

IMMIGRATION TO URUGUAY

Visas Valid passport required by all except: (a) nationals of Uruguay who arrive from Argentina, Brazil, Chile or Paraguay with a national identity card; (b) nationals of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay with a national identity card for stays of up to 90 days. Visas required by all except the following: (a) nationals of UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, other EU, except nationals of Estonia and the Slovak Republic who do need a visa (nationals of Canada, Ireland, Malta and the USA are only permitted visa-free stays of up to three months); (b) nationals of Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong (SAR), Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Korea (Rep), Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela; (c) nationals of Dominican Republic, Liechtenstein and Turkey for stays of up to three months; (d) nationals of Malaysia for up to 30 days; (e) holders of a re-entry permit issued by Uruguayan officials. Types of visa and cost: Business and Tourist: Enquire at Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy) for cost as it may vary with the exchange rate. Validity: Visas are for stays of up to three months, except for visas issued to Malaysian nationals, which are valid for one month. Extensions for a further three months are possible; apply at the Immigration Office in Uruguay. Application must be made to: Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy). Application requirements: (a) Valid passport. (b) One passport-size photo. (c) Completed application form. (d) References in Uruguay (name, address and phone number) or hotel booking confirmation. (e) Return ticket and travel documentation (including the flight number and the dates of arrival and departure). (f) Postal applications should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. (g) For business visits, a letter from the company in the country of origin. Working days required: 14.

Temporary Residence/Employment It is possible for foreigners to obtain an Uruguayan permanent residency, if they can comply with minimum health and income requirements. Every foreign person who wants to settle in Uruguay and hence obtain legal residency will have to go to the migration authorities, after having fulfilled certain requirements. These include the presentation of a birth certificate duly legalized, written evidence of incomes so as to justify the resources the applicant will count on, passport photo and a legalized certificate of non criminal records from the country of applicant's origin. An Identity Card can be obtained once legal residence is acquired. However, residence does not automatically entitle a foreigner to citizenship or a Uruguayan passport until other provided by law requirements are fulfilled, such as providing evidence of what his previous citizenship was, details of his/her entry into the country, details of residence, details of settlement, as well as testimonial evidence and other provided by law evidences. Foreigners who would like to reside in Uruguay for more than 180 days, but less than a year, must obtain a 'Temporary Residence' that costs 550 pesos. At the National Office of Migration in Montevideo,

Department of the Minister of Interior, the applicant must present: - A police report from home country (obtained before traveling to Uruguay); - Passport (valid for 6 months beyond arrival date in Uruguay); - A health card, which costs 300 pesos and can be obtained in Montevideo; - A document providing a reason of stay of the Applicant in Uruguay. (i.e. certificate from university for students, employment contract, etc.). If a person comes to Uruguay for a period of less than 180 days, he/she can enter the country with a Tourist Visa that has a duration of 30 days. Before the 30 days are up, the applicant must apply at the National Office of Migration for a 90- day extension that costs 216 pesos. Only one such extension will be granted with the tourist visa.

Citizenship Citizenship laws of Uruguay are based upon the Constitution of 1967. Citizenship of Uruguay can be obtained by one of the following ways: - By birth: Child born within the Republic of Uruguay, regardless of the nationality of the parents. Uruguayan law refers to this as 'natural' citizenship. - By descent: Child born abroad, one of whose parents is a citizen of Uruguay, provided the child is registered in the Civic Register for Vital Records. This is also considered natural citizenship. - By naturalization: Uruguayan citizenship may be applied for by persons who are at least 18 years old and fall into one of the categories listed below. Persons gaining citizenship through naturalization are considered 'legal' citizens. a.) Person whose family has been settled in Uruguay for at least three years, and who practices any art, science, or industry in Uruguay. b.) Person who does not have family in Uruguay, but who has lived in the country for at least five years and practices any art, science, or industry in Uruguay. Dual Citizenship: Recognized. (Only for natural citizens; legal citizens are not allowed to obtain a second citizenship.) Loss of Citizenship: -Voluntary: Permitted under Uruguayan law, but not required. Contact nearest Uruguayan Embassy or Consulate for necessary requirements. - Involuntary: The following are grounds for involuntary loss of legal Uruguayan citizenship: a.) Legal citizen voluntarily obtains another citizenship. b.) Person is being prosecuted for certain criminal acts which could result in imprisonment, or receives a judicial verdict that imposes penalty of exile, prison, or loss of political rights. c.) Person participates in social or political organization activities that promote violence against the Republic of Uruguay. d.) Person fails to comply with the good behavior requirements for naturalized citizens.