



Portugal

Fast-tracked EU residency
for **highly qualified** executives overseeing
their own **research-driven** venture

Highly Qualified Activity Visa

Provide strategic direction to
your own innovative start up

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In the care of a
business incubator

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Preserve your freedom to
manage your other commitments



Designed for accomplished professionals

The Portugal HQA residency visa business incubation program is a premium investor-entrepreneur product that delivers the smoothest most cost effective path to EU citizenship or PR for accomplished professionals. It was co-created with Portuguese R&D facilities as a preferable alternative to Golden, Green and Start Up Visa options, for business persons who wish to provide strategic direction to their own innovative startup, while preserving their freedom to travel as they require. The Portugal HQA program allows accomplished professionals to balance the competing demands of running their existing businesses and lives, while seeding an option on their future.

Delivered by a government-recognized international business incubator

Empowered Startups is a transnational business incubator, certified by the Government of Canada, partnered with public bodies in France and Portugal. Under the Portugal HQA program, Empowered Startups has partnered with Portuguese R&D facilities to offer a clear path for accomplished professionals who are able to provide strategic direction to their own innovative R&D driven startup. Empowered Startups is certified to deliver its LEAN start up incubation program, which follows state of the art business model de-risking methodology.



Provides a clear path to a future in the EU

Accomplished professionals provide strategic oversight of their own venture, while Empowered Startups manages all day-to-day activities. Following a 3 year concierge-style incubation period, the new venture will have validated its initial business model and produced wholly-owned IP, and the entrepreneur-investor is on track for PR or citizenship.



Balance the competing demands of running your professional life,

while seeding an option on your future in the EU.



EUR **175,000**
total cost

Clear path to Citizenship or Permanent Residency

- Freedom to travel internationally as needed
- Fast-processing: 4-6 weeks until visa approval
- Accompaniment through permit renewals prior to Permanent Residency/Citizenship

More flexible than the Start Up Visa Program

- No quotas
- No quarterly government reports
- No business performance requirements

More cost effective than the Golden Visa Program

- 25% of total cost of Golden Visa
- No ongoing operational or maintenance fees
- Fully refundable if residency visa refused

Smooth transition to a professional base of operations in Portugal

- 3-year business incubation, from business concept creation to product/market fit
- R&D project with public research facility - creates IP and identifies potential local staff
- Professional integration through key strategic relationships
- Concierge-style management of start up operations and administration





Portugal HQA visa

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STEP 1

Plan strategy

Meet Intake Committee via videoconference to agree on overall direction of new venture

Engage Empowered Startups to begin work on your behalf

STEP 2

Receive Resident Visa

Empowered Startups prepares key visa documents :

- (1) your venture's strategic plan
- (2) Empowered Startups letter of support
- (3) letter of invitation from public research institution

* All fees refunded if Residency Visa refused *

STEP 3

Travel to Portugal

Travel to Portugal for immigration appointment

Meet Empowered Startups to finalize incubation strategic plan, and meet R&D partners

Begin 3-year concierge incubation program

STEP 4

Monitor progress

Provide strategic direction, based on progress reports from Empowered Startups

Receive documents to support permit renewals from Empowered Startups

STEP 5

Enjoy options

After final renewal required before PR/citizenship, choose the future of your company emerging from incubation

24 months after second renewal, decide whether to apply for PR or citizenship