PROGRAMME BROCHURE

RESIDENCY BY INVESTMENT | FRANCE

France Long-Stay Visitor Card

Live in France on independent means, with no business to run and no employer to find — and no right to work of any kind.

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At a glance

COUNTRY	ROUTE
France	**Residency by Investment - Non Working Residence On Own Means**
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Overview

The **visitor** card lets you live in France without an employer, a business or an investment. In exchange, it forbids **all work** — and the prefecture asks you to sign a handwritten declaration confirming you understand that.

Three conditions carry the application: **sufficient resources** for the whole stay, **health insurance** covering it, and the undertaking not to work. For a single person the resources floor is **€1,477.93 net per month**, evidenced across a year, which the official guidance also states as **€17,735.19** annually.

Fees and renewal

	Amount
First issue	€350
Renewal	€250
Late regularisation	€180
Renewal window	4 to 2 months before expiry, filed online

The citizenship caveat

This route is often sold as a quiet path to French citizenship. Be careful with that.

Naturalisation requires five years of residence, and separately requires **stable and sufficient income from professional integration** — language the official guidance calls an essential condition of assimilation. A permit that forbids every form of work sits uncomfortably beside that requirement.

The official guidance does not state whether visitor years count towards the five years. If citizenship is your objective rather than a bonus, a talent card is the better foundation.

Key benefits

- Residence in France without needing an employer, a business or an investment.
- Renewable annually and counts towards long-term residence.
- Schengen mobility as a legal French resident.
- Housing conditions and third-party support are both taken into account.
- Suits retirees and people living on passive income.

Requirements

- Non-EU, non-EEA and non-Swiss nationality.
- Sufficient resources for the whole stay — at least €1,477.93 net per month for a single person.
- Health insurance covering the stay.
- A handwritten sworn statement that you will not work in France.
- Valid passport and clean criminal record.

When this route may not fit

- Any intention to work — employment, trading, self-employment, craft trades or the liberal professions are all excluded.
- Resources below the published threshold, or resources that cannot be evidenced.
- Reliance on family allowances to meet the threshold.

Funds to show

Requirement	Amount	Notes
Annual resources	EUR 17,735	Own resources such as pensions or rental income, or those of a solvent third party. Family allowances are excluded.

Qualifying investments

Option	Minimum	Hold	Notes
Retirement in France	EUR 17,735	12 months	Pension income evidenced annually; renewable.
Living on rental or investment income	EUR 17,735	12 months	Passive income from outside France; no French economic activity permitted.

How the process works

1. **Evidence the resources**
   Assemble twelve months of income proof meeting the monthly threshold.
2. **Arrange accommodation and insurance**
   Secure French accommodation and health cover for the full period.
3. **Apply for the long-stay visa**
   File at the French consulate covering your place of residence, including the handwritten undertaking.
4. **Validate on arrival**
   Validate the visa or attend the prefecture for the residence card.
5. **Renew annually**
   File online between four and two months before expiry to avoid the late fee.

Document checklist

Identity

- Valid passport and certified copy
- Passport photographs to French specification
- Civil status documents

Resources

- Pension statements, rental income evidence or bank statements
- Third-party undertaking where someone else supports you

Undertaking

- Handwritten sworn statement not to work in France

Housing and health

- Proof of accommodation in France
- Health insurance covering the whole stay

Questions clients ask

Can I work at all on this card?

No. The exclusion is broad and explicit — employment, trading, self-employment, craft trades and the liberal professions are all ruled out, and you sign a handwritten declaration to that effect. Remote work for a foreign employer sits in a grey area that needs case-specific advice rather than a general answer.

How much income do I need?

At least €1,477.93 net per month for a single person, evidenced across a full year — officially stated as €17,735.19 annually. It can come from your pensions or rental income, or from a solvent third party. Family allowances are excluded.

How long is the card valid?

One year, renewable. Renewal is filed online between four and two months before expiry; filing late adds a €180 regularisation fee on top of the €250 renewal fee.

Do these years count towards French citizenship?

Naturalisation requires five years of residence and also stable, sufficient income from professional integration, which the official guidance calls an essential condition of assimilation. A card that forbids all work sits awkwardly with that, and the official guidance does not state whether visitor years count. If citizenship is your objective, take advice on this point before choosing the route.

Is there a shorter version?

Yes — a temporary long-stay visa of three to twelve months exists for visitors. It does not permit work or social benefits and requires you to return home at expiry.

Can my spouse and children come?

They need their own basis. This is not a talent card, so the simplified accompanying-family route does not apply.

Important notes

- This card forbids all work — employment, trading, self-employment, craft trades and the liberal professions.
- French naturalisation separately requires stable and sufficient income from professional integration, described officially as an essential condition of assimilation. The official guidance does not state whether visitor years count towards the five years of residence.
- If citizenship is the main objective, take advice on that point before committing to this route.

NEXT STEP

Plan your France application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **France Long-Stay Visitor Card** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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