



THE NIGERIA VISA POLICY 2020



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Introduction

The Nigerian Immigration Service has recently issued a new Nigerian visa policy. The Nigeria Visa Policy (the “Policy”) is designed to support the attainment of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, improve the Nigerian business environment and attract foreign direct investment in Nigeria, amongst other things.

Major Highlights of the Nigeria Visa Policy

A major highlight of the Policy is the introduction of the e-visas. The Policy also expanded the classes of visas from six (6) to seventy-five (75), and created visa codes for all the classes of visa. Other key highlights of the Policy include:

- A. Introduction of three (3) categories of visas and the visa classes as follows:
 - **Short Visit Visas (SVV):** the SVV allows travellers to visit Nigeria for a period not exceeding three (3) months for tourism, visit, business meeting, conferences, seminar, etc. The SVV has 28 classes which include transit visa, journalist visa, medical tourism visa, sports visa, staff of INGO visa, etc.
 - **Temporary Residence Visas (TRV):** the TRV allows expatriates reside in Nigeria for a period not exceeding two (2) years for the purpose of employment, schooling, etc. The TRV has 36 different classes including accredited diplomat visa, employment (INGO) visa, student visa, interns visa, etc.
 - **Permanent residence visas (PRV):** the PRV is issued to certain individuals such as spouses of Nigerian citizens, Nigerians by birth who renounced Nigerian citizenship, etc. There are 15 different classes of the PRV.
- B. Creation of visa codes for all the 79 visa classes to ease the visa processing.

- C. Review of the visa application channels to include embassies, visa application centres, Visa on Arrival (VOA) and the introduction of the electronic visa (subject to pre-approval before arrival to Nigeria).
- D. Expansion of the classes of visa available for VOA to include tourism visa to citizens of all countries, emergency relief work visa, etc.
- E. Introduction of VOA for holders of passports of all African Union countries to enable short visits and VOA for tourism
- F. Automation of the temporary work permit application submission process through the e-Visa system
- G. Introduction of visa classes for Nigerians in the diaspora with dual citizenship.

A copy of the Nigeria Visa Policy is available [here](#).

For more information please contact immigration@aluko-oyebode.com.