

— RESIDENCY BY INVESTMENT | PORTUGAL

Portugal D2 Visa — Entrepreneurs and Independent Professionals

Build or extend a business in Portugal — no minimum investment, but a business plan that has to stand up.

At a glance

COUNTRY Portugal	ROUTE Residency by Investment - Entrepreneur
LAST UPDATED 1 October 2026	

A visa decided on judgement, not a number

Most residence routes have a threshold. You meet it or you do not. The D2 does not work that way, and applicants who treat it as a cheaper Golden Visa tend to be refused.

What the consulate is deciding is whether your business will actually exist. That means a plan with a defensible market, costings that add up, funding visibly in place, and a founder whose background makes the venture plausible. A template plan for a consultancy with no clients is refused; a modest but concrete venture with signed agreements and money in a Portuguese account is not.

What it costs to be credible

Nothing in Portuguese law states a figure. In practice, plans funded below roughly €50,000 attract scrutiny about whether the business can survive its first year, and that scrutiny is what sinks applications.

Separately from the business, you must show personal means of subsistence — €11,040 a year for the main applicant in 2026, with the usual uplifts of 50% for a spouse and 30% for each child. The business funding does not substitute for this.

After approval

The initial permit runs two years and renews for three-year periods. You will deal with AIMA, not SEF — SEF was abolished in October 2023 and its residence functions moved across. Permanent residence becomes available after five years of lawful residence.

The citizenship timeline

Portugal changed its nationality law on **19 May 2026** (Lei Orgânica 1/2026). Naturalisation now requires **seven years** of legal residence for nationals of EU member states and Portuguese-speaking countries, and **ten years for everyone else — including Indian nationals**. It was five years for everyone before that date. Applications already pending on 19 May 2026 keep the old five-year rule.

Permanent residence is unaffected and remains five years (Lei 23/2007, art. 80.º).

If Portuguese citizenship on a five-year horizon is the reason you are considering this, plan on ten years instead, and

weigh that before you commit.

Note also that India does not permit dual citizenship: acquiring Portuguese citizenship would end your Indian citizenship under Section 9(1) of the Citizenship Act 1955. Portuguese **residency** does not.

Key benefits

- Establish and run your business in Portugal as a resident.
- Family reunification for spouse and dependent children.
- Schengen mobility and access to Portuguese healthcare and education.
- No capital placed with a third party — the money goes into the venture you run.
- Permanent residence after five years.

Requirements

- Non-EU/EEA/Swiss nationality.
- A detailed business plan demonstrating financial viability.
- Evidence of funds sufficient to execute the plan.
- A registered business address in Portugal.
- Portuguese tax number (NIF) and a Portuguese bank account.
- Personal means of subsistence at or above the annual threshold.
- Clean criminal record certificate.

When this route may not fit

- A business plan that is generic, unfunded, or shows no real economic activity.
- Funding that cannot be traced to a lawful source.
- No genuine Portuguese presence or business address.
- Serious criminal convictions or ongoing proceedings.

Funds to show

Requirement	Amount	Notes
Personal means of subsistence — main applicant	EUR 11,040	12 × the 2026 Portuguese minimum wage of €920, per Portaria n.º 1563/2007.

How the process works

- 1 **Develop the business plan and evidence the funding behind it.**
- 2 **Obtain a NIF, open a Portuguese bank account and secure a business address.**

- 3 Incorporate the Portuguese entity, or document the branch structure.
- 4 File the D2 application at the Portuguese consulate for your jurisdiction.
- 5 Enter Portugal and attend the AIMA appointment for the two-year residence permit.

Questions clients ask

How much do I need to invest?

Portuguese law sets no minimum for the D2. What matters is that the funding is proportionate to the plan and fully evidenced. Funding of €50,000–€100,000 is commonly the level at which a plan reads as substantial, but that is market practice, not a legal threshold.

Can I apply if my business is already running abroad?

Yes. Opening a Portuguese branch or subsidiary of an existing business is one of the recognised bases, and an operating track record generally strengthens the file.

Do freelancers qualify?

Yes, where you can show contracted work or a written proposal in Portugal and that the service you offer is relevant to the market.

Where is the application renewed?

With AIMA, the agency that took over residence permits when SEF was abolished in October 2023. Renewal documents must be filed before the current permit expires.

Important notes

- The D2 carries genuine refusal risk because approval turns on an assessment of your business plan rather than on meeting a fixed figure.
- Subsistence thresholds move each January with the Portuguese minimum wage.
- This page is general information and not immigration, tax or investment advice.

Compliance

- Business funding has no figure set in law; it must be proportionate to the plan and fully evidenced.
- Consular visa fees and AIMA residence-permit fees are charged at the official rates in force; XIPHIAS confirms the current amounts with the consulate and AIMA before filing.

Official sources: Portaria 1563/2007 — meios de subsistência; DGERT — retribuição mínima mensal garantida para 2026 (Decreto-Lei 139/2025); Lei Orgânica n.º 1/2026 — Diário da República.



NEXT STEP

Plan your Portugal application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **Portugal D2 Visa — Entrepreneurs and Independent Professionals** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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