

**1. What it is?**

It's a program addressed for Portuguese high-tech and innovative companies that want to attract highly qualified and specialized foreign employees. Under this program, companies apply for the tech visa certification and, if conceded, they have a fast track for bringing foreign employees to work and live in Portugal.

**2. Which companies are eligible?**

The certification is granted by IAPMEI, I.P. - Agência para a Competitividade e Inovação ("IAPMEI"), which is the Portuguese national agency for innovation in the economy. The companies that comply with the following criteria shall be eligible for the tech visa certification:

Requirements
Registered headquarters or a permanent establishment in Portugal.
Tax obligations fulfilled in Portugal (Tax authorities and social security).
Employee's salaries must be up to date.
Not be under a corporate restructuring procedure.

In case the company was created in the past 3 years (counted as from the submission of the application), it must have a positive net worth in the previous financial exercise.

Develop products, services and contents that are relevant from a global economic perspective.

Obtain a positive evaluation from IAPMEI regarding market growth potential (for the next 2 to 5 years) and show a clear orientation for economic activity in foreign markets.

Not have more than 50% of its workers employed under the program at the same time – though companies from the inland may benefit from an increased 80% limit.

**3. Which is the duration of the certification?**

The certification lasts for two years and can be renovated for equal periods of two years (as long as the criteria that allowed for the certification in the first place is upheld).

**4. Until when can applications be presented?**

Applications can only be presented when tenders are available - the current tender is open for applications until December 31st, 2022.

**5. Which employees are eligible?**

Employees Eligibility
Third country nationals that don't reside (permanently) on the territory of the EU.
Tax obligations fulfilled in Portugal (if applicable).
No criminal record.
Minimum age of 18 years old.
Have successfully completed Bachelor's or equivalent level – level 6, according to ISCED 2011, or level 5 (tertiary level education) with a 5 year experience in specialized technical functions.
Proficiency in Portuguese, English, French or Spanish, appropriate to the functions/duties to be performed.
Employment contract or confirmation of employment offer.
Have a salary equal or superior to 1.097,03€ [2,5 x 438,81€ (2021 "IAS" – Portuguese reference rate that is updated yearly).

**6. What are the main benefits for employees and companies?**

There are several benefits that emerge from the tech visa certification, among others, the following:

- Simplified procedure for companies;
- Fast-track for employees to obtain a work visa in Portugal;
- Visa-free travel throughout all the Schengen area;
- The option for employees to apply for the Portugal's non-habitual resident tax regime, a special tax status granted by the Portuguese Government in order to benefit the foreigners from special tax rates;
- Inexpensive application costs; and
- Portuguese residency rights, including education and healthcare.

**7. How can we help?**

Paramount Legal team is highly experienced in tech visa matters and can provide you with legal assistance and guidance throughout the entire process since its early stage up – company incorporation, drafting of the employment contracts, others - to the issuing of the tech visas.

The information provided herein, does not, and it is not intended to, constitute legal advice.