

Visas and Permits in the Critical Skills category

Thank you for consulting Wanderlust Cape Town for your immigration needs. Based on our communication, we would suggest that you investigate the Critical Skills Visa and Permit package.

The Critical Skills route is suitable for professionals that fall under the Critical Skills list provided by the South African Government. It is currently the fastest way to a Work Visa and Permanent Residence in South Africa as the country supports the “import” of skills, which are in high demand.

Temporary Residence: Critical Skills Visa (CSV)

You are eligible for a Critical Skills Visa if you meet the following requirements:

- **You feature on the Critical Skills list.**
This list is the result of a collaboration of various government departments as well as various Chambers of Commerce and it has not been updated since June 2014. You can find the Critical Skills list by following this link:
http://www.dha.gov.za/images/immigration_critical_skills.pdf

Should you wish to apply for a Critical Skills Visa, you should take note of the following technical information:

- You will be able to receive a visa without an employment offer for 1 year only.
- The visa is issued for a 5-year period with an employment offer.
- A Department of Labour recommendation is not necessary, and neither is advertising your position in a national newspaper.
- Your foreign qualifications have to be evaluated by the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) and all documents must be in English or translated to English by a sworn translator.
- You need to register with a relevant professional body before you may submit your CSV. (proof of application for registration is sufficient for a visa application)
- The professional body will have to confirm your skills or qualifications and appropriate post qualification experience.

Application processing times at the Department of Home Affairs

Temporary visa applications are submitted in one's home country before departure to South Africa. Application processing times can vary from 2 weeks to 8 weeks, depending on the respective embassy.

All applications have to be submitted in person. Once application has been submitted, South African Embassies retain your passport until your application has been processed. Travel will therefore be restricted.

Permanent Residence: Critical Skills Permit

You are eligible for a Critical Skills Permit if in addition to the above requirements, you meet the following:

- 5 years post qualification experience in the appropriate position.
- You are registered with the relevant professional body (proof of application for registration is not sufficient for PR applications).

Should you wish to apply for a Critical Skills Permit, you should take note of the following technical information:

- You can to apply for this permit in South Africa provided you have to have a valid visa.
- Permanent Residence can be applied for at VFS in South African and the current indicated processing times of these applications are around 8 months.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of the documents required for a visa or PR application in this category. Should you be interested in applying for any of the above, feel free to reach out and we can provide you with further information.

Wanderlust Cape Town's services:

Wanderlust Cape Town will assist you in the compilation of your application which will be submitted either at an embassy abroad or at the VFS (Visa Facilitation Services) in South Africa.

Our services include:

- Consultation services: Expert advice regarding what visa option would be suit your immigration needs.
- Advice and assistance in obtaining the necessary documentation needed for your temporary and/or permanent residence application.
- Assistance in obtaining the necessary translations of documents.
- Drafting of the necessary documents.
- Facilitation and compilation of temporary and permanent residence applications.
- If submission of the application has to occur at an embassy abroad, we will compile the application and courier it to the relevant location. We will also schedule the necessary appointments at the embassy on your behalf (if possible).
- If submission of the application is in South Africa, we will compile your application and schedule the submission appointment on your behalf at VFS.
- Online tracking of status of application at VFS.

Should you be interested in engaging our services, please feel free to contact us to schedule a consultation.

We look forward to hearing from you.