

PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT for a HIGHLY QUALIFIED SPECIALIST

A **permanent residence permit (PRP)** for a highly qualified specialist (HQS) is a document issued to a foreign citizen which certifies the right to permanent residence in the Russian Federation.

ADVANTAGES

The possessor of a PRP:

- is subject to registration in the mandatory pension insurance system and social insurance system;
- is not obligated to state an intent to renounce their citizenship;
- may be able to apply for Russian citizenship after living five years on the basis of the PRP.

HQS as well as his/her **family members** may **apply for a permanent residency status at one time**.

APPLICATION

The application for a permanent residence permit is submitted by the foreign citizen at the local office of the Federal Migration Service on the basis of an employment (civil) contract and HQS work permit without necessity to apply for a temporary residency (as compared to the regular procedure).

VALIDITY

The permanent residence permit is issued for validity of a concluded employment (civil) contract but for no more than validity of identification document. Validity of a permanent residency issued to HQS and family members can be renewed in case of an employment (civil) contract renewal. The number of renewals is not limited by law. If the contract is terminated and HQS has not succeeded to conclude a new contract, the permanent residency is annulled within 2 months upon the contract termination.

REGISTRATION ACCORDING TO PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Within **seven days** of receiving the PRP, the foreign citizen must register according to their location of permanent residence using the address declared when they submitted the documents for the PRP. In order to register at their place of residence, the foreign citizen submits their application and packet of necessary registration documents to the local office of the FMS where they reside.

ANNUAL CONFIRMATION

Within **two months** from the end of the **year following** the date that the PRP was received, the foreign citizen must submit a **notice confirming their permanent residence** in the Russian Federation to the local office of the FMS where they received their PRP.

The notice should contain the following information:

- location where the foreign citizen resides;
- place(s) of work and duration of the foreign citizen's activities during the year following the date the PRP was received;
- the period of time that the foreign citizen was outside of the Russian Federation during the year following the date that the PRP was received;
- the amount and source of the foreign citizen's income for the year following the date the PRP was received.

GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL OR REVOCATION

PRP is not issued to the foreign citizen, and is revoked from those to whom they have already been issued to, if the foreign citizen:

- advocates forcible change to the constitutional order of the Russian Federation or through other actions creates a threat to the safety of the Russian Federation or the citizens of the Russian Federation;
- finances or plans terrorist (extremist) acts, carries out or assists in carrying out such acts, or via any other actions supports terrorist (extremist) activity;
- was subjected to administrative expulsion out of the Russian Federation or was either deported or transferred by the Russian Federation to a foreign government in accordance with the Russian Federation's international agreement on readmission;
- submitted forged or counterfeit documents or reported false information about themselves;
- is convicted by a court sentence that has taken legal effect for committing serious crimes, felonies, or crimes where the danger of recidivism is deemed high;
- was repeatedly held administratively liable (two or more times) within one year for violating Russian law in terms of the legislation on foreign citizens staying (living) in the Russian Federation or committed an administrative violation related to illegal trafficking of narcotics, mind-altering substances and their precursors, plants containing narcotic substances or mind-altering substances or their precursors, as well as their components containing narcotic substances or mind-altering substances or their precursors;
- cannot present proof of their ability to support themselves and their family in the Russian Federation at the minimum subsistence level without appealing for government assistance, excepting the scenario that the foreign citizen becomes disabled;
- if they do not have living quarters on the grounds provided by Russian legislation within three years of entering the Russian Federation;
- has left the Russian Federation to permanently reside in a foreign country;
- is outside of the Russian Federation for more than six months;
- has entered into marriage with a citizen of the Russian Federation, thereby constituting the grounds for receiving the permanent residence permit, and this marriage is deemed invalid by a court of law;
- is a drug addict, or does not have a certificate that they are not infected with an immunodeficiency disease (HIV infection) or suffer from a disease that presents a danger to others. A list of these diseases and procedure for confirming their presence or absence is established by the Russian government's executive authority;
- if it is determined in the prescribed manner that the foreign citizen's stay in the Russian Federation is undesirable;
- if the foreign citizen was transferred to the Russian Federation by a foreign government in accordance with Russia's international readmission agreement.

Should you require additional information or have questions with regards to legal or immigration issues in Russia please contact TIM Advisers.

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