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# Estonian startup visa

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**In short:** Non-EU founders whose startup is approved by Estonia's Startup Committee can apply for a long-stay D visa or a temporary residence permit for startup entrepreneurship valid for up to five years. Unlike the ordinary business residence permit, which expects €65,000 invested in the company, the startup route has no minimum capital.

See the Estonia company formation guide for company formation.

## How it works

First, take the eligibility test on the Startup Estonia site and submit the application to the Startup Committee, which judges whether the company is an innovative, scalable startup. With a positive decision you can apply for a visa (no Estonian company needed yet) or, once the company is registered in Estonia, a temporary residence permit. The permit is normally issued within two months.

## Staying longer

Only time on a residence permit counts towards long-term residence, which needs five years of residence and Estonian at B1 level. The permit can be cancelled if you are not actually in Estonia building the startup.

## e-Residency is different

e-Residency gives a digital ID to run an Estonian company remotely; it does not give the right to live or work in Estonia or the EU.

## See also

- Residence and visas for company founders
- Business banking in Estonia
- Company formation in Estonia

## References

1. Startup visa: frequently asked questions . Work in Estonia. Accessed November 2026.
2. What is an Estonian temporary residence permit? . Republic of Estonia e-Residency. Accessed November 2026.
3. Estonian startup visa vs e-Residency . Republic of Estonia e-Residency. Accessed November 2026.

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