

# Immigration Services



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**ASSOCIATES**

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### **Immigration Services**

At Tiruchelvam Associates (TA) we ensure that our Clients are provided with the most up to date information and personalised service in the sphere of Immigration.

The governing authority in Sri Lanka in relation to all Immigration matters is the Department of Immigration and Emigration. As such any foreign national entering Sri Lanka needs the approval of the Department, regardless of the purpose of the visit. Presently, this Department comes under the Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka

When it comes to working, living and studying in Sri Lanka we have a sound understanding of the regulatory framework and various other deciding factors. Often to minimise delay and other administrative issues we work closely with both the Regulators and our clients to ensure that the immigration concerns are resolved in a timely manner.

### **Working in Sri Lanka**

Given the ever expanding global market, it is an undisputable fact that the organisations are capitalising on the growing economy' Sri Lanka is presently experiencing. Therefore we note that there is a trend among many foreign corporations to set up places of business within Sri Lanka.

We understand that in order for Sri Lanka to reach the expectations of a global market place, foreign nationals with specialised skill and expertise are required to train and impart their knowledge to the Sri Lankan workforce. For certain foreign nationals may possess skill and expertise that are presently not available in Sri Lanka. Therefore we assist international organisations relocate their staff to Sri Lanka. We obtain the necessary approvals prior to the foreign national entering Sri Lanka; we liaise with the relevant regulators and provide follow up services until the residence visa (employment category) is received.

Following are the categories of Residence Visas (Employment category) issued by the Department of Immigration and Emigration.

1. Employees of the private sector
2. Volunteers and personnel attached to Non-Governmental organizations
3. Expatriate personnel employed in projects under the BOI
4. Foreign nationals who intend to invest monetary capital or to engage in business activities in Sri Lanka
5. Personnel employed in banks

## **Living in Sri Lanka**

We assist Clients who have given up their Sri Lankan citizenship but who wish to live in Sri Lanka for extended periods of time. Such clients can obtain a residence visa under the “Ex-Sri Lankan category” for themselves and their dependents. Under this category a visa holder is permitted to engage in their own business.

Where a spouse of a Sri Lankan wishes to obtain a residence visa, upon submitting the requisite documentation they will be granted a visa without any regulatory fee.

The following are the categories of Residence Visas available:

1. Religious Category ( Members of the Clergy)
2. Ex- Sri Lankans and their dependents
3. Family Members of a Sri Lankan

We provide assistance to Clients who wish to apply for Citizenship in Sri Lanka, be it representing the Client with various Regulators to ensuring that all documentation filed meets the required standards.

The law governing the area of dual citizenship is presently under review, hence we have temporarily suspended facilitating dual citizenship applications.

## **Studying in Sri Lanka**

In the recent past there has been development in the sphere of private education in Sri Lanka. There are many institutions in Sri Lanka which are affiliated to leading Universities around the world. Hence higher education is more accessible to students at a lower cost. We see a trend in students from neighbouring countries coming to Sri Lanka for the purposes of education.

In certain instances if the Ministry of Higher Education in Sri Lanka deems fit it will recommend that the visa fee be waived for certain students.

The following are the categories of Residence Visa available:

1. University Students
2. Students in Educational Institutions approved by the State
3. Religious students

In all the above instances we ensure that our Clients have the requisite approvals issued by the regulatory bodies approved by the Department of Immigration and Emigration for visa purposes and the requisite documentation that will enable him/her to successfully obtain a residence visa.