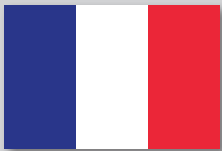


French Republic



About France

Capital City:

- Paris

Monetary Unit:

- Euro (€)

Major Languages:

- French

Main Exports:

- Machinery
- Aircraft
- Plastics & Chemicals
- Cosmetic & Pharmaceutical Products

Our Immigration Services in France

Business Travel – Guidance & assistance with Schengen Short Stay or “circulation” visa applications for visa nationals

Short Term Work Permits & Visa Applications – For non-EU/EEA citizens who will travel to France on short term assignments or trainings of up to three months

Work & Residence Permit applications – For non-EU/EEA citizens, who will travel to France for training, as an intra-company transfer, or executive/managing director

Declarations & Residence Permits – For EU/EEA nationals who will be sent to France on secondment

The Economy of France

Home to over 65 million people, France is the largest state in the European Union (EU) and the fifth largest economy in the world based on GDP. It is a member of the G8 group of leading industrialized nations and has a mixed economy comprised of private, government and state-run enterprises. In recent years, the government has partially or fully privatized many large companies and has ceded stakes in leading firms such as Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales.

As the world’s top tourist destination, France has a substantial service sector and tourism industry. It is the world’s second largest agricultural exporter, accounting for one-third of all agricultural land in the EU. France is also the world’s largest net exporter of electricity, much of which is produced through nuclear energy. Électricité de France (EDF) is the country’s main electricity generation and distribution company and world leader in production of nuclear power by percentage. The financial services, banking, and insurance sectors are also important to France’s economy. Its main trading partners include Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and the U.S. The World Trade organization has ranked France as one of the world’s top exporters and importer of manufactured goods. France has consistently ranked as one of the world’s largest recipients of foreign direct investment amongst Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. With 39 of the 500 largest companies of the world in 2010, France ranked fourth in the Fortune Global 500, behind the U.S., Japan and China. There are more Fortune Global 500’s headquarters in Paris than in New York, London or Munich.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/295hfm>;
<http://tinyurl.com/3mm6sd>

Business Travel to France

France is a member of the EU and Schengen Agreements. Currently, citizens of EU and European Economic Area (EEA) member nations do not require a visa to enter France. Similarly, nationals of nearly three dozen countries, including Canada and the United States, may enter France, visa free, for a period of up to 90 days. Individuals subject to visa controls will require a Schengen circulation visa for entry to France and should apply at the French Consulate nearest to their residence well in advance of their planned travel. Visitors to the Schengen area are limited to a stay of up to 90 days in a given 180-day period, cumulative and including trips to all Schengen member countries. All visitors to France should be prepared to present at the border and during any respective visa applications, documentary evidence of the purpose of the business visit, means of support for the duration of the stay, and accommodation arrangements.

Business travelers may enter France to perform a variety of non-remunerative activities while in France, including professional and commercial activities such as attending business meetings, negotiations, and seminars or conferences. Fact-finding, data gathering and limited sales activities may be permitted as long as they benefit the visitor’s foreign employer. Business activities for compensation are strictly prohibited.

The French Foreign Ministry maintains an updated list of entry requirements and missions abroad at their web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/3vuq7g2>

Continued on next page.

Living in France

Metropolitan France (France in Europe) has land borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Andorra. It is also bordered by the North Sea, the English Channel, the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean. It has a number of territories overseas which, together with metropolitan France and Corsica, go to make up the 26 regions which the country comprises.

France's colonial past is a major contributing factor in the presence of a richly diverse multicultural population. It is a culturally and ethnically diverse society which is known worldwide for its cuisine and fine arts. Apart from Paris, which is the largest urban area in France, other major cities are Lyon, Marseille, Lille and Toulouse.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/3d6oak>,
<http://tinyurl.com/4xk5s3n>

French Work Permit Process

- 1 Employment Contract submission with Labor Department ("DIRECCTE"), as applicable, and application for Work permit with the National Agency for the Reception of Foreign Nationals and Migration ("OFII")
- 2 Upon approval by OFII, in-person interview and application for Long Stay Schengen Visa at French consulate or mission nearest to home residence
- 3 Upon entry to France, medical evaluation with Immigration Office followed by residence permit application at the local Prefecture

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in France

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including France. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and filing;

French Business Culture

The French are formal in business settings and typically dress conservatively. Professionalism is highly valued by the French and personal matters are kept separate from business. The French generally start meetings promptly and with little formalities, however, make decisions slowly and after much deliberation.

Business appointments are mandatory and should be made at least two weeks in advance. Handshakes are the typical business greeting in business settings. Business cards and materials should be printed in French and English. Have the other side of your business card translated into French. Although not a business necessity, it demonstrates an attention to detail that will be appreciated. Include any advanced academic degrees on your business card.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/665nla>

detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the French embassy or consulate abroad and local Prefectures may be available.

French work authorization applications will be reviewed by the local labor authorities and may be subject to labor market analysis before the work permit application may be processed. Thus, if your company anticipates engaging foreign talent in France, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human.

We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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