

Premium Residency in Saudi Arabia – 2024 Guide

What is Premium Residency (Saudi Green Card)?

Premium Residency, also known as "Special Privileged Iqama," is a long-term residence permit issued by the Saudi government to qualified expatriates. It provides residents with the ability to live, work, invest, and own property in Saudi Arabia without the need for a local sponsor (kafeel).

The program supports the Kingdom's Vision 2030 initiative by attracting talent, investors, and entrepreneurs who contribute to the national economy.

Key Benefits of Premium Residency

- **No Sponsorship Required** – Freedom from traditional iqama constraints.
- **Multiple Entry/Exit** – Enter and leave the Kingdom at will.
- **Career Flexibility** – Ability to change jobs without employer restrictions.
- **Business Ownership** – Launch businesses or form partnerships as a foreigner.
- **Real Estate Ownership** – Invest in residential, commercial, and industrial properties.
- **Capital Control** – Full control over personal investments and finances.
- **Transport Ownership** – Register and own vehicles in your name.
- **Family Benefits** – Easier spousal work permits and extended dependent age (up to 25).

Types of Saudi Premium Residency (7 Categories)

Residency Type	Target Group	Key Benefit
1. Special Talent	Healthcare, science, R&D professionals, and executives	Exemption from Nitaqat; fast-track RHQ options
2. Gifted Residency	Sports, culture, and artistic achievers	Endorsed by Ministry of Culture or Sports
3. Investor Residency	Foreign investors	Requires SAR 7 million investment
4. Entrepreneur Residency	Startup founders	Nominate 2 staff for Special Talent; exempt from Nitaqat for 3 years
5. Real Estate Owner	Foreign property buyers	Requires SAR 4 million in property holdings
6. Limited Duration	Short-term residents	SAR 100,000/year; renewable annually
7. Unlimited Duration	Long-term/permanent residents	One-time fee of SAR 800,000

Who Is Eligible?

General Criteria:

- Age 21 or older
- Clean criminal record
- Valid passport
- Proven financial solvency

Specific Criteria by Type:

- **Investor:** Invest SAR 7 million and provide company registration documents
- **Real Estate:** Own property worth at least SAR 4 million (unmortgaged)
- **Entrepreneur:** Startup license from MISA; VC support or proof of job creation
- **Special Talent:**
 - Healthcare/researchers: SAR 35,000–SAR 14,000 monthly income
 - Executive roles: Salary proof and employment contracts
- **Gifted:** Nominated or awarded by Ministry of Culture or Sports

Required Documents

- Passport copies (applicant and family members)
- Passport-style photos
- Proof of residence (inside or outside KSA)
- 12 months of bank statements
- Academic certificates
- Medical fitness reports
- Proof of financial means (salary slips, CR, or audited accounts)
- Official Arabic/English translations and document attestation

How to Apply for Premium Residency in Saudi Arabia

1. **Register on the Official Portal** – www.saprc.gov.sa
 2. **Complete Application** – Enter personal, professional, and financial information
 3. **Upload Documents** – Digital copies of all required documents
 4. **Pay Fees** – SAR 100,000 for limited; SAR 800,000 for unlimited
 5. **Submit and Track** – Submit your application and track progress online
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Validity and Renewal

- **Limited Duration:** 1-year validity; renewable annually with SAR 100,000
 - **Unlimited Duration:** Lifetime validity; no renewals required
 - Other types depend on approval category but are renewable based on compliance
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Why Choose Saudi Business Hub (SBH)?

SBH offers end-to-end support for securing Premium Residency:

- Application review and documentation assistance
- Regulatory compliance and Arabic translation
- Investment guidance and property sourcing
- Renewal tracking and administrative support

Whether you're an investor, entrepreneur, professional, or property owner, SBH ensures a smooth and successful path to obtaining your Premium Residency in Saudi Arabia.

References and Resources

- [Saudi Premium Residency Center](#)
- [MISA – Ministry of Investment](#)
- [Saudi Vision 2030](#)