



Global Immigration alert

November 2024

Lithuania

Stricter conditions for individuals applying for temporary residence permits or national visas through external service providers

Executive summary

On 30 October 2024, Lithuania's Minister of Interior announced stricter conditions for individuals who seek to apply for temporary residence permits or national visas through government-approved external service providers.

Background

Government-approved external service providers assist the Lithuanian Migration Department with providing various immigration services to applicants, including accepting visa and permit applications, collecting biometric data, managing appointments at Lithuanian embassies, and collecting and processing documents from applicants as required.

Key developments

Effective 1 December 2024, only nationals of countries where Lithuania has an external service provider will be able to apply for temporary residence permits or national visas in those countries (at the offices of the external service provider). Qualifying nationals of countries where there is no external service provider in-country will be required to travel to another country with a government-approved external service provider.

Nationals of countries where there is no external service provider will be able to apply for temporary residence permits at an external service provider located in another country only if they seek to enter Lithuania to:

- ▶ Accompany family members (i.e., on the basis of family reunification)

- ▶ Undertake a highly skilled job (e.g., EU Blue Card applicants) or work as an intra-corporate transferee (ICT)
- ▶ Work as a lecturer or researcher
- ▶ Work for large investors or for any Lithuanian employer under an investment agreement with special investment and business conditions (i.e., on the basis of [collective relocation](#) under the Law on Investments)
- ▶ Study in a Lithuanian research institution or university under approved immigration programs

Nationals of countries where there is no external service provider will be able to apply for national visas (on all grounds except secondment and seasonal work purposes) at an external provider in another country.

The new restriction will not impact nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the United Kingdom or the United States. These individuals will continue to be able to submit applications for temporary residence permits or national visas at any external service provider branch.

Third-country nationals who initiated the application process for temporary residence permits before 1 September 2024 and chose the external service provider branch in Nepal as their application location may continue to visit this center until 31 December 2024 to file their applications. Individuals who have already filed their applications at this branch may collect their documents from the branch after 1 January 2025.

Impact on employers

The new restriction is not expected to impact highly skilled talent, but it will impact other applicants from countries where there is no government-approved service provider. Lithuanian employers that seek to hire impacted individuals may consider alternative options for sponsoring these individuals.

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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