

Applying for a Residence Permit in Türkiye

Last reviewed: August 2026

Applying for a residence permit—an **ikamet izni**—can feel overwhelming the first time. The forms, supporting documents, health insurance, appointment procedures, and address registration are connected, but they are not all the same step.

This guide explains the basic structure of the process and the practical details that are easy to miss. Your exact requirements depend on your nationality, reason for staying, permit type, province, and personal circumstances. Always follow the current document list generated for your own application.

Important: A residence permit is not guaranteed simply because an application has been submitted or documents have been collected. The Provincial Directorate of Migration Management makes the final decision and may request additional information.

First: What Is Göç?

Foreign residents often use **Göç** as shorthand for **Göç İdaresi**, Türkiye's Presidency of Migration Management and its provincial offices. These offices handle residence-permit decisions, address registration for many foreign residents, and handle other immigration procedures.

Useful terms:

Turkish	English
Göç İdaresi	Migration Management
İl Göç İdaresi Müdürlüğü	Provincial Directorate of Migration Management
ikamet izni	residence permit
ikamet izni başvurusu	Residence permit application
adres kaydı / adres tescili	address registration
randevu	Appointment
eksik belge	missing document
noter onaylı kira sözleşmesi	notarized rental agreement

The official application system is **e-İkamet**: <https://e-ikamet.goc.gov.tr/>. Be cautious with websites, agents, or intermediaries that imitate official services or promise guaranteed approval.

The Six Residence-Permit Types

Türkiye's Law on Foreigners and International Protection establishes six residence-permit categories.

1. Short-Term Residence Permit

This is a broad category covering specific reasons for staying, including—but not limited to—qualifying property ownership, business or commercial connections, scientific research, certain exchange or training programs, Turkish-language courses, medical treatment, and tourism.

“Short-term” does not mean that every applicant can receive a permit merely by requesting to remain as a tourist. You must select a lawful reason that matches your circumstances and provide the supporting documents requested for it.

2. Family Residence Permit

This may be available to qualifying foreign spouses, minor children, or dependent children of Turkish citizens, as well as certain eligible sponsors residing in Türkiye. The sponsor must meet specific conditions regarding income, insurance, address registration, and family status.

3. Student Residence Permit

This applies to eligible foreign students enrolled in primary, secondary, associate, undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, or certain medical and dental specialty programs.

If you are coming to Türkiye for university, contact your university's **International Students Office, International Office, or Student Affairs Office immediately after enrollment**. Under the cooperation process between the Council of Higher Education and Migration Management, universities help prepare and submit student residence-permit files and coordinate parts of the process with the Provincial Directorate.

Procedures and internal deadlines vary by university. Do not assume the date displayed by e-İkamet is the only deadline that matters. Your university may require you to submit the completed file to its office within a much shorter period.

The university helps facilitate the application; it does not issue the permit or guarantee approval. Migration Management makes the final decision.

4. Long-Term Residence Permit

This is an indefinite permit for qualifying foreigners who have continuously resided in Türkiye for at least eight years and meet the other statutory conditions. These include sufficient and stable

income, valid medical insurance, not having received social assistance in the preceding three years, and not posing a public order or security threat.

Only half of the time spent under a student residence permit counts toward the continuous-residence calculation; qualifying time under other residence permits is counted in full. Some protected-status groups are not eligible to transfer to this permit.

5. Humanitarian Residence Permit

This is reserved for exceptional circumstances identified in law, such as certain situations involving the best interests of a child, inability to carry out removal, emergencies, or extraordinary circumstances. It is not a general alternative when someone does not qualify for another permit.

6. Residence Permit for Victims of Human Trafficking

This protective permit is issued to confirmed or suspected victims of human trafficking. It initially provides a 30-day reflection period and may be renewed under the conditions established by law.

A Work Permit Is Different

A Turkish work permit generally provides a legal right to reside while it remains valid, but it is not one of the six residence-permit types listed above. Employment authorization and residence-permit applications follow different procedures. Do not begin working simply because you hold a residence permit; most residence permits do not themselves authorize employment.

The Basic Application Process

Step 1: Identify the Correct Reason for Staying

Choose the permit type and purpose that honestly match your situation. If your circumstances change—for example, you graduate, marry, change universities, or move to another province—ask Göç or your university whether you need to update or transfer your status.

Step 2: Check Your Legal-Stay Deadline

Do not wait until the last day of your visa, visa exemption, or current permit. Confirm when you must apply and leave time to obtain photographs, insurance, translations, notarizations, and address documents.

Step 3: Complete the Official e-İkamet Application

Use only <https://e-ikamet.goc.gov.tr/>. Enter names, passport details, entry information, contact details, and address information carefully. Small inconsistencies can create problems later.

Save and print the completed application form and the individualized supporting-document list. Sign where instructed.

Step 4: Assemble the Exact File Requested

Documents commonly requested may include:

- Signed residence-permit application form
- Passport or travel document and required copies
- Copies of the visa, entry stamp, and relevant passport pages
- Biometric photographs meeting the current specifications
- Proof of valid health insurance or qualifying coverage
- Proof of financial means, if requested
- Proof of accommodation
- Receipts for the applicable fees
- Documents supporting your stated reason for staying
- Certified Turkish translations, apostilles, or consular legalization where required
- UETS electronic-notification address for procedures where it is required

This is not a universal checklist. Use the list created for your application and verify it shortly before submission.

Step 5: Follow the Submission Instructions

Depending on the application and current procedure, you may submit through a Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, a participating notary, or—if you are an international university student—your university's designated office. Fingerprinting or a personal appearance may still be required.

Step 6: Keep Every Original and Receipt

Scan the complete file before submitting it. Keep copies of the application form, payment receipts, insurance policy, lease, address documents, and any paper confirming that your application was received.

Monitor the telephone number, email address, and physical address used in the application. Missing a request for additional documents can jeopardize the application.

Proof of Address: The Two Steps People Confuse

For the Residence-Permit Application

If you rent your home, the individualized application list may require a **notarized copy of the rental agreement containing the landlord's information**. Other accommodation arrangements require different proof—for example, a dormitory letter, hotel documentation and receipts, a title deed, or a notarized host undertaking.

Arrange the correct documentation before paying or signing. A normal rental agreement, a host declaration, and a dormitory letter are not interchangeable.

For Address Registration

A notarized lease may not be enough to register the address. Be prepared to provide at least one current household bill or new subscription agreement showing:

Your name

The complete address being registered

A qualifying service such as electricity, water, natural gas, home internet, or another service accepted by the office

Provincial offices may also request the landlord's title deed and copies of identity documents, your residence or work card, UETS information, or other documents. Confirm the current list for your province before the appointment.

Practical rule: Secure the notarized lease first, then place a qualifying utility or home-internet account in your name as soon as possible. Keep the subscription contract if the first bill has not yet been issued.

The 20-Working-Day Address Deadline

If your address changes while your residence permit is valid, official guidance requires you to submit the necessary documents to the relevant Migration Management and Civil Registration authorities within **20 working days**.

This means every new address needs attention—not only the address used in your first residence-permit application. Do not assume that signing a lease, opening a utility account, telling your university, or updating a delivery app automatically updates your official immigration record.

If you move to a different province, you may need to apply for a new residence permit in the province where you have moved, also within the applicable 20-working-day period. Confirm the procedure before or immediately after moving.

Things I Wish I Had Been Told Before Applying

The official document list tells you what to submit. It does not always prepare you for the practical problems that can stop the process. These are the things I wish someone had explained to me before I applied for my own residence permit.

Check Whether a Previous Tenant Is Still Registered

Before renting an apartment, ask the landlord to make sure that former tenants are no longer officially registered at the address. An apartment can be physically empty while the address-registration system still shows someone living there.

If the system shows a previous tenant at the residence, Göç may treat it as an occupied address and may not allow you to register there as though it were vacant. You can arrive with a notarized lease and a utility bill in your name and still be unable to complete the registration until the conflicting record is resolved.

Ask the landlord about this **before signing the lease or transferring a large payment**. If possible, ask for confirmation that the address is clear in the registration system. If a former tenant remains registered, the landlord and former occupant may need to take steps with the appropriate authorities to correct the record. Göç will not remove another person's registration during your appointment simply because you have a newer lease.

A “Guest” Address Is Not the Same as Renting

If you genuinely live as a non-paying guest in another person's home, the host may need to provide a notarized undertaking. If the host is married, the spouse may also need to provide one. The office may request a current utility bill or subscription document in the host's name.

This guest arrangement should describe the truth. If you pay rent, you are a tenant—not a guest—and the paperwork should accurately document the rental relationship. Do not let a landlord use a guest declaration to avoid giving you a proper lease or to conceal a paying tenancy. Inaccurate address or accommodation declarations can create serious immigration problems.

A Notarized Lease Is Only Part of the Address File

I wish I had known that having the lease notarized did not automatically complete address registration. For a rented home, be prepared to show both:

- The notarized rental agreement containing the correct landlord and tenant information

- A current qualifying bill or new subscription agreement in your name at exactly the same address

Open an electricity, water, natural gas, or accepted home internet account promptly. Check that your name and full address are written correctly, and keep the subscription agreement while you wait for the first bill.

Do Not Expect the Appointment to Be in English

Employees at Göç may not speak English. Learn the Turkish names of your documents, organize the file in checklist order, and write down essential questions in simple Turkish before you go.

Do not assume that a Turkish-speaking friend can come inside with you or sit beside you at the service desk. In my experience, companions were not allowed to come in and translate. Office and transaction rules can vary, but you should prepare to attend alone unless Göç has confirmed otherwise. If professional interpretation is necessary, ask in advance whether a sworn interpreter is required or permitted, and what credentials the interpreter must bring.

The Address Deadline Is Easy to Miss

Signing a new lease or transferring a utility account does not automatically update your immigration record. A new address must be reported through the required procedure within **20 working days**. Put the deadline on your calendar as soon as you move, gather the address documents immediately, and keep proof of any appointment or attempted registration.

Bring More Documentation Than You Think You Need

Bring the original and a copy of every important document, plus extra biometric photographs and payment receipts. Keep a scanned copy of the complete file. If an employee asks for an additional document, write down its exact Turkish name and the submission deadline.

What to Expect at Göç

An appointment can be brief and highly document-focused. Prepare for the possibility that the employee assisting you will not speak English.

- Organize documents in the same order as the official checklist.

- Bring originals and copies.

- Carry a pen and your appointment or application record.

- Write down important questions in simple Turkish.

- Learn the Turkish names of your documents.

- Keep digital copies accessible, but do not assume a phone image will replace a required paper original.

- Arrive early enough to pass security and find the correct desk.

As explained in “Things I Wish I Had Been Told,” prepare to attend without a friend beside you unless Göç has specifically confirmed that a companion or interpreter will be admitted. A friend can still help you prepare beforehand and remain available by telephone.

For general immigration questions, contact Türkiye’s Foreigners Communication Center (YİMER), reached by calling 157 from within Türkiye, or consult Migration Management's official website. Confirm available languages and call procedures when contacting the service.

Questions You Should Be Ready to Answer

- Why are you staying in Türkiye?
- Where do you live?
- Who owns or rents the property?
- How long do you intend to stay?
- How will you support yourself?
- What insurance coverage do you have?
- Where do you study or work, if applicable?

Answer truthfully and consistently with the documents in your file.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Applying through an unofficial website
- Choosing a permit purpose that does not match the real reason for staying
- Waiting until legal stay is about to expire
- Assuming the same checklist applies to everyone
- Signing a Turkish document without understanding it
- Using a rental agreement that omits the actual landlord or tenant
- Assuming a notarized lease automatically completes address registration
- Failing to check whether a previous tenant is still registered at the address
- Using a “guest” declaration for what is actually a paying tenancy
- Waiting for the first utility bill without keeping the contract for any new subscription
- Forgetting to register a new address within 20 working days
- Assuming a friend will be admitted as an interpreter
- Ignoring messages requesting missing documents
- Paying an intermediary who promises guaranteed approval
- Working without the required work authorization

Before You Submit: Final Checklist

- I am using the official e-İkamet website.
- My permit type and purpose match my actual circumstances.
- My passport is valid for the requested period.
- My name and passport information match across every document.

My biometric photographs meet the current requirements.

My insurance covers the necessary period and is acceptable for my application.

I have the correct proof of accommodation.

If renting, I have the required notarized copy of the lease.

I understand what will be needed to register my address after approval or after moving.

I am arranging for a qualifying bill or subscription to be set up in my name at the address.

I have paid the correct fees and saved the receipts.

Foreign documents have the required translation and authentication.

I have originals, copies, and a scanned backup of the complete file.

I know where and when my file must be submitted.

If I am a student, I have followed my university office's instructions and internal deadline.

If I need interpretation, I have confirmed the office's rules in advance.

Essential Turkish for the Appointment

Turkish	English
İkamet izni başvurusu için geldim.	I am here for a residence-permit application.
Randevum var.	I have an appointment.
Hangi belge eksik?	Which document is missing?
Bu belgenin aslı burada.	The original of this document is here.
Fotokopi gerekiyor mu?	Is a photocopy required?
Adres kaydı yaptırmak istiyorum.	I would like to register my address.
Yeni adresimi bildirmek istiyorum.	I would like to report my new address.
Tercüman gerekiyor mu?	Is an interpreter required?
İngilizce konuşuyor musunuz?	Do you speak English?
Anlamadım. Yazar mısınız?	I did not understand. Would you write it down?

Official Sources

e-İkamet application system: <https://e-ikamet.goc.gov.tr/>

Residence-permit types: <https://en.goc.gov.tr/residence-permit-types>

General residence-permit and address information: <https://en.goc.gov.tr/general-information41>

Residence-permit questions and answers: <https://en.goc.gov.tr/residence->

Law on Foreigners and International Protection:

<https://en.goc.gov.tr/kurumlar/goc.gov.tr/files/law%20on%20foreigners%20and%20international%20protection%283%29.pdf>

Council of Higher Education information about the international-student protocol:

<https://www.yok.gov.tr/en/Sayfalar/news/2023/residence-and-visa-procedures-made-easier-for-international-students.aspx>

Check the website of your own Provincial Directorate and, for students, your university's International Students Office. Local document lists and submission procedures can be more specific than general national guidance.

Tiffles in Türkiye: Practical guides and reflections from building a life in Türkiye.

Website: tifflesinturkiye.com © 2026 Tiffles in Türkiye. All rights reserved.

This guide is based on personal experience and publicly available information. It is intended for general informational purposes and is not legal or immigration advice. Immigration rules, fees, forms, required documents, office practices, and appointment procedures can change. Always verify the current requirements with the Presidency or the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, your university, and, when needed, an appropriately qualified professional.