

Entrepreneur License in Saudi Arabia – 2024 Guide

What is an Entrepreneur License?

An Entrepreneur License in Saudi Arabia is issued by the Ministry of Investment (MISA) to support local and foreign startup founders aiming to launch innovative, growth-oriented businesses in the Kingdom. This license allows 100% foreign ownership and is part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 strategy to boost economic diversification and attract global entrepreneurial talent.

Key Benefits of the Entrepreneur License

- **100% Foreign Ownership** – No Saudi sponsor (kafeel) required under approved pathways.
 - **No Minimum Capital Requirement** – For most license types when supported by incubators, VCs, or government entities.
 - **Streamlined Setup** – Fast-track processing via the Invest Saudi portal.
 - **Government Recognition** – Official support from MISA and other strategic entities.
 - **Access to Incubators and Funding** – Eligible for Monsha'at, PIF, KAUST, and accelerator programs.
 - **Business Expansion Rights** – License holders can scale operations with regulatory flexibility.
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Who is Eligible for an Entrepreneur License?

Category	Requirements
Innovator	Patent ownership or a registered invention.
VC-Backed Entrepreneur	Proof of funding from an approved venture capital firm (term sheet or funding letter).
Government-Supported	Letter of support from MISA, PIF, CODE, Monsha'at, or KAUST.
Established Foreign Business	Foreign entity operating >1 year (excluding sole proprietorship) with capital ≥ SAR 25,000.

General Eligibility Criteria

- Must be at least **21 years old**
- Legal residency in Saudi Arabia (or apply from abroad with relocation intent)
- Strong business plan or innovation credentials
- Proof of financial solvency or business funding

Required Documents

- Valid passport and Saudi residence permit (if applicable)
- Business plan or pitch deck
- Proof of support (VC, incubator, or government partner)
- Bank statements or funding documentation
- Commercial registration and Articles of Incorporation (if applicable)
- Academic qualifications or patents (if applicable)
- No criminal record certificate

All documents must be officially translated into Arabic and attested.

Step-by-Step: How to Apply for an Entrepreneur License

1. **Choose Your Eligibility Path** – Patent, VC funding, or incubator support
 2. **Prepare Required Documents** – Business plan, endorsements, financials
 3. **Submit Application via Invest Saudi Portal** – <https://investsaudi.sa>
 4. **MISA Evaluation and Interview** – If needed for business verification
 5. **License Issuance** – Once approved, CR and municipal steps can follow
 6. **Post-License Registrations** – ZATCA, Chamber of Commerce, GOSI, and Qiwa
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Sector Considerations

- Some sectors (e.g., transportation, security, education) may have extra regulatory layers.
 - Entrepreneur Licenses are generally issued for **non-restricted commercial activities**.
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Why Work with Saudi Business Hub (SBH)?

SBH offers comprehensive support for entrepreneurs:

- Application preparation and documentation
 - Investor or incubator matching assistance
 - Business planning and pitch deck development
 - Arabic translation and government liaison
 - Post-setup compliance: ZATCA, labor laws, Saudization planning
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References and Resources

- [Invest Saudi – MISA Portal](#)
- [Monsha'at – Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority](#)
- [Vision 2030 – Entrepreneurship](#)