

Working in Portugal

A National citizen of a European Union (EU) country, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland

Do I need a permit to work and live in Portugal?

If you are a national of a country of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, you have the right to stay, work and seek for work in Portugal. You do not need a specific permit. A valid passport or identity card(s) from your country are sufficient proof that you have the right to stay and work in Portugal.

Which countries are covered by this rule?

EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Slovakia) United Kingdom^(*), Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

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(*) As of 1/02/2020 the United Kingdom is no longer a member of the European Union. However, by virtue of the withdrawal agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom, freedom of movement of workers between the United Kingdom and the Member States continues to exist during a transition period which currently goes to 31/12/2020.

Can the IEFP help me look for work in Portugal?

The [Institute of Employment and Vocational Training](#) (IEFP) is the public employment service in Portugal. There are also public employment services in the autonomous regions of Madeira ([Employment Institute of Madeira - IEM](#)) And the Azores ([Regional Employment and Vocational Training Directorate](#)).

Find out how IEFP can help you (a) to seek employment in Portugal, how to register as a jobseeker in the country and what to do if you are receiving unemployment benefits from another country or if you want to receive unemployment benefits in Portugal.

Before departing for Portugal

If you are not in Portugal, you can search and apply to job offers for Portugal through [EURES portal](#). The Job vacancies for Portugal posted on the EURES portal are, as a rule, from the base of IEFP job vacancy database.

In Portugal

If you are already in Portugal, you can register as jobseeker candidate with an IEFP employment service (search for the location and contact details of the nearest service [here](#)). This way publish your CV and find out about job offers notified to the public employment service (IEFP). For registration you must present a valid passport (or national identity document) valid.

If, in addition to your valid passport (or country ID) you have a valid Portuguese Social Security Identification Number (NISS) and password to access the Social Security Direct, you can register with [iefponline](#) and:

- create and publish your CV / register as job seeker in Portugal;
- search and apply for job offers.

Post your CV on the EURES portal

This option is recommended if you want to work in Portugal but still live in another country. EURES (European Employment Services) is a European employment network, coordinated by the European Commission, which integrates employment services (public and private) trade and employer's organizations in Europe (EU, EEA and Switzerland) as well as other partner entities that support mobility of workers.

You can use the [EURES portal](#) to:

- create a CV online, making it accessible to registered employers from Portugal as well as to EURES advisers who help employers to find suitable candidates; You can create your CV in the "MY EURES" section;
- get information about living and working in Portugal;
- apply to job offers for Portugal;
- contact a [EURES adviser](#) if you have any questions about living or working in Portugal.

You can follow EURES on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Register for a job in Portugal.

If you want to officially register as a job applicant in Portugal, you should register your CV on [iefponline](#), which you will increase your chances of finding work. You are not required to register with IEPF unless you receive unemployment benefits in another country and the paying agency that pays expects you to do so.

Register with the IEPF if you are receiving unemployment benefits from another country (DPU2).

If you are receiving unemployment benefits in another country EU / EEA country or Switzerland and you are looking for work in Portugal, you should register as a jobseeker with the IEPF - Employment office in your area of residence (location and contact details of the nearest service [here](#)), So that the IEPF can inform the benefit paying agency that you are actively looking for work in Portugal.

When registering you should bring the following documentation:

- valid passport (or your country's identity document);
- the U2 portable document (PDU2) - which you must apply before departure to Portugal, the entity that pays your unemployment benefits.

The IEPF need this document to inform the entity that paying you the benefits that you are looking for work in Portugal. If you do not receive portable document from the entity in time the before coming to Portugal, you should submit a copy of the application and the entity's contact details.

Apply for unemployment benefits (if worked in Portugal)

If you have been working in Portugal and have become unemployed, you may be entitled to unemployment benefit in Portugal. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, [click here](#).

You can claim for unemployment benefits through [iefponline](#). To do this, simply access the "Unemployment Benefit Application" form in the citizens management area of this portal. This option will be available once you have registered or re-enrolled for employment. You must

have a Portuguese Social Security Identification Number (NISS) and a Direct Social Security password.

If you need help claiming for unemployment benefits, go to your local employment office (IEFP) – find the location and contact details [here](#).

Where can I find job opportunities for Portugal?

If you want to work in Portugal, you should start looking for work before moving / traveling to Portugal.

Job offers on EURES and IEFP

You can search for offers for Portugal through the [EURES portal](#), available in 25 European languages. On this [portal](#), you can apply to the offers communicated to employment services members of the network by employers based in Portugal.

If you are already in Portugal, you can use [iefponline](#) (An online service provided by the IEFP) to search and apply for job vacancies.

Temporary employment agencies

You can also make use of temporary employment agencies, which assign their employees to other companies. Accepting a temporary job can be a first step towards finding a more stable job.

The list of temporary employment agencies authorised to carry out this activity in Portugal are regularly updated on the IEFP portal. You can search for them [here](#).

Internet: employment exchanges

Apart from iefponline, there are several websites where Portuguese employers advertise their recruitment needs (jobs offers).

[Jobs in Portugal / Lisbon \(for English speakers\)](#)

[Jobs in Portugal / Porto \(for English speakers\)](#)

[Expatica Jobs](#)

[Expressoemprego](#)

[EmpregoCM](#)

[sapo Jobs](#)

[OLX Free job ads in Portugal](#)

[IT Jobs: job exchange for the Information Technology area](#)

[employment Information](#)

[Turijobs: job portal in Tourism and Hospitality](#)

[Ambitur: employment exchange in Tourism](#)

[Employment Health](#)

[Workload: Jobs in the communication area](#)

[Naturlink Jobs](#)

[Fashion Jobs: Employment in the field of Fashion](#)

[Universal Jobs: employment opportunities for students and graduates](#)

[NetEmpregos](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Careerjet: jobs and careers in Portugal](#)

[jobs Org](#)

[Working in Portugal](#)

[jobs Online](#)

[Landing Jobs](#)

[good Jobs](#)

[Trabalhando.pt](#)

[and now \(iAgora\)](#)

[Jobrapido.com](#)

[job alert](#)

[EmpregoXL](#)

Written Press

Portuguese companies still use quite the national and regional press to disseminate their recruitment needs. The national daily newspapers most used are: The Journal News, the Morning Post and the public that publish daily jobs in various sectors of activity. The Express newspaper published weekly in ExpressoEmprego notebook, job offers especially for staff and skilled technicians, executives and consultants. These newspapers also have online versions of their sections of classifieds or jobs in easily searchable databases.

Social networks

Employers and recruitment companies in Portugal are increasingly using platforms such as LinkedIn to find potential candidates, especially in segments with higher qualifications. It is also increasingly common for recruiters to check profiles other social networks (such as Facebook). Ensuring a (careful) presence on social networks (particularly LinkedIn) is therefore increasingly important to ensure that your profile is being viewed, it is accessible and has the relevant information to potential employers and recruiters.

Spontaneous applications

Many of the jobs available in the market are not openly advertised. Spontaneous application continues to be one of the ways to showcase their skills to employers.

EURES job fairs

You can participate in [European job fairs](#) or international level, in person (in your country or in neighbouring countries) or online (from your home). Make sure the EURES Portugal is represented, with employment opportunities and / or accompanied by Portuguese employers.

Before and during these fairs, you can:

- apply for jobs specifically for Portugal,
- be selected to one or more interviews with Portuguese employers,
- accompany presentations by Portuguese employers or on job search, living and working conditions in Portugal (streamlined by EURES advisers) possibly included in the Program,
- contact directly with employers and recruiters, for a first exploratory contact,
- benefit from personalized advice from EURES advisers in Portugal.

For more information on upcoming events, see europeanjobdays.eu or [Events calendar](#) on the EURES portal.

What aspects should I consider in my application when applying for a job in Portugal?

Did you find an interesting job offer? Or a company or organization that would like to work for? Then it's time to apply. But what are the application procedures in Portugal?

Which language to choose your cover letter and CV?

Write your curriculum vitae (CV) and cover letter in the language requested in the offer. If not indicated a preferred language is best to apply the language of the offer. In Portugal, most of the offers are in Portuguese. It is important that your letter and your CV are checked by someone who correctly writes in Portuguese.

Can't write your CV and cover letter in Portuguese?

In Portugal, many people speak English fairly well. Some employers probably understand if you send your CV and cover letter in English. If the offer indicate that specific language skills are required, you can also reply in those languages.

Cover letter

Your cover letter should be written in computer, no more than one A4 sheet, and should be short and professional.

The cover letter should indicate where you found the offer, why you want this particular job, who you are and what makes you suitable for the job and what you can offer to the company

or organization. In the end, you should indicate that You would like to be invited for an interview.

It is increasingly common to replace the letter by an application e-mail, with the same type of content, to which you attach your CV.

Copies of academic certificates are only required later on recruitment itself.

On average, the recruitment process may take about 1 to 2 months - but it also depends on the urgency, by the employer, to fill the position.

Curriculum vitae

A Portuguese CV, in general, is presented in reverse chronological order (starting with the experience and qualifications acquired more recently), with 1 to 2 pages maximum. The functional model (for professionals with diverse experiences) or infographic model (for professionals with little or no professional experience) are also increasingly used.

The Europass CV model is accepted, although employers and Portuguese recruiters highlighting an increasingly value their own creative approach by the candidate.

Sometimes a photograph is required.

In its structure, should include the following: 1. Personal data (address, telephone / mobile, e-mail, page on LinkedIn, Skype account, etc.); 2. professional experience; 3. Education (highest level of education completed); 4. vocational training (category different from initial education, specifying the training courses and internships and the reference to license or certificate of professional competence); 5. other knowledge (foreign languages, computer and reference the driving license); 6. leisure activities / personal interests (optional).

Interview

Interviewers place greater value on professional work experience, training, knowledge of the company and its main activity sector.

You should take to the interview some documents, including at least a copy of your CV, diplomas, evidence of previous experience (work certificates), recommendations from past employers and other documents useful to consider - but should only submit them if requested.

Types of contract

What will your contractual situation be when accepting a job in Portugal? And what are your rights as a worker?

There are several types of employment contracts in Portugal. Each contract gives the different parties' rights and obligations, for example, with regard to the trial period and the notice period.

As an employee subject to Portuguese labour law, you should also be aware of your rights and duties in general.

See the EURES portal [information on working conditions](#) in Portugal.

Where can I find information on living and working conditions in Portugal?

Are you familiar with the functioning of Portuguese society? Do you Portuguese? How will you look for accommodation? How to deal with access to the health system? How will your children enter school in the middle of the school year?

It is important to understand these and other practical questions before leaving for Portugal.

The EURES portal offers information on [living and working conditions in Portugal](#) for you and your family.

What is the status and trends in the labour market in Portugal?

Before moving to Portugal, you should collect updated information on the economic situation and the labour market in Portugal - that will give you a clearer perspective on the actual probability of finding a job in the professional field you are looking for.

The labour market in Portugal

In the EURES portal, you will find updated information at least annually on the [Portuguese labour market](#).

Do you have any additional questions regarding the opportunities available in the Portuguese labour market? In the city / region for which you want to move to? [Contact a EURES adviser](#)

Is there any support for moving to Portugal?

You should be aware that in the process of moving to Portugal to work, the EURES network has at its disposal a set of support to which they can apply in advance (to meet the requirements):

- to participate in an interview recruitment in Portugal;
- when moving / relocating to Portugal;
- If learning the language (Portuguese) is required to accept a job / start a contract of employment in Portugal;
- if, in the exercise of your profession in Portugal, a process a professional recognition associated costs is required.

For more information, see the Mobility Support section ([TMS/Yfej](#)) of the EURES Portugal website. You can also contact us by email: yfej@iefp.pt.