted in the applicant's home country

Executive summary

Eligible third-country nationals can now apply for Lithuanian Blue Cards and Temporary Residence Permits (TRPs) in their home country or country of residence and travel to Lithuania using only the Blue Card or TRP, without a visa. Previously, they were required to travel to Lithuania to apply for a Blue Card or TRP and obtain a visa prior to travel.

Background

Blue Cards are available to highly qualified third-country nationals (i.e., nationals of countries located outside the EU and EEA) and enable them to work and reside in Lithuania for an initial period of up to three years (which may be extended at the discretion of the authorities). TRPs are issued to eligible third-country nationals and also enable them to work and reside in Lithuania for an initial period of up to two years (which may be extended at the discretion of the authorities).

In August 2022, the Lithuanian authorities implemented several changes to the Blue Card and TRP application requirements. Among other changes, Blue Card applicants: (a) are no longer required to undergo a labor market test prior to filing their application; (b) must earn a minimum monthly salary of EUR 1895 at the time of filing their application (down from EUR 2379 previously) if they work in [specific professions](#) (the monthly salary requirement for other applicants remained unchanged at EUR 2379); and (c) can work for two or more employers simultaneously provided they continue to work with the original sponsoring company.

Similarly, effective 1 August 2022, TRP applicants must fulfil one of the following conditions as opposed to all three: (a) they must possess the qualifications required for the job; (b) they must have at least one year of professional experience in the three years prior to filing their TRP application; or (c) they must earn a monthly salary that equals or exceeds the national average gross monthly salary published in the previous year (in 2023, that salary is EUR 1799 per month). In addition, the immigration authorities are now processing TRP applications within three months of the date of filing (down from four months previously) and fast-track applications within one and a half months (down from two months previously).

Key developments

Effective 1 January 2023, individuals who seek to apply for Blue Cards or TRPs may submit their applications, documents and biometric data at an authorized agent of the Lithuanian authorities in their home country or country of residence. The agent then forwards the application to the immigration authorities in Lithuania, which review and approve the application and send the Blue Card or TRP to the agent with whom the application is filed. Successful applicants may collect their Blue Card or TRP from the agent and use their document to travel to Lithuania.

Previously, applicants were required to obtain a National D or Schengen Visa from an authorized agent of the Lithuanian authorities in their home country or country of residence prior to travel, and they could only apply for Blue Cards or TRPs after arriving in Lithuania.

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to benefit employers by facilitating the process of attracting foreign talent, reducing application processing times and enabling more flexible workforce planning.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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