

# Worldwide personal tax guide

Income tax, social security  
and immigration  
2013-2014



Building a better  
working world

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## Preface

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The *Worldwide personal tax guide* is part of a suite of premier tax guides published each year by EY, all available online along with Global Tax Alerts and other valuable publications on [ey.com](http://ey.com) and in our EY Global Tax Guides app.

The companion guides are the *Worldwide corporate tax guide*, the *Worldwide VAT, GST and sales tax guide*, the *Transfer pricing global reference guide* and the *International estate and inheritance tax guide*. Each represents thousands of hours of tax research, and within the limits of annual publications, they are the most reliably comprehensive tax guides available.

Governments worldwide have greatly accelerated the pace of their tax legislation, increasing the risk that taxpayers will be caught unprepared in some countries. A current guide like this one is all the more valuable in such a shifting tax landscape.

The content of the *Worldwide personal tax guide* is straightforward. Chapter by chapter, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, we summarize personal tax systems and immigration rules in more than 150 jurisdictions. The content is current as of 1 May 2013, with exceptions noted.

Each chapter begins with EY's in-country executive and immigration contact information, and some jurisdictions add contacts from our International High Net Worth Group. Then we lay out the essential facts about the jurisdiction's personal taxes. We start with the personal income tax, explaining who is liable for tax and, at some length, what types of income are considered taxable and which rates, deductions and credits apply. A section on other taxes varies by jurisdiction but often includes estate, inheritance, gift and real estate taxes. A social security section covers payments for publicly provided health, pensions and other social benefits, followed by sections on tax filing and payment procedures as well as double tax relief and tax treaties. The immigration sections provide information on temporary visas, work visas and permits, residence visas and permits, and family and personal considerations.

At the back of the book, you will find a list of the names and symbols for all national currencies and a list of contacts for emerging markets.

Please contact us if you need more copies of the book, and keep up with the latest updates at [ey.com/GlobalTaxGuides](http://ey.com/GlobalTaxGuides) and find out more about the app at [ey.com/TaxGuidesApp](http://ey.com/TaxGuidesApp).

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Although this publication is intended to be comprehensive, it should not be regarded as offering advice or a complete explanation of the tax and other matters referred to and is subject to changes in the law and other applicable rules. Also, this publication does not provide guidance on the application of the information contained in practice. Local publications that are more detailed are frequently available, and readers are advised to consult their local EY professionals for further information.

### **About EY's Tax Services**

Your business will only succeed if you build it on strong foundations and grow it in a sustainable way. At EY, we believe that managing your tax obligations responsibly and proactively can make a critical difference. So our 32,000 talented tax professionals in more than 140 countries give you technical knowledge, business experience, consistency and an unwavering commitment to quality service — wherever you are and whatever tax services you need.

### **About EY's Human Capital Services**

In today's increasingly regulated, highly competitive global business environment, an organization's people are essential to sustain success. EY's Human Capital Services' holistic approach, across a broad continuum of services, and our responsive, high-performing teams provide the interconnected competencies and insight required to address broad business issues and minimize risk. Through our unmatched global footprint with more than 7,000 HC professionals in over 140 countries, we advise many of the world's largest employers — as well as those just venturing abroad for the first time.

EY's Human Capital Services helps our clients manage the complex challenges of deploying a globally mobile workforce. We can assist with the design and implementation of total reward strategies to engage people and drive the organization's business strategy. Our exceptional client service helps manage HR compliance and risk. We also provide HR and payroll transformation, as well as technology advisory services and project management. We work with our clients to attract, train and motivate the people necessary to achieve their organizational goals. By helping to integrate the people agenda into their business strategy, we help our clients improve their business in the evolving global economy and realize sustainable economic growth.

# Pakistan

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*The approximate exchange rate between the rupee and the U.S. dollar is  
PKR 100 = US\$1.*

## A. Income tax

**Who is liable.** Taxation in Pakistan is based on an individual's residential status and not on his or her nationality or citizenship. Expatriates who stay in Pakistan for 183 days or more in a tax year (1 July to 30 June) are considered to be residents for tax purposes. Residents of Pakistan are taxed on their worldwide income regardless of where it is received, while nonresidents are taxed on their Pakistan-source income only. Foreign-source income of an individual who is a resident solely by reason of his or her employment in Pakistan and who is present in Pakistan for a period or periods not exceeding in aggregate three years is exempt from tax unless such foreign-source income is brought into or received in Pakistan by the individual or unless the income is derived from a business of the person established in Pakistan. A resident is exempt from Pakistan tax on foreign-source salary if he or she has paid foreign income tax on such salary income.

### Income subject to tax

*Employment income.* Income from salary is Pakistan-source income if it is earned in Pakistan, regardless of where it is received. Consequently, an expatriate is taxable on such income in Pakistan, regardless of his or her residential status. Taxable income includes directors' fees and all remuneration for employment, subject to allowances and additions for certain non-cash benefits.

Employer contributions to recognized retirement benefit funds, including provident funds (up to certain limits), gratuity funds and superannuation pension funds, do not constitute taxable income for an employee. A gratuity is a lump-sum payment made to an employee at the time of separation from the employer. A gratuity fund is a separately administered fund created for the purpose of making gratuity payments to employees. If they exceed certain specified limits, gratuity payments from unapproved gratuity funds are taxable when received by employees.

For employees, the entire salary amount, including allowances and benefits, is subject to tax, with the following exceptions:

- Free provision of medical treatment and/or hospitalization by the employer to the employee or the reimbursement of medical expenses is 100% exempt, if paid in accordance with the terms of the employment agreement. If not provided for in the employment agreement, a medical allowance up to a maximum of 10% of basic salary is exempt.
- For employer-provided automobiles that are partly for business and partly for personal use, the amount included in salary is 5% of either of the following:
  - The cost of acquisition of the automobile to the employer.
  - If the automobile is leased by the employer, the fair market value of the automobile at the beginning of the lease.
- For employer-provided automobiles that are solely for personal use, the amount included in salary is 10% of either of the following:
  - The cost of acquisition of the automobile to the employer.
  - If the automobile is leased by the employer, the fair market value of the automobile at the beginning of the lease.
- For employer-provided rent-free accommodation, the notional value of the benefit of accommodation provided by an employer is the amount that would have been paid by the employer if such accommodation was not provided. However, such amount may not be less than 45% of the basic salary of the employee.

*Self-employment and business income.* All individuals who are self-employed or in business are taxed on their business income.

All income received in Pakistan is subject to tax, unless specifically exempt. Residents are taxed on their worldwide income, while nonresidents are taxed on their Pakistan-source income only.

*Investment income.* In general, dividends are subject to a fixed tax of 10%, which is withheld at source. Dividends paid by power generation companies are taxed at a rate of 7.5%.

Interest and profit/loss sharing income from investments and deposits, unless otherwise exempt from tax, is subject to a 10% withholding tax, which is treated as a final tax. Interest on government securities is taxed at normal rates and is also subject to a 10% withholding tax.

Income from prize bonds and crossword puzzles is subject to a final withholding tax at a rate of 10%. Income from raffles, lotteries, winnings from quizzes or sales promotions offered by companies is subject to a final withholding tax at a rate of 20%.

Nonresidents are subject to tax on investment income as described in *Rates*.

**Taxation of employer-provided stock options.** Legislation taxes an employee on stock options granted by an employer or the employer's associate. The grant of an option or a right to acquire shares at a future date does not constitute income at the date of grant. If an option to purchase shares is exercised by the employee, the difference between the market value of the shares on the date of exercise and the amount paid by the employee is subject to tax. If the shares acquired by the employee are subject to a

transfer restriction, the employee is subject to tax at the earlier of the time the employee has a free right to transfer the shares or the time the employee disposes of the shares.

**Capital gains and losses.** In general, capital gains resulting from the disposal of capital assets, other than depreciable assets, receive favorable tax treatment if the assets are held longer than 12 months prior to disposal.

For assets held longer than 12 months, only 75% of the capital gain is subject to tax at the normal rates.

These provisions do not apply to capital gains derived from transfers of public company shares, including vouchers of Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation, *modaraba* certificates or instruments of redeemable capital. Capital gains derived from the disposal of shares of a public company listed on a stock exchange in Pakistan, vouchers of the Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation, *modaraba* certificates, instruments of redeemable capital and derivative products are taxable at the following rates.

Tax year	Holding period of less than 6 months	Holding period between 6 months and 12 months	Holding period of 12 months or more
	%	%	%
2013	10	8	0
2014	10	8	0
2015	17.5	9.5	0

Capital gains on the sale of immovable property are subject to income tax, depending on the following holding periods:

- If the property was held for a period of up to one year, the tax rate on the gain is 10%.
- If the property was held for a period of more than one year but not more than two years, the tax rate on the gain is 5%.
- If the property was held for a period of more than two years, the gain is not taxable.

However, provincial governments levy stamp duties on every transaction involving immovable property.

Capital losses may be set off against capital gains only.

The person responsible for registering or attesting to the transfer of immovable property is required to collect, at the time of registration or attestation, advance tax from the seller or transferor of the property at 0.5% of the gross amount of consideration received. Such advance tax is offset against the tax liability of the person from whom tax has been collected. Advance tax is not collected from the federal government, provincial government or local government.

### Deductions

*Deductible expenses.* Muslim taxpayers may deduct *zakat* paid (see Section B).

*Allowances.* An individual may claim a tax credit for charitable donations, including donations in kind, made by him or her to any of the following:

- A board of education or any university in Pakistan established by or under a federal or provincial law



- An educational institution, hospital or relief fund established or run in Pakistan by the federal government, provincial government or a local government
- A nonprofit organization

To compute the above tax credit, the average rate of tax is applied to the lesser of the following amounts:

- The amount of the donation including the fair market value of any property donated
- 30% of the taxable income of the individual donor

An individual is entitled to an allowance for investments made in the following shares:

- New shares offered to the public by a public company listed on a stock exchange in Pakistan
- Shares acquired from the Privatization Commission of Pakistan

Shares acquired by the taxpayer must be held for at least 24 months from the date of acquisition. If the shares are disposed of within 24 months, the tax relief is recaptured in the year when the shares are sold.

To compute the above tax credit, the average rate of tax is applied to the lesser of the acquisition cost of the shares, PKR 1 million or 20% of the taxable income of the investor.

Certain resident individuals are entitled to an allowance with respect to premiums paid in an approved pension fund under the Voluntary Pension System Rules, 2005. This allowance is available to individuals who have obtained a valid National Tax Number or a National Identity Card and are not entitled to benefit under any other approved employment pension or annuity scheme.

To compute the above tax credit, the average rate of tax is applied to the lesser of the following amounts:

- The premium paid
- 20% of the taxable income of the individual, provided that for an individual joining the pension fund at the age of 41 years or above, during the first 10 years, the individual is allowed an additional contribution of 2% per year for each year of age exceeding 40 years, and provided further that the total contribution allowed to such individual may not exceed 50% of the total taxable income of the preceding year

A taxpayer may claim an allowance with respect to any mark-up paid on a loan meeting either of the following conditions:

- It is sanctioned by a scheduled bank or by a nonbanking finance institution regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.
- It is advanced by the government, a local authority, a statutory body or a public company listed on a Stock Exchange of Pakistan.

To qualify, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- The loan must be used for the construction or acquisition of a house.
- The mark-up is not claimed as a deduction in computing income from residential property.

To compute the above tax credit, the average rate of tax is applied to the lesser of the mark-up paid, PKR 750,000 or 50% of the taxable income of the individual.

**Business deductions.** In general, taxpayers may deduct all expenses (excluding personal or capital expenditures) incurred in carrying on a business in Pakistan. Depreciation on fixed assets used in a business is allowed at specified rates.

### Rates

**Residents.** The tax rates listed below are effective from 1 July 2013. If more than 50% of an individual's income is derived from employment, the following tax rates apply to income other than certain investment income described in *Investment income*.

Taxable income		Tax
Exceeding PKR	Not exceeding PKR	
0	400,000	0
400,000	750,000	5% of the amount exceeding PKR 400,000
750,000	1,400,000	PKR 17,500 + 10% of the amount exceeding PKR 750,000
1,400,000	1,500,000	PKR 82,500 + 12.5% of the amount exceeding PKR 1,400,000
1,500,000	1,800,000	PKR 95,000 + 15% of the amount exceeding PKR 1,500,000
1,800,000	2,500,000	PKR 140,000 + 17.5% of the amount exceeding PKR 1,800,000
2,500,000	3,000,000	PKR 262,500 + 20% of the amount exceeding PKR 2,500,000
3,000,000	3,500,000	PKR 362,500 + 22.5% of the amount exceeding PKR 3,000,000
3,500,000	4,000,000	PKR 475,000 + 25% of the amount exceeding PKR 3,500,000
4,000,000	7,000,000	PKR 600,000 + 27.5% of the amount exceeding PKR 4,000,000
7,000,000	—	PKR 1,425,000 + 30% of the amount exceeding PKR 7,000,000

For other individuals, including self-employed individuals, the following tax rates are applicable to their income other than certain investment income described in *Investment income*.

Taxable income		Tax
Exceeding PKR	Not exceeding PKR	
0	400,000	0
400,000	750,000	10% of the amount exceeding PKR 400,000
750,000	1,500,000	PKR 35,000 + 15% of the amount exceeding PKR 750,000



Taxable income		Tax
Exceeding PKR	Not exceeding PKR	
1,500,000	2,500,000	PKR 147,500 + 20% of the amount exceeding PKR 1,500,000
2,500,000	4,000,000	PKR 347,500 + 25% of the amount exceeding PKR 2,500,000
4,000,000	6,000,000	PKR 722,500 + 30% of the amount exceeding PKR 4,000,000
6,000,000	—	PKR 1,322,500 + 35% of the amount exceeding PKR 6,000,000

A rebate of 50% of the tax payable is available to taxpayers 60 years of age or older whose total taxable income in a tax year is PKR 1 million or less.

Income received by residents in Pakistan for technical or consulting services rendered outside Pakistan under an agreement is exempt from tax.

*Nonresidents.* Nonresidents are taxed on Pakistani-source employment, self-employment and business income at the rates outlined for residents.

Individuals are subject to withholding tax at source on income at the following rates.

Type of income	Rate (%)
Salary	Average rate of tax on salary
Dividends	
General rate	10
Dividends from companies engaged in power generation projects	7.5
Interest on deposits maintained with banking companies, finance societies or corporate bodies (excluding trusts) in Pakistan, on bonds, certificate debentures and instruments issued by banking companies, finance societies, local authorities or corporate bodies (excluding trusts) formed in Pakistan, on securities of the federal or provincial governments, and on securities other than debentures of local authorities, Pakistani corporate bodies (including trusts) or companies formed outside Pakistan	10
Fees for technical services and royalties	15
Prizes from prize bonds, raffles, lotteries and crossword puzzles	10 or 20
Payments to nonresidents for	
Execution of contracts or subcontracts for construction, assembly or installation projects, including contracts for rendering supervisory activities with respect to such projects	6

Type of income	Rate (%)
Rendering of services other than under contracts for technical services	6
Execution of services contracts through a permanent establishment	6
Execution of other contracts	6
Brokerage fee or commission	10
Export sales proceeds, on receipt	1
Imported goods	5

Interest income derived by the nonresident individuals is generally taxed at the income tax rates described for residents, with the amount withheld allowed as a credit. The other withholding taxes on nonresidents are also advance taxes that may be offset against the eventual tax liability.

**Relief for losses.** Business losses, other than losses arising out of speculative transactions, may be carried forward to offset profit in the following six years. Unabsorbed depreciation may be carried forward indefinitely.

## B. Other taxes

**Net worth tax.** Net worth tax has been abolished.

**Zakat.** *Zakat*, an Islamic wealth tax on specified assets, is levied at a rate of 2.5%. This tax applies only to Muslim citizens of Pakistan.

**Estate and gift taxes.** Pakistan does not levy estate and gift taxes.

## C. Social security

Pakistan offers benefits to employees for death, disability, injury, medical expenses and pensions, as well as academic scholarships for workers' children. Employees earning less than PKR 7,000 a month are generally covered by these benefits, with employers making contributions to the government at the following rates.

Benefit	Employer contribution
Employees' Old Age Benefits	PKR 400 per month
Provincial Employees' Social Security	6% of monthly salary of up to PKR 10,000 and PKR 600 for monthly salary exceeding PKR 10,000
Workers' Children (Education)	PKR 100 annually

Employees are also required to contribute PKR 80 per month for Employees' Old Age Benefits.

Pakistan has not entered into any social security totalization agreements.

## D. Tax filing and payment procedures

The tax year in Pakistan for all individuals is from 1 July to 30 June. Individuals must obtain special permission from the Federal Board of Revenue in Pakistan to select a different accounting year-end. All salaried individuals (individuals with more than 50% of their income from employment) must file their income tax returns by 31 August following the tax year-end. Nonsalaried individuals must file their income tax returns by 30 September following the tax year-end.

Employers must withhold taxes from the salaries of their employees.

Individuals other than employees having taxable income of PKR 500,000 or more must pay advance tax in four equal installments on 15 September, 15 December, 15 March and 15 June. Tax due after adjustment for both advance tax payments and tax paid at source must be paid with the tax return.

## E. Double tax relief and tax treaties

Under Pakistani tax law, residents are taxed on worldwide income. However, a tax credit is generally granted for income from sources outside Pakistan (from both treaty and nontreaty countries), at the lower of the average foreign tax paid or the average Pakistani tax attributable to the foreign income.

Pakistan has entered into double tax treaties with the following countries.

Austria	Kazakhstan	Serbia
Azerbaijan	Kenya	Singapore
Bahrain	Korea (South)	South Africa
Bangladesh	Kuwait	Spain
Belarus	Kyrgyzstan	Sri Lanka
Belgium	Lebanon	Sweden
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Libya	Switzerland
Canada	Malaysia	Syria
China	Malta	Tajikistan
Denmark	Mauritius	Thailand
Egypt	Morocco	Tunisia
Finland	Nepal	Turkey
France	Netherlands	Turkmenistan
Germany	Nigeria	Ukraine
Hungary	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Indonesia	Oman	United Kingdom
Iran	Philippines	United States
Ireland	Poland	Uzbekistan
Italy	Portugal	Vietnam
Japan	Qatar	Yemen
Jordan	Romania	
	Saudi Arabia	

This list does not include treaties that relate only to shipping and air transport.

Most of these treaties exempt from Pakistani tax any profits or remuneration received for personal services performed in Pakistan in an assessment year if one or more of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The individual is present in Pakistan for less than a specified period (usually not in excess of 183 days).
- The services are performed for, or on behalf of, a resident of the other country.
- The profits or remuneration are subject to tax in the other country.
- If self-employed, the individual has no regularly available fixed base in Pakistan.
- The remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of Pakistan.

- The remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base maintained by the employer in Pakistan.

## F. Visas

To promote domestic and foreign investment, enhance Pakistan's international competitiveness and contribute to economic and social development, Pakistan has a liberal visa policy. The following are significant aspects of the new visa policy:

- The granting of visas on arrival to nationals of 69 countries.
- The granting of business visas for a period up to five years to the investors and businesspersons of 69 countries.
- The granting of work visas and the conversion of business visas into work visas (a fee of US\$100 is charged for the conversion of a business visa to a work visa in Pakistan, in addition to the normal multiple-entry visa fee) and family visas without a requirement for registration with the police to nationals of countries other than those on the negative list, as well as to other foreign nationals who are directed by the immigration authorities to report to the Foreigners Registration Office (a stamp to this effect is inserted in their passports). Currently included on the negative list are Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Nigeria, Palestinian Liberation Organization, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Tanzania. However, nationals from these countries who are in the managerial category and are issued work visas are exempt from police registration, except for Indians and foreigners of Indian origin.

Pakistan missions abroad have the authority to restrict the grant of visas to nationals of the country where the mission is located. The granting of Pakistan visas to third-country citizens residing in a country and holding a valid residence permit for that country can only be decided by the Ambassador, High Commissioner or the Head of Mission or Consulate.

Details regarding the various types of visas issued by Pakistan are provided below.

**Business visas on arrival.** Pakistan has a policy of granting visas on arrival (nonreporting) at the airports in Pakistan to foreign investors or businesspersons from 69 countries. Single-entry visas are granted for 30 days on production of the following documents:

- Recommendation letter from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the respective country of the visitor
- Invitation letter from a business organization recommended by the concerned trade organization or association in Pakistan
- Recommendation letter by an Honorary Investment Counselor of the Board of Investment posted at Pakistan Missions abroad

The following documents must be submitted for a business visa on arrival:

- Invitation letter from the sponsor
- Two latest passport-size photographs
- Photocopy of passport of visitor or employee, including pages with picture and particulars of passport holder
- Certificate of registration of the employer with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, if any
- Copy of NTN certificate of sponsor

- Copy of registration certificate of company or firm registered in Pakistan
- Exact travel plan of the visitor, including flight details

A prescribed visa fee is payable at the visa counter at the Pakistan International Airport on arrival.

Although the visa on arrival is granted based on production of the required documents, it is suggested that the required documents be filed in advance with the immigration authorities at the airport. Individuals should retain the invitation letter from the sponsor and a copy of the certificate from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, because the immigration authorities may ask for these documents at the time of arrival.

Currently, the following countries are approved for the purpose of visas on arrival.

Argentina	Iceland	Poland
Australia	Indonesia	Portugal
Austria	Iran	Qatar
Azerbaijan	Ireland	Romania
Bahrain	Italy	Russian
Belgium	Japan	Federation
Bosnia-	Jordan	Saudi Arabia
Herzegovina	Kazakhstan	Singapore
Brazil	Korea (South)	Slovak Republic
Brunei	Kuwait	Slovenia
Darussalam	Latvia	South Africa
Canada	Lithuania	Spain
Chile	Luxembourg	Sweden
China	Malaysia	Switzerland
Cyprus	Malta	Thailand
Czech Republic	Mauritius	Turkey
Denmark	Mexico	Turkmenistan
Egypt	Morocco	Ukraine
Estonia	Netherlands	United Arab
Finland	New Zealand	Emirates
France	Norway	United Kingdom
Germany	Oman	United States
Greece	Philippines	Vietnam
Hungary		

Visas are not granted to nationals of countries not recognized by Pakistan. Pakistan does not recognize Israel.

**Tourist visas.** Tourist visas are issued to foreign nationals of 175 countries (List A) who intend to visit Pakistan for recreational purposes but who intend neither to immigrate to Pakistan nor engage in remunerated activities.

A tourist visa is valid for a maximum period of 90 days. If a foreign national wishes to extend his or her stay in Pakistan beyond this period, to obtain an extension of the visa, he or she must apply to the relevant regional passport office located in their city or the visa desk of the Ministry of Interior (MOI).

Tourist visas generally are not granted to nationals of Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Nigeria, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen. They

are also not granted to members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. However, temporary visas may be issued to these nationals for certain specific reasons, including visiting relatives or attending weddings or funerals.

### **Work visas**

*Permissible activities.* A work visa allows the foreign national to exercise employment in Pakistan in the entity for which the visa is granted. Such employment can be exercised for the period for which the visa is valid. A renewal of the visa allows the foreign national to remain employed. The work visa does not entitle the foreign national to work for another employer without submitting a new application and obtaining permission for employment with the other employer. The visa of a foreign national found to be engaged in activities other than employment with the approved employer is cancelled and the foreign national is deported.

No written policy allows a foreign national to begin work in Pakistan while his or her application for a work visa is in process. However, as a result of the liberal policy followed by Pakistan, no serious exception is taken for beginning work before the issuance of a work visa if the foreign national has a valid business visa and if his or her application for a work visa is ultimately approved and business visa conversion instructions are issued by the MOI.

*Documents required.* Five sets of the following documents must be submitted for employees with respect to applications for work visas and work visa extensions:

- Properly completed application signed by the person authorized by the employer.
- Employment contract signed by both parties or job letter stating the term, designation and salary.
- Latest passport-size photographs of employee.
- Photocopy of passport of employee, including pages with the picture and particulars of the passport holder. A copy of the visa page is also required if the person is already in Pakistan. The visa page is not required if the person is not in Pakistan.
- Local and international address of the applicant.
- Qualification.
- Professional experience.
- Certificate of incorporation or certificate of registration, if the entity is a local company or a subsidiary of a nonresident company in Pakistan, or a permission letter issued by the Board of Investment (BOI) to a foreign company for opening the branch office where the applicant will be employed.
- National tax number of entity for which the employment will be exercised.
- Power of attorney in favor of the person or firm authorized to represent the entity with respect to the handling of the visa applications.
- Company's profile.
- Processing fee of US\$25 (or equivalent in PKR) per applicant for a one-year work visa, or US\$50 (or equivalent in PKR) for a two-year work visa, payable in the form of a money order or demand draft made out to Board of Investment, Government of Pakistan.

The following documents must be submitted for an accompanying spouse and children with respect to applications for work visas and work visa extensions:

- Five latest passport-size photographs.
- Five sets of photocopies of passports of spouse and children, including pages with the picture and particulars of the passport holder. Copies of the visa page are also required if the person is already in Pakistan. If the person is outside Pakistan, copies of the visa page are not required.
- Power of attorney in favor of the person authorized to represent the entity with respect to the handling of the visa applications.

*Applications.* Applications for work visas and family visas are initially filed electronically with the BOI in Pakistan by the person authorized by the employer, who could be the principal officer or the head of Human Resources of the employer in Pakistan or any consultant. After e-filing, all documents must be filed in person along with the visa processing fee. After the work visa and family visa are approved by the BOI, if the foreign national is already in Pakistan on a business visa and his family is also already in Pakistan on any visa, a further application is filed with the MOI by the employee and his or her family for the issue of instructions to the concerned Passport Office for endorsement of the visas on the passports. If the foreign national is not in Pakistan, the work visa approval is sent to the concerned Pakistan Embassy, Mission or Consulate Office located in the country of the foreign national.

Although no requirement exists for the presence of a registered entity in Pakistan for the issuance of a business visa, the presence of a registered entity in Pakistan where the employment will be exercised is essential for the issuance of a work visa.

The BOI takes about six weeks to issue approvals for work visas and work visa extensions. In case of an emergency, the employer may file a request for a provisional work or family visa with the BOI. Such visa may be issued for a term of up to three months with multiple entries.

The MOI takes about two to five days to issue instructions to the Passport Office for endorsement of the visa on the passport if the applicant is already in Pakistan, or to the concerned Pakistan Mission or Embassy abroad if the applicant is not in Pakistan.

The Passport Office normally takes two to five days to complete the stamping of a visa. The Pakistan Mission abroad should stamp the visa as soon as the passport is presented for stamping on receipt of visa approval instructions from the MOI.

### **Business visas**

*Permissible activities.* An approved list of activities that could be carried out by a foreign national visiting Pakistan on a business visa has not been issued. However, the following are permissible activities:

- Attend business meetings
- Negotiate and sign contracts
- Attend exhibitions, displays, conferences, symposiums, workshops and similar events
- Conduct training of short duration



- Deliver lectures, make presentations and engage in similar activities
- Provide technical services of short duration, including removal of faults during the warranty period of equipment supplied by foreign suppliers, installation of software, troubleshooting to correct faults in software, software training and transfer of technical know-how
- Visiting project sites to obtain information, technical specifications or material required for executing a contract for the supply of goods or providing of technical or consultancy services to an entity in Pakistan
- Setting up of a branch office or a local company for doing business in Pakistan
- Hiring of local personnel for utilizing their services in a Pakistan project or a Pakistan entity
- Inspection of the goods that the entity intends to purchase from Pakistan

*Category A countries.* Business visas may be issued to nationals of the 69 countries that currently appear on the Category A list for business visas (nonreporting).

Pakistan missions abroad are authorized to issue five-year (multiple entry) nonreporting business visas within 24 hours to businesspersons of 69 Category A countries with a duration of three months for each stay, on production of any of the following documents:

- Recommendation letter from Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the respective country of the visitor
- Invitation letter from a business organization recommended by the concerned trade organization or association in Pakistan
- Recommendation letter by an Honorary Investment Counselor of the BOI posted at a Pakistan Mission abroad
- Recommendation letter from a Pakistani Commercial Officer posted in Pakistan High Commissions, Embassies or Consulates-General abroad

*Other countries.* Ambassadors, High Commissioners or Heads of Missions from Pakistan Missions abroad may issue one-month entry visas to nationals or legal residents of the 69 countries where the missions are located if either of the following conditions is satisfied:

- The applicant belongs to a company of international repute.
- The requirement described above for Category A countries with respect to valid sponsorship from Pakistan is satisfied.

*Nationals from a third country of origin.* Visa applications of persons belonging to a third country of origin are subject to greater scrutiny and may be granted only by the Ambassador, High Commissioner or the Head of Mission or Consulate.

*Extensions.* The following documents must be submitted for a business visa extension:

- Two sets of the properly completed application signed by the applicant.
- Two latest passport-size photographs.
- Two sets of photocopies of the visitor's passport, including pages with the picture and particulars of the passport holder, and the visa page.
- Invitation letter from the employer.

- Documents showing substantial investment, exports or imports during the preceding year.
- Business documents, such as a letter from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) or Registrar of Companies, partnership deed or articles of association, or, in special cases only, a copy of CCI membership documents. Extension of a visa beyond one year is granted by the Ministry of Interior on production of the requisite business documents.

*Applications.* The application for a business visa must be filed by the applicant with the Pakistan Mission or Visa Consulate in the country of the applicant.

*Time frame.* The MOI takes about two to five days to issue visa extension approval and instructions to the Passport Office for stamping of a visa extension.

The Passport Office stamps the visas on a case-by-case basis.

**Family visas.** A family visa entitles the spouse and children to stay with the foreign national who is entitled to exercise employment in Pakistan based on a work visa. A spouse who wants to exercise employment for remuneration needs the approval of the Board of Investment.

## **G. Application for citizenship by investors**

To encourage foreign investment in Pakistan, the government allows foreign investors to apply for Pakistani citizenship. Nationals of countries recognized by Pakistan may receive Pakistani citizenship by making a one-time investment of at least US\$750,000 in tangible assets and US\$250,000 (or the equivalent in a major foreign currency) in cash on a nonrepatriable basis (that is, the funds may not be taken out of Pakistan). The amount must be brought into Pakistan through normal banking channels, must be converted into rupees and may not subsequently be remitted through the free market. Citizenship is also subject to the fulfillment of the general conditions for Pakistani citizenship and the security situation in Pakistan.

## **H. Family and personal considerations**

**Family members.** Family members of working expatriates may reside with the expatriates in Pakistan. Family members must obtain their own work visas if they plan to work in Pakistan or stay in Pakistan with their family.

Children of expatriates do not need student visas to attend school in Pakistan.

**Drivers' permits.** Expatriates may not drive legally in Pakistan with their home country drivers' licenses. However, they generally may drive legally in Pakistan with international drivers' licenses.

Pakistan does not have driver's license reciprocity with any other country. Therefore, a home country driver's license may not be automatically exchanged for a Pakistani driver's license.

To obtain a driver's license in Pakistan, an applicant must submit an application form, a copy of his or her passport, a copy of his or her foreign driver's license and two passport-size photographs

to the license-issuing authority. The license-issuing authority then examines all the documents and, at its discretion, may grant exemption to the applicant. If the license-issuing authority grants an exemption to an applicant, the applicant is issued a driver's license in one day on payment of the required fee. If the license-issuing authority does not grant an exemption, an applicant must acquire a learner's permit. About six weeks after obtaining a learner's permit, an applicant must take physical and verbal tests. If the applicant passes the tests, a driver's license is issued on payment of the required fee.

## I. Other matters

**Overstay surcharge.** An overstay surcharge is imposed on foreigners who overstay the duration of their visas.

The following are the amounts of the surcharge for foreign nationals other than Indian nationals and nationals of Pakistani origin.

Period of overstay	Overstay surcharge (US\$)
Up to 2 weeks	0
More than 2 weeks and up to 1 month	50
More than 1 month and up to 3 months	200
More than 3 months and up to 1 year	400

In addition to imposing the above surcharge, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) may exercise its powers of externment (deportation) and any of its other powers with respect to the overstaying individual. No surcharge is imposed on holders of diplomatic passports.

The following are the amounts of the surcharge for foreign nationals of Pakistani origin.

Period of overstay	Overstay surcharge (US\$)
Up to one month	0
More than 1 month and up to 6 months	40
More than 6 months and up to 1 year	80
More than 1 year	200 per year

Overstay charges are not condoned.

In addition to imposing the above surcharge, the MOI may exercise its powers of externment and any of its other powers with respect to the overstaying individual. No surcharge is imposed for children up to 12 years of age, and a 50% surcharge is imposed for children over 12 years of age, but not older than 18 years of age.

For Indian nationals, a surcharge of PKR 40 per day is imposed for any period of overstay.

**Indians working for certain international organizations and multinational companies.** Indian passport holders working for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, the United Nations or multinational companies may obtain a visa under an expedited procedure from the respective Ambassador to Pakistan after clearing with the link offices (the office of the employer of the Indian national).