Over the past decade the UAE has become one of the most popular jurisdictions worldwide for the relocation of individuals. With no taxes applied on individuals, straightforward administrative requirements and low processing costs, coupled with excellent accessibility, high-quality of life, political stability and sunny weather year-round, the UAE is indeed a very attractive proposal as a residency jurisdiction. The UAE’s position has further been reinforced by the ongoing tax backlash in other relocation hubs – e.g. amended UK tax regimes pertaining to “non-doms”, increased costs of the lump-sum tax system in Switzerland – as well as plans from various countries to “tighten the screw” on Europe’s tax heavens.

Following the introduction of long-term visa options, the present fact sheet – and its illustrative chart below – help you navigate the different visa options available in the UAE.
RESIDENCY IN THE UAE

What’s new in 2019?
The UAE has overhauled its UAE’s immigration framework, with the formal introduction a long-term visa system (Validity: 5 & 10 years) for investors, entrepreneurs, specialized talents and researchers.

Why the UAE?
• Total exemption from income tax and wealth tax for individuals
• No quotas on the number of issued residence permits
• No requirement to obtain a fiscal quittance from the foreign country
• No minimum requirement regarding the time spent annually in the jurisdiction
• Competitive costs for issuance and renewal of the residence permit
• Presence of internationally recognized financial, legal and tax services providers
• Primary hub and platform to access international business
• Political stability
• Yearly sunny climate

Taxation
A residence permit holder is not subject to income tax and wealth tax in the UAE. He/she may claim additional tax relief through UAE’s vast network of double tax treaties. A residence permit allows its holder to reside anywhere in the UAE and authorizes him/her to enter and exit the country an unlimited amount of times.

UAE at a Glance
Location: In the Persian Gulf, southeast of the Arabian Peninsula, bordering Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south
Languages: Arabic (official) & English (commercial)
Culture: Historically and officially a Muslim country. Has morphed into a multicultural society due to the large number of expats
Currency: UAE Dirham (AED), pegged to the US Dollar (1 USD = 3.67 AED)
Political system: Federation of seven emirates (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Um Al Quwain) with a president – the chief of state – and a prime minister – the chief of government. The seven emirates are absolute monarchies with a hereditary system. There are no political parties
Economy: Built on petroleum and gas exports. Other key sectors consist of trading, services, real estate, tourism and industry
Legal system: Civil law. Shariah principles apply only to family & succession matters. Non-Muslims can opt for their national law to apply to family and succession matters
Accessibility: The most connected place in the world. Direct connections to all continents through the major local – Emirates and Etihad – and international airline companies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UAE Residence Visa type</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Real Estate investment</th>
<th>Public Investments</th>
<th>Entrepreneurs</th>
<th>Retirees</th>
<th>Specialized talents &amp; researchers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>• Mainland: 2 Years</td>
<td>• 3 years</td>
<td>• 10 years</td>
<td>• 5 years</td>
<td>• 5 years</td>
<td>• 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FreeZone: 3 Years</td>
<td>• 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewability</td>
<td>After completion of 2 or 3 years visa</td>
<td>After completion of 3 or 5 years visa</td>
<td>After completion of 10 years visa</td>
<td>After completion of 5 years visa</td>
<td>After completion of 5 years visa</td>
<td>After completion of 10 years visa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categories are identified</td>
<td>• UAE Company set up</td>
<td>• Holder of property in UAE, valued at more than AED 1+ million for 3 years visa or AED 5+ million for 5 years visa</td>
<td>• Investors in public investments of at least AED 10 million</td>
<td>• Entrepreneurs will be granted a 5-year visa with a possibility for upgrading to a 10-year investor visa</td>
<td>• Over the age of 55 years</td>
<td>• Specialized talents &amp; researchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Offer letter from FZ or Mainland company</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Shares in a FZ or Mainland company for an investor visa</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presence required in the UAE
Yes

Timeframe
7-10 working days
10-12 working days
TBC
TBC
TBC
TBC

Dependants’ visa
Applicant is qualified to sponsor dependents’ visa for spouse and children’s under 18 years subject to certain conditions
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Required legal presence “day counting”
Applicant must return to the UAE within 180 days to keep the visa active
Applicant must return to the UAE within 180 days to keep the visa active
TBC
TBC
TBC
Applicant must return to the UAE within 180 days to keep the visa active

1. Other than visiting the UAE at least once every six months; however, in order to obtain a tax residence certificate, an applicant must in principle reside in the UAE for at least 180 days in the past year. Exemptions – based on subjective “close ties to the country” criteria are available.

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**RESIDENCY IN THE UAE**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Trade license</td>
<td>Property must be constructed and fit for habitation</td>
<td>Amount invested to be wholly owned by the investor and not loaned or financed (supporting documents will have to be provided to the respective authorities for verification), retained for a least three year and financial solvency up to AED 10 million</td>
<td>Previous project with a minimum of AED 500,000 OR Entrepreneurs having approval of an accredited business incubator in the country</td>
<td>Able to evidence either Real estate investment in a UAE of a minimum market value of Dh2 million OR Financial savings of no less than Dh1 million OR Proof of an income of not less than Dh20,000 per month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                         | Valid Immigration Card | Property should have a mortgage no more than 70% of the value for 3 year visa | Property should be wholly owned by the investor and not loaned for 5 year visa | Entrepreneurs | | Holder of - PhD degree from one of the top 500 universities in the world - Award / certificates of appreciation for the work - Mohammed bin Rashid Medal for Scientific Excellence | **Key conditions**

- Valid Trade license
- Valid Immigration Card
- Property must be constructed and fit for habitation
- Property should have a mortgage no more than 70% of the value for 3 year visa
- Property should be wholly owned by the investor and not loaned for 5 year visa
- Applicant shall present a valid title deed, indicating the Applicant as direct (co-)owner
- Amount invested to be wholly owned by the investor and not loaned or financed (supporting documents will have to be provided to the respective authorities for verification), retained for a least three year and financial solvency up to AED 10 million
- A deposit of at least AED 10 million in an investment fund inside the country OR Establishing a company in the UAE with a capital of not less than AED 10 million OR Partnering in an existing or a new company with a share value of not less than AED10 million OR Having a total investment of not less than AED 10 million in all areas mentioned, on condition that the investment in sectors other than real estate is not less than 60% of the total investment
- Previous project with a minimum of AED 500,000 OR Entrepreneurs having approval of an accredited business incubator in the country
- Able to evidence either Real estate investment in a UAE of a minimum market value of Dh2 million OR Financial savings of no less than Dh1 million OR Proof of an income of not less than Dh20,000 per month

*In the field of work of the applicant.*

**Who we are**

We are a multi-services platform catering to a broad spectrum of clients – from individual entrepreneurs and local SMEs to wealthy international families, to established blue-chip companies and multinationals. Our one-stop-shop offering is unique in the Middle East: a holistic and cross-disciplinary combination of a market-leading corporate services firm, a law firm’s specialist expertise and a regulatory & compliance services practice, all through one single platform.

We have broad experience in assisting clients with multi-jurisdictional interests in securing an alternative residence and domicile. Bringing together our tax and private wealth expertise, along with the broad capabilities of our sister fiduciary firm, our team can support our clients in all aspects of their immigration.

Headquartered in the UAE, we are an entrepreneurial firm for entrepreneurial clients.

**Who will assist you**

Stephanie Campbell
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campbell@m-hq.com

Yann Mrazek
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