



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

LITHUANIA COUNTRY FACT SHEET

1. Basic info

- a) Capital: Vilnius
- b) Population: 3.369.600
- c) Area: 65.200 km²
- d) Currency: Lithuanian Litas (Lt) (1/100 centas); 1 €= 3.45280 Lt
- e) Unemployment rate: 4.5%

2. General conditions of entry and visa information

Visas are issued in diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Lithuania. In case there is no Lithuanian diplomatic mission or consular post in your country, please apply through the nearest or most convenient one for you to travel to.

Transit visas (A, B):

Airport visa (A) allows you to transit through an international airport in the Schengen zone without entering Schengen territory. Citizens of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia do not require the airport visa (A).

Transit visa (B) is issued for the period of 5 days to transit through the Schengen territory by land.

Short-term stay Schengen visa (C):

As Lithuania is a Schengen Agreement Member State, Lithuanian entry visa gives a right to its holder to enter the entire Schengen area. The short-term stay visa (C) allows the holder to stay up to 90 days on the Schengen territory in a given 180-day period for tourism, family or business purposes.

Croatian nationals do not need to apply for the short-term stay visa (C). Citizens of Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia are subject to the visa requirement. Based on the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements between the EU and Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, citizens of these countries continue to require the Schengen visa C to enter Lithuania; however they benefit from a reduced visa handling fee (EUR 35 instead of EUR 60).

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Federal Office
for Migration
and Refugees



GOVERNMENT
OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Many categories of applicants (family members of legally resident nationals, students and pensioners, journalists etc) may also now obtain visas free of charge.

For certain categories of persons, e.g. businessmen, students and journalists, the documentation requirements will be simplified. Certain categories of frequent travellers (including businessmen, journalists, students, representatives of civil society) will be granted multi-entry visas with long periods of validity and diplomatic passports holders will be exempted from the visa obligation.

See details on:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0085:0095:EN:PDF> (for Albania)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0097:0107:EN:PDF> (for Bosnia & Herzegovina)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0125:0135:EN:PDF> for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0137:0147:EN:PDF> for Serbia

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0109:0119:EN:PDF> for Montenegro

To apply for the short-term stay visa (C), you must submit:

- a valid travel document;
- an established form of application for Schengen Visa;
- one photo of 35x45 mm, corresponding to the age of an alien;
- the receipt of the paid consular fee;
- a valid document certifying your health insurance;

In order to get a short-stay visa (C) an invitation letter of a natural or legal person of the Republic of Lithuania for temporary arrival to the Republic of Lithuania contrived by a migration office of the police commissariat must be submitted. See more information at: <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?12657589>

Long-stay visa (D)

A national visa for a single entry (D) can be issued to a foreigner, who has been granted a permit of temporary or permanent residence in the Republic of Lithuania by the Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior. A foreigner wishing to obtain a long-stay visa (D) must submit among other documents the notification of the Migration Department about the decision to issue a temporary or permanent residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania.

Embassies of the Republic of Lithuania

Lithuanian Embassy in Greece (covering Albania)

49, Vasilissis Sofias Ave., 10676 Athens

Phone: +30-210-7294356, +30-210-7294357

Fax: +30-210-7294347

Email: amb.gr@urm.lt

Lithuanian Embassy in Hungary (covering Serbia, Bosnia And Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Dobsinai utca 4/A, 1124 Budapest

Tel: +36 1 224 79 10

Fax: +36 1 20 23 995

E-mail: litvania@litvania.hu

<http://hu.mfa.lt>

Lithuanian Embassy in Austria (covering Croatia)

Löwengasse 47/4, 1030 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 718 5467

Fax: +43 1 718 5469 (43 1) 710 97 58

E-mail: amb.at@urm.lt

<http://at.mfa.lt>

3. Immigration for employment purposes

a) conditions of entry and stay of foreign workers

A foreigner who intends to work Lithuania must obtain a work permit. Issue of work permits to foreigners depends on the labour market demand in Lithuania. The work permit may be issued to a foreigner if there is no specialist in Lithuania meeting the employer's qualification requirements. A work permit is issued by the Labour Exchange under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania. An application for a work permit must be submitted by the employer and should be examined within two months from the date of receipt of the application by the Lithuanian Labour Exchange. A work permit must be obtained before entering Lithuania.

Validity of a work permit:

- work permit is issued for a period of up to 2 years specifying the job (position) and the company, institution or organization where the foreigner will be employed;
- a foreigner who takes up seasonal employment obtains a work permit valid for up to 6 months during a single year starting from the first day of entry into Lithuania;
- a foreigner who comes to Lithuania for an internship or practical training receives a work permit valid for 1 year, which may be extended in exceptional cases when the duration of internship or traineeship is longer and the extension is necessary to acquire qualification in a certain field

Who can work without a work permit in Lithuania:

- nationals of the European Union
- permanent residence permit holders
- temporary residence permit holders (on the following grounds):
 - persons who retained the right to citizenship of Lithuania according to the procedure laid down in the Law on Citizenship;
 - persons of Lithuanian origin;
 - persons admitted to Lithuania on grounds of family reunification;
 - persons in foster care or appointed custodians;
 - refugees and persons granted additional protection in Lithuania.
- owners of businesses registered in Lithuania
- company executives
- professional sportsmen
- researchers

For a full list of exempt persons, check:

http://www.ldb.lt/LDB_Site/en/index.aspx/en/uzsien_idarbinimas/?menu_id=371

A foreigner, who is not a national of an EU Member State and intends to work, shall be issued a temporary residence permit for one year. A foreigner's application for the issue of a temporary residence permit may be examined in conjunction with the application for the issue of a work permit.

More info can be obtained from:

LITHUANIAN LABOUR EXCHANGE
Geležinio Vilko St 3A, LT-03131 Vilnius
Phone: (+370 5) 236 07 70, fax: (+370 5) 236 07 88
E-mail: info@ldb.lt, <http://www.ldb.lt>

b) labour market sectors experiencing shortages

The following specialists were in demand in 2007 in Lithuania: sales managers, business service managers, insurance managers, advertising managers, marketing managers, logistics specialists, real estate agents, specialists in finance and accounting, civil engineers, electrical engineers, electronics engineers, mechanical engineers, computer system engineers and programming engineers.

From worker professions there was a lack of builders of different trades, construction finishers, plasterers, building painters, tile installers, roofers, tinsmiths, electricians, plumbers, shop assistants, barmen, waiters, cooks, confectioners, tailors, welders, metalworkers, machine tool operators, joiners, and cabinet makers.

4. Immigration for study purposes

a) conditions of entry and stay for students

After being accepted by an institution for a programme of study in Lithuania, the student should apply for a temporary resident permit at the nearest Lithuanian diplomatic mission (<http://www.urm.lt>). It is recommended that applications be filed at least 5-6 months prior to the commencement of classes. For further details please visit http://www.lamabpo.lt/Study_LT.pdf

A foreigner who intends to study in Lithuania will be issued a Temporary Residence Permit (TRP) for one academic year. The student has to apply for the permit to the nearest Embassy/Consulate of Lithuania. The person is then provided with a short-term visa by the Embassy as soon as the Migration Department in Lithuania confirms his/her application for the permit. The temporary residence permit card can be obtained only upon arrival in the host country within 7 days.

b) list of main universities and colleges

<http://www.smm.lt/en/smt/institutions.htm>

c) foreign students' programmes

For study programmes in English in Lithuania check: http://www.lamabpo.lt/Study_LT.pdf

Master's programmes in English at Vilnius University: http://www.vu.lt/en/studies/master_english/

Master' programmes at Kaunas University <http://www.vdu.lt/>

Studies at Klaipeda University http://www.ku.lt/en/study/programs/lt_lang_summer.php

Siauliu University International programmes <http://www.su.lt/article/archive/1067>

5. Residence

Temporary residence permit

Temporary Residence Permit is usually issued when a residence permit is issued for the first time, and should be applied for to the nearest consular post or embassy. It is usually issued for 1 year but may also be issued for a shorter term. A travel document must be provided to formalize a temporary permit and it must be valid for at least three months.

Residence permits for persons of Lithuanian origin and foreigners who have retained the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania are issued for 5 years.

Who can apply for the temporary residence permit:

- Persons who retained the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania in the procedure laid down by the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania;

- Person of Lithuanian origin;
- persons admitted to Lithuania on grounds of family reunification
- persons who intend to work in the Republic of Lithuania;
- persons who intend to engage in lawful activities in the Republic of Lithuania;
- prospective students
- persons in foster care or appointed custodians;
- persons who may not be deported from the Republic of Lithuania in the procedure laid down by the Law, or whose deportation from the Republic of Lithuania has been postponed;
- persons granted additional protection in Lithuania;

Permanent residence permit

Who can apply for the permanent residence permit:

- Persons who retained the right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania in the procedure laid down by the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania
- Persons of Lithuanian origin;
- persons admitted to Lithuania on grounds of family reunification
- persons who lost citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania but reside in the Republic of Lithuania;
- children under 18 years old, born or residing in the Republic of Lithuania, whose parents or one of them have a Permanent Residence Permit;
- refugees
- temporary residence permit holders who resided in Lithuania without interruption for the last 5 years
- persons covered by article 3 of the Law on the Implementation of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens of the Republic of Lithuania.

For more information contact
 Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior
 Šventaragio str. 2, Vilnius, tel.: + 370 52 271 71 12
mdinfo@vrm.lt

6. Asylum Procedure

Forms of Asylum

The forms of asylum granted in Lithuania are the following:

- 1) refugee status
- 2) subsidiary protection
- 3) temporary protection

An application for refugee status may be submitted at the Republic of Lithuania border crossing points or to the State Border Protection Service; to the territorial police agency; to the Foreigners' Registration Centre.

During the processing of an asylum application the asylum seeker will be accommodated at the Foreigners' Registration Centre or Refugee Reception Centre and receive legal, interpreting, medical and other assistance.

The Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior makes a decision regarding the determination of the state responsible for examining the asylum application within 48 hours from the moment of lodging of the asylum application. In case another EU member state is deemed responsible, Lithuanian authorities will transfer the applicant to that Member State under the provisions of Dublin Convention. The first instance examination of the asylum application is carried out by the Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior.

The Foreigners' Registration Centre is an agency responsible for detention and for accommodating the asylum applicants, carrying out investigation as regards personal identity of foreigners detained or accommodated at the

Centre, the circumstances of their entry into the Republic of Lithuania, managing record-keeping of foreigners and carrying out expulsion of foreigners from the Republic of Lithuania.

The Refugee Reception Centre is a budgetary agency providing social services, intended for accommodating refugees and unaccompanied minors as well as for implementing social integration of refugees.

An alien who has been granted refugee status in the Republic of Lithuania shall be issued a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania by the decisions of the Migration Department. An alien who has been granted subsidiary protection in the Republic of Lithuania shall be issued a temporary residence permit by the decision of the Migration Department.

See also Law on the Legal Status of Aliens:

http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=319034

7. Family reunification

The spouse of a non-EU national (or the person who has concluded partnership agreement with the non-EU national), the unmarried and dependent children of the couple or of one of them (adopted children) below the age of 18 years, may enter into Lithuania for purposes of family reunification with the foreigner who has been lawfully residing in Lithuania for a continuous period of at least 2 years.

Asylum seekers and persons granted subsidiary or temporary protection in Lithuania are not entitled to family reunification.

There may be a waiting period of no more than three years between the submission of the application for family reunification and the issue of a residence permit to the family members. The conditions for the submission of the aliens' applications for family reunification and the procedure for the examination is established by the Minister of Interior.

8. Health Care System

According to the Resolution No. 230 on the Approval of the General Description of Health Insurance Procedure in Respect of Aliens, foreigners, who are going to visit the Republic of Lithuania or are applying for a Temporary Residence Permit of the Republic of Lithuania, must hold Health Insurance Contract (policy).

http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=252667

Enterprises, institutions and organisations pay compulsory health insurance contributions amounting to 3 per cent of wages for the persons who work under an employment contract or are in management.

The vast majority of personal healthcare institutions are non-profit-making public institutions. They are promoted by local authorities, counties or the Ministry of Health. The main source of financing for healthcare institutions is the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund. There is both compulsory and voluntary health insurance. Compulsory health insurance is organised by the following institutions: Compulsory Health Insurance Council, the State Patients' Fund under the Ministry of Health, regional patients' funds.

Those covered by compulsory health insurance are citizens of Lithuania other Member States and citizens of third countries whose permanent place of residence is Lithuania, as well as citizens of other Member States and citizens of third countries living temporarily in the Republic of Lithuania, if they are working legally in the Republic of Lithuania, and minors in their families.

The following healthcare services are paid for from the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund budget: preventative medical aid, medical aid, medical rehabilitation, nursing, social services and services for personal healthcare, and personal health examinations.

See also <http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E69920.pdf>

9. Social insurance system

The social security system in Lithuania is comprised of the social insurance system, the medical insurance system and the social support system. At present, all employees are insured on a mandatory basis. Employers are required by law to pay or withhold contributions in full on behalf of their employees. Additionally, the law also provides for voluntary social insurance.

The State Social and Medical Insurance is obligatory for self-employed persons:

- 1) owners or tenants of personal enterprises;
- 2) members of general and limited partnerships;
- 3) attorneys-at-law and assistant attorneys;
- 4) notaries;
- 5) persons working under a tax patent;
- 6) farmers and adults who work on the farm.

The individuals described above must pay mandatory social security contributions, different from those paid on employment basis, for themselves in amounts established by the law.

Insured individuals are entitled to the following benefits under the social and medical insurance system:

- 1) old-age pensions;
- 2) disability pensions;
- 3) widow, widower or orphan's pensions;
- 4) sickness or temporary disability benefits;
- 5) maternity or paternity benefits;
- 6) medical services;
- 7) unemployment benefits;
- 8) compensation for occupational accidents (compensation for illness resulting from an occupational accident or occupational disease; single payment of compensation for work disablement; periodic payment of compensation for work disablement);
- 9) funeral benefits.

The national system of social security consists of programs of social insurance and social benefits designed to continue the benefits provided by the Soviet system. Social insurance includes old-age retirement; survivor and disability pensions; unemployment compensation; pregnancy, childbirth, and child supplements; certain welfare support; and free medical care.

To be eligible for an old-age pension, a male worker must be at least 60 years of age and have at least a 25 year record of employment. A woman must be 55 and have a record of 20 years of employment. This category of recipients includes not only factory and government workers but also farmers and farm workers.

A program of social benefits is financed by local governments. It includes support payments for women during pregnancy and childbirth and for expenses after the child's birth. The program features single payments for each newly born child, as well as child support for single parents or families. These latter payments continue up to age limits established by law. The state also maintains a number of orphanages, sanatoriums, and old-age homes.

Notwithstanding efficient ambulance service and emergency care, medical services and facilities in Lithuania suffer from a lack of equipment, supplies, and drugs, as well as from inertia in the operation and administration of health services. The system is mainly state owned and state run.

Ministry of Social Security and Labour

A. Vivulskis str. 11

LT-2693 Vilnius

Lithuania

Tel. + 370 2 652 283

Fax + 370 2 652 463

post@socmin.lt

<http://www.socmin.lt>

10. Housing

Private contacts, and the help of friends, colleagues, acquaintances, relatives or business partners are just some of the ways to find suitable accommodation.

Information on renting or buying residential property can be found in specialised advertisements in newspapers, both in the national dailies and the local press. Alternatively, you can place your own personal advert, stating what sort of housing you require.

If you wish to rent or buy a home, you can call on the services of real estate agencies that will charge a commission. Information on real estate agents can be found in the 'Geltonieji puslapiai' (Yellow Pages) and the ads sections of newspapers. Most real estate agents have websites with detailed descriptions and photographs of housing for sale.

Travel agents can usually offer advice and information on finding accommodation.

11. Recognition of diplomas

Academic recognition

The institution for the appraisal of foreign qualifications giving entitlement to higher education (appraisal of secondary education) and for the appraisal of the higher education qualification is the Centre for the Quality and Appraisal of Studies. The recognition is carried out by the Ministry of Education and Science on the basis of the qualification appraisal by the Centre for the Quality and Appraisal of Studies. Assessment and recognition of foreign secondary qualifications usually takes not more than 4 months. Assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications is prerequisite for access to higher education in Lithuania.

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

Suvalkų g. 1,

LT-03106 Vilnius

fax (+370 5) 213 25 53

e-mail: skvc@skvc.lt

Ms Zivile Stankeviciene, tel. +370 5 210 47 72, zivile@skvc.lt

<http://www.skvc.lt>

See also <http://www.enic-naric.net/index.aspx?c=Lithuania>

12. Support services offered to migrants

Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights

A. Smetonos g. 2/11

Vilnius LT-01115

tel. (8 5) 262 88 58

faks. (8 5) 262 89 60

info@lchr.lt

<http://www.lchr.lt>

Centre for Civic Initiatives

Pilietinių iniciatyvų centras

A. Smetonos g. 5, 304 kab.

LT-01115 Vilnius

Tel.: (8-5) 212 44 18,

Fax.: (8-5) 232 42 37,

pic@pic.lt

Lithuanian Red Cross
Gedimino pr. 3A
01103 Vilnius
Phone: +370 5 2628037
Fax: +370 5 2619923
E-mail: info@redcross.lt

IOM Mission in Vilnius
Jaksto 12, 4th Floor
LT-01105 Vilnius
Tel. +370-5-261-0115
Fax. +370-5-261-1326
General inquiries: iomvilnius@iom.lt
Website: www.iom.int/lithuania/

13. Acquisition of citizenship/nationality

By birth

A child, both of whose parents at the moment of his birth were citizens of Lithuania, shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania regardless of whether s/he was born in the territory of Lithuania or abroad.

If the parents of a child hold citizenship of different states and at the moment of the child's birth one of the parents was a citizen of Lithuania, the child shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania if s/he was born in the territory of Lithuania.

By naturalisation

A person can become naturalised if they have been living in Lithuania for at least 10 years, possess an unlimited residence permit, have passed an official language test, have passed an examination on the basic provisions of the Constitution, have taken the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Lithuania and are able to cover their own living costs.

Dual citizenship is an exception rather than a rule in Lithuania and persons, willing to obtain Lithuanian citizenship and a passport, have to renounce his or her current citizenship and prove this fact to the Lithuanian migration authorities.

By marriage

Spouses of Lithuanian citizens, who maintained their marital status for the last 7 years while residing in Lithuania, can be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.

See also Law on Citizenship http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=285786

14. Other useful contacts and information

Albanian Embassy in Poland (covering Lithuania)

ul. Altowa 1, 02-386 Warsaw, Poland
Telephone: (48 22) 824 14 27
Fax: (48 22) 824 14 26
E-mail: alb@atos.warman.com.pl

Bosnia & Herzegovina Embassy in Denmark (covering Lithuania)

H.C. Andersen's Boulevard 48 2tv, 1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark
Telephone: (45 33) 32 80 42, (45 33) 33 80 40,
Fax: (45 33) 33 80 17
E-mail: info@embassy.bh.dk
Website: <http://www.embassybh.dk>

Croatian Embassy in Sweden (covering Lithuania)
Birger Jarlsgatan 13, 1st fl., 111 45 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone: (46 8) 678 8310
Fax: (46 8) 678 8320
E-mail: croemb.stockholm@mvp.hr

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Embassy in Poland (covering Lithuania)
ul. Krolowej Marysienki 40, 02-954 Warsaw, Poland
Telephone: (48 22) 651 72 91, (48 22) 651 72 92
Fax: (48 22) 651 72 92
E-mail: ambrmwar@zigzag.pl
Website: <http://www.ambasadarm.zigzag.pl>

Serbian Embassy in Poland (covering Lithuania)
Al. Ujazdowskie 23/25, 00-540 Warsaw, Poland
Telephone: (48 22) 628 61 51, (48 22) 625 60 41, (48 22) 625 60 52, (48 22) 628 34 16 (Ambassador's Secretariat),
(48 22) 628 51 61 (Consular Section)
Fax: (48 22) 629 71 73
E-mail: yuabapl@zigzag.pl