



Bogota Foreign Investment Guide - 2025



Chapter 1.




► Migration Regime Preliminary stage

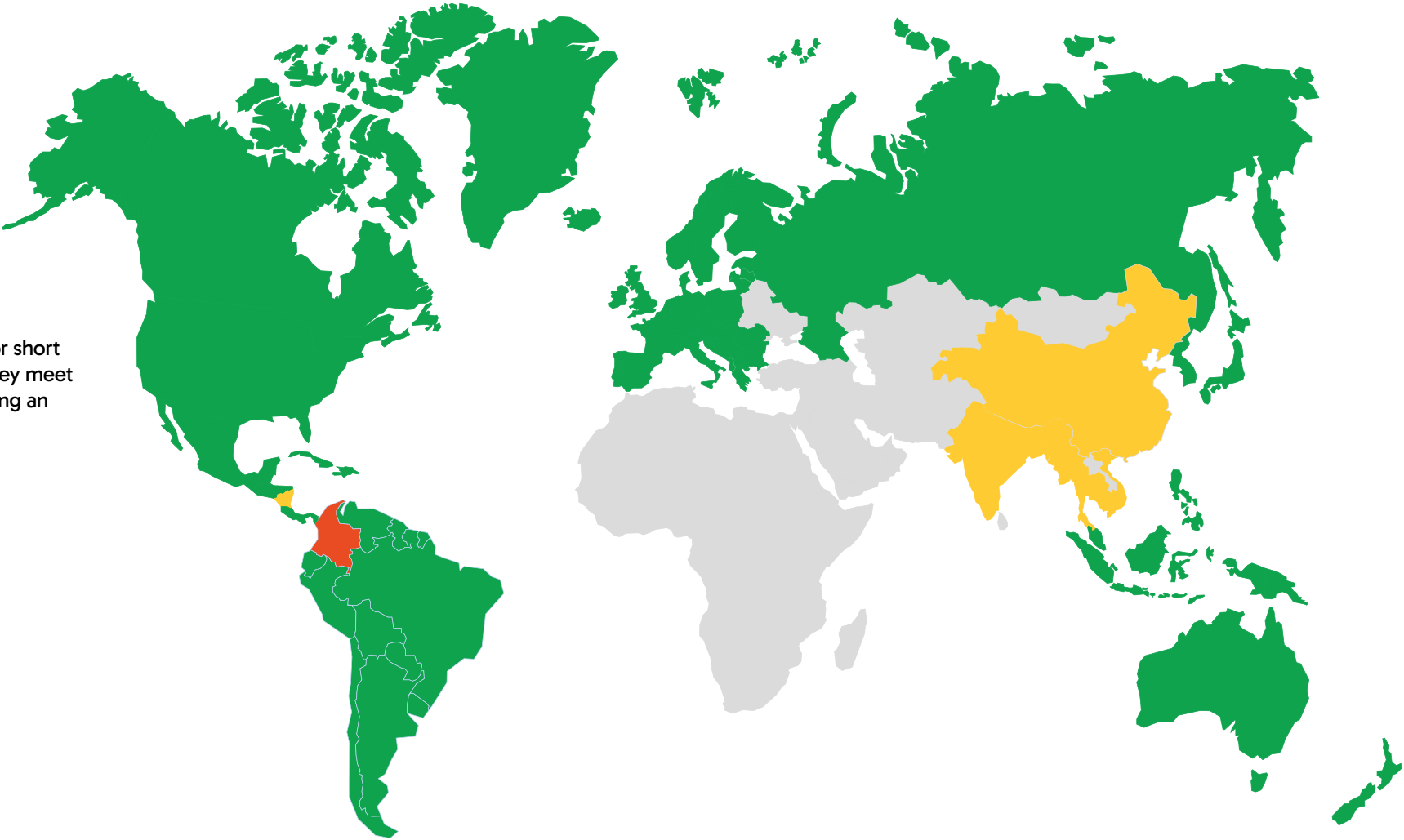


Building a better
working world



States whose nationals are not required to present a visa for short stay visits at the time of entering the country, as long as they meet the requirements of one of the three categories for obtaining an Entry and Stay Permit (PIP).

-  Nacionalidades NO condicionadas
-  Nacionalidades condicionadas
-  Nacionalidades con condiciones especiales



Albania	Denmark	Kazakhstan	Peru	Ukraine
Andorra	Dominica	Korea (Republic of)	Philippines	United Arab Emirates
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	Latvia	Poland	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Argentina	Ecuador	Liechtenstein	Portugal	United States of America
Australia	El Salvador	Lithuania	Qatar	Uruguay
Austria	Estonia	Luxembourg	Romania	Venezuela
Azerbaijan	Finland	Malta	Russia (Federation of)	
Bahamas	Fiji	Marshall Island	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Belgium	France	Mexico	Saint Lucia	
Belize	Georgia	Micronesia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Bhutan	Germany	Moldova	Samoa	
Bolivia	Greece	Monaco	Serbia	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Grenada	Montenegro	Singapore	
Brazil	Guatemala	Morocco	Slovakia	
Brunei	Guyana	Netherlands	Slovenia	
Bulgaria	Honduras	New Zealand	Solomon Islands	
Canada	Hungary	North Macedonia	Spain	
Chile	Iceland	Norway	Suriname	
Costa Rica (Republic of)	Indonesia	Oman	Sweden	
República Checa	Ireland	Palau	Switzerland	
Croatia	Israel	Panama	Trinidad and Tobago	
Cyprus	Italy	Papua New Guinea	Türkiye	
Czech Republic	Jamaica	Paraguay		
	Japan			



Likewise, holders of passports of Hong Kong - SAR China, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and Taiwan are exempt from visa requirements.

Nationals of Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Nicaragua, People's Republic of China, Thailand and Vietnam may be authorized to enter Colombia with a temporary Entry and Permanence Permit without a visa, provided one of the following conditions is met:

- Be the holder of a residence permit in a member state of the Schengen Area or in the United States of America.
- Be the holder of a Schengen visa or a visa from the United States of America with a minimum validity of 180 days at the time of entry into the national territory.

Similarly, in order to promote academic exchange, the activities of teachers, academics or researchers who receive any type of recognition in kind, per diem, air tickets, stipends, travel or living expenses from the academic institution that invites them will not be considered for profit activities.


Additionally, Nicaraguan nationals who can prove they are natives of the Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean Coast, and the Autonomous Region of the Southern Caribbean Coast will also be exempt from short-stay visas.

On the other hand, foreigners holding a permanent residence permit in a member state of the regional integration mechanism Pacific Alliance, or the Andean Community may be authorized to enter Colombia without a visa with a temporary Entry and Permanence Permit.

Nationals of States with visa exemption agreements in force with Colombia will also be exempt from visa requirements for short stays.

It is worth noting that nationals not included in any of the above-mentioned points, as well as foreigners recognized as stateless who hold a travel document issued by a State recognized by Colombia, must apply for a corresponding visa at a Colombian consulate prior to their trip.

In addition to the above, the list of countries that require a visa for direct airport transit should be taken into account. Passport holders from the following States or territories require a visa to transit through any of the international airports of the national territory to a third State.



Afghanistan	Cuba	Iraq	Senegal
Algeria	Egypt	Kenya	Somalia
Angola	Eritrea	Lebanon	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Libya	Sudan
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Mali	Syria
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Nepal	Tajikistan
Cameroon	Guinea	Nigeria	Tanzania
Cape Verde	Haiti	Pakistan	Togo
Central African Republic	India	Palestine	Uganda
Côte d'Ivoire	Iran	Sierra Leona	Uzbekistan
			Yemen

Foreigners recognized as stateless who are holders of a travel document issued by a State recognized by Colombia require a V visa for airport transit.

The Special Administrative Unit of Migration Colombia, based on reciprocity, shall establish the fee for immigration control and verification to be paid by Nicaraguan citizens who, not being holders of a valid Colombian visa, are authorized to enter the national territory under an Entry and Permanence Permit.

Foreigners whose nationality is conditioned and who do not comply with the conditions previously mentioned for obtaining a temporary Entry and Permanence Permit must apply for the corresponding visa through a Colombian consulate abroad.

Entry and Permanence Permit (PIP)

When the foreigner's visit is a short-stay (for a term of 90 days, extendable for another 90 days with a maximum of 180 days per calendar year) and their nationality is not conditioned, they may enter the country using a PIP. This resource applies to foreigners whose nationality is not conditioned and who intend to apply for their visa directly in Colombian territory.

The different types of PIPs handled by the Colombian immigration authorities are:

► Tourist Permit (PT)

- It is granted to a foreigner who wishes to enter the country for tourism or medical treatment, to participate or attend cultural, scientific, sporting or convention events, or for business purposes.

► Integration and Development Permit (PID)

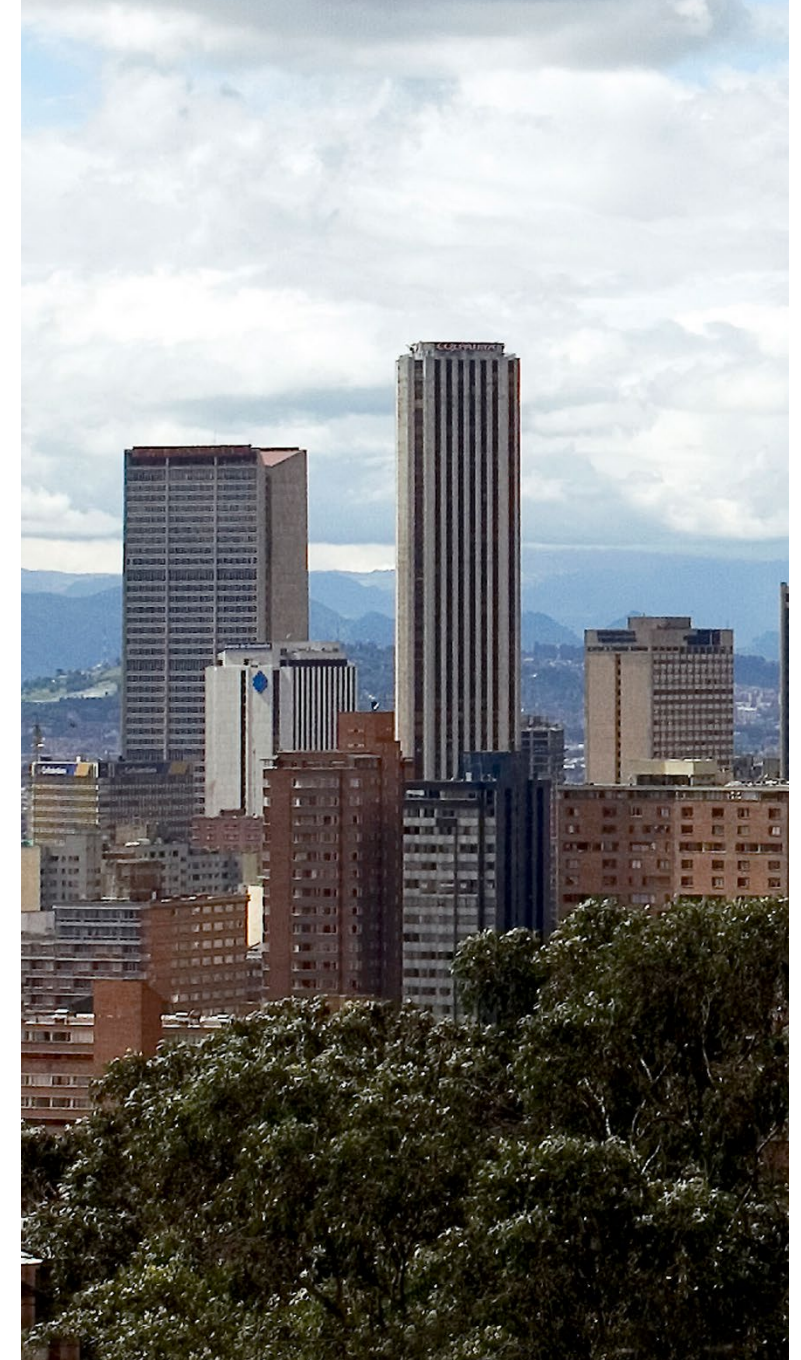
- It is granted to those foreign citizens whose purpose is to conduct any of the following activities:
 - Cooperation agreements or treaties.
 - Personal business.
 - Importance for the national government or its institutions.
 - Educational.
 - Lecturers, teachers or researchers.
 - Journalistic work.
 - In cases of urgency.
 - Official or service commission.

► Permission to develop other activities (POA)

- It will be granted to foreign citizens who need to enter the country to develop any of the following activities:
 - Technical assistance.
 - Concerts, events or artistic activities.
 - Temporary transit.
 - Crews.

With the PIP, the foreigner is not authorized to:


- Conduct regulated activities.
- Conduct activities different from those that generated the obtaining of the PIP.
- Receive payments in Colombia.
- Exceed 180 days of stay per year in the country.
- Obtain a foreigner identification card.
- To have a contract in Colombia.
- Enter the country with a conditioned nationality except for the exceptions previously mentioned.



Types of Colombian visas


In case the foreigner requires it, Colombia has three types of visas that are granted for the development of specific activities.

Visitor

	Maximum permanence: varies according to the category. From 180 continuous or discontinuous calendar days within each 365 calendar days from the issuance of the visa, or for the duration of the visa.	Maximum value: USD\$ 297*
Maximum validity: 2 years.		


Foreigner who wishes to visit the country once or several times or to stay temporarily without the intention of settling down completely.

Migrant

	Maximum validity: 3 años.	Maximum permanence: equal to the time of validity.	Maximum value: USD\$ 282*
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Foreigner who wishes to enter and/or remain in the country with the intention of settling in the country on a long-term basis and does not meet the conditions to apply for a resident visa.

Resident

	Validity: permanent; however, a visa transfer is required every 5 years.	The term is permanent; however, it is at the discretion of the national government to accept the transfer every 5 years.	One-time fee: USD\$ 443
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Foreigner who wishes to settle completely or establish domicile in the country and meets any of the following conditions.

Visitor Visa (V)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airport traffic.• Tourism.• Business visits.• Student.• Medical treatment.• Judicial and/or administrative procedures.• Crew member.• Seasonal agricultural worker.• Permanent correspondent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Events.• Religious.• Student or volunteer in religious entities.• Volunteer or cooperant.• Film productions or large format documentaries.• Digital nomad.• Journalistic coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical assistance.• TLC entrepreneurs.• Non-accredited officials.• Vacation and work.• Labor practice.• Service provider - work or labor.• Promotion of internationalization.• Rentier.• Unforeseen cases.
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Migrant Visa (M)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spouse of a Colombian national.• Permanent partner of a Colombian national.• Mother or father of a Colombian national by adoption.• Investor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Father or mother of Colombian national by birth.• Mercosur migrant.• Andean migrant.• Refugee.• Stateless person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employee.• Partner or owner.• Independent professional.• Pensioner.• Promotion of internationalization.
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Resident Visa (R)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For renunciation of nationality.• For accumulated time in Colombia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By application of the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants.• Special Resident of Peace.
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Invest in Bogotá

With Resolution 5477 of July 22, 2022, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues new provisions on visas and repeals Resolution 6045 of August 2, 2017. Visas may include the following permits:

- Open work permit authorizes the development of any legal activity in Colombia.
- Work permit for specific activity authorizes working in the development of the activity mentioned at the time of applying for the visa.
- Closed work permit. It does not authorize to work, only to develop the activity mentioned at the moment of requesting the visa (example: tourism or business).

Some of the visas described above allow having beneficiaries. These may be children under 25 years of age who are economically dependent on their parents; spouse or permanent companion; and children over 25 years of age who cannot fend for themselves. It is important to note that beneficiary visas do not allow work.

► Obligations of the migratory process

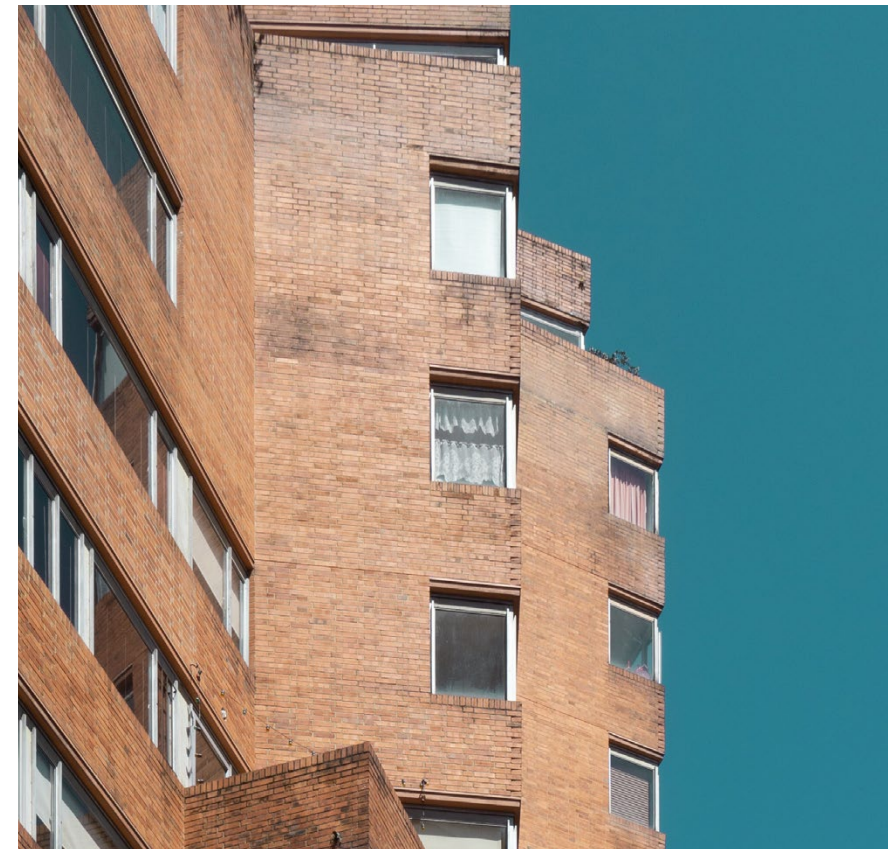
Foreigner's Identification Card. This document has the sole and exclusive purpose of identifying foreigners in the national territory and its validity will be equal to that of the visa. It is mandatory for visas valid for more than 3 months and voluntary for visas valid for less than 3 months. It must be requested 15 days after entering the country if the visa was issued by a Colombian Consulate, or upon issuance of the visa if it was issued in Colombia.

Reports to Migracion Colombia. Any natural or legal person that links, hires, employs or admits a foreigner through any modality, in particular, labor or civil relationship that generates a benefit, must report to Migration Colombia through the platform of the Information and Reporting System of Foreigners ("SIRE" per its Spanish acronym) the beginning and the end of the activity, within 15 calendar days following the occurrence of the event, accompanied by the authorization to exercise regulated activity, if applicable.

Profession/regulated activity. Any foreigner in Colombia that develops a regulated activity or profession must have the document that authorizes him/her to exercise such activity/profession (permit, license, professional card, validation or legal concept), issued by a competent entity, otherwise, both the foreigner and the company will be subject to sanction by the immigration authorities.

Obligation to report a change of activity, occupation or trade. Foreigners holding a visa with an open work permit will be obliged to inform the Special Administrative Unit of Migration Colombia of any change of activity, position or occupation within 15 calendar days after its occurrence. Likewise, the new Resolution 5477 of 2022 mentions that it is the obligation of the legal or natural person to report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs any change in the labor relationship, position or type of work for which the M Worker visa was granted or if the conditions under which other types of visas were granted, such as spouse visas, change.

Unique Registration of Foreign Workers in Colombia ("RUTEC" per its initials in Spanish). Colombian companies must register all foreigners linked with a work contract or rendering of services in the country; likewise, Venezuelan workers with a Special Permit of Permanence (PEP) or with a Temporary Protection Permit (PPT) who contribute to the Social Security System, and the administrative personnel of the Embassies or Consulates in Colombia must be registered. The term to carry out this registration is 30 calendar days, counted from the beginning and the end of the contract.



► Penalty regime

The immigration authorities stipulate in Migración Colombia's Resolution 2357 of September 29, 2020, and Resolution 3770 of December 22, 2021, a series of misdemeanors that are classified as minor, moderate or serious/very serious, and apply to both foreign nationals and companies.



Minor

- Failure to apply for or renew an Identification Document in due time.
- Exercising a profession, occupation or trade other than that authorized.
- Carrying out remunerated activities without authorization.
- Exercising activity or occupation with the exit permit.
- Failure to give notice of change of residence, employer and/or contractor.

Moderate

- Entering commercial contracts with foreigners without complying with the legal requirements.
- Facilitating the obtaining of a visa by simulating some type of contract.
- Not facilitating the review of documentation.
- Binding, hiring, employing, admitting or allowing the development of an activity to a foreigner without complying with the requirements.
- To favor the irregular stay or not to communicate the linking, admission or disengagement in term.
- Refraining from paying expenses for the return to the country of origin of a foreigner hired or employed and his family.

Serious/very serious

- Obtaining a visa through fraud or simulation or presenting documentation that misleads the authorities.
- Refraining from changing visa or not requesting the same when obliged to do so.
- Carrying out an activity for which he/she is not authorized in the entry permit.
- Persona non grata: complaints.
- To be fraudulently documented.
- Refrain from complying with the deportation resolution within the term.
- Convicted in Colombia to prison whose sanction does not contemplate expulsion.
- Trafficking in persons.

► Legal Framework

- **Resolution 5477 of 2022 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE):** updates the regulations and procedures for different types of visas, their scope, as well as the conditions, requirements, and procedures for their application, study, inadmissibility, denial, authorization, cancellation, and termination.
- **Resolution 5488 of 2022 – MRE:** updates the provisions on visa exemptions, transit visas, and other migratory matters.
- **Resolution 2357 of 2020 - Administrative Unit of Special Migration Colombia (UAEMC):** defines the criteria applicable to the administrative sanctioning procedure carried out by the UAEMC, in accordance with the procedure defined in Law 1437 of 2011 and the Manual of Migration Verification Procedures adopted by the Entity.
- **Resolution 2061 of 2020 – UAEMC:** establishes the criteria for the issuance of procedures for nationals and foreigners in Colombian territory, as well as the mechanisms and norms applicable to the foreign affairs process.
- **Resolution 3167 of 2019 – UAEMC:** establishes the criteria for the issuance of procedures for nationals and foreigners in Colombian territory, as well as the mechanisms and norms applicable to the foreign affairs process.
- **Resolution 4386 of 2018 - Ministry of Labor:** eCreates and implements the Unique Registry of Foreign Workers in Colombia (RUTEC) as a platform to quantify, identify, and diagnose labor immigration in the country.
- **Resolution 8029 of 2018 - MRE:** modifies Article 3 of Resolution 9713 of 2017 regarding fees applicable to the issuance of visas, stamp duty, and exemptions from visa fees.
- **Decree 1067 of 2015 – UAEMC:** Issues the Single Regulatory Decree of the Administrative Sector of Foreign Relations.
- **Resolution 1743 of 2015 – MRE:** Partially modifies the general provisions of Honorary Consular Offices, Passports, Visas, Control and Migration Verification, and others.
- **Decree 0019 of 2012 - National Government:** Establishes norms to suppress or reform provisions regarding procedures, processes, and regulations of the administrative sector of foreign relations.



Main migration surveillance and control agencies

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia is the main agency for immigration surveillance and control; however, there are other entities that are part of the immigration activity and exercise surveillance and control.

► Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Issuing Colombian visas.
- Processing naturalization processes.

In reference: www.cancilleria.gov.co

► Special Administrative Unit for Migration Colombia

- To carry out immigration control at Colombian borders and ports of entry to the country.
- Issue Entry and Permanence Permits.
- Issuance of foreign identification cards.
- Sanctioning processes.

In reference: www.migracioncolombia.gov.co

► Professional Councils

- Issuing permits and temporary licenses.
- To issue professional licenses.
- Control the exercise of professions in Colombia.

► Ministry of National Education

- To validate professional titles.

In reference: www.mineducacion.gov.co



Download
the guide, here:



<https://en.investinbogota.org/>



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