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UAE residence through your company

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In short: In the UAE the usual route is for your own company, once it has a trade licence and an establishment card, to sponsor you on a renewable investor or partner residence visa, generally valid for two years. A 10-year Golden Visa is available to investors or partners whose share of a UAE company is worth at least AED 2 million, among other categories.

See the UAE company formation guide for licence types and costs.

Investor or partner visa

After the licence is issued, the company registers with immigration and obtains an establishment card, then applies for entry permits and residence for its owners. Steps include a medical test, biometrics for the Emirates ID and visa issuance. Free zones process this through their own authority; mainland companies go through GDRFA (Dubai) or ICP (other emirates). Visa quotas often depend on the office space the company has.

Golden Visa

For investors and partners, GDRFA Dubai requires a share of a UAE company's assets worth at least AED 2 million, evidenced by a certified financial report from a UAE-accredited auditor and a valid trade licence naming the applicant as partner. Other Golden Visa categories cover property, deposits, entrepreneurs and specialised talent.

Why it matters for banking

A residence visa and Emirates ID usually make it easier to open a corporate account; see business banking in the UAE.

See also

- Residence and visas for company founders
- Business banking in the United Arab Emirates
- Company formation in the United Arab Emirates

References

1. Residence services . Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security. Accessed November 2026.
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