



*Government of Bermuda*

**Ministry of Labour**

## **One Year Residential Certificate Policy**

**Effective: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

### **I. Introduction**

Bermuda welcomes persons who satisfy the requirements set out below to reside in Bermuda pursuant to section 32 of the Bermuda Immigration and Protection Act 1956 (“BIPA”). Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will be granted a One Year Residential Certificate (the “1Yr Certificate”). The 1Yr Certificate entitles the person to reside in Bermuda and to work remotely. However the holder is prohibited from seeking or obtaining gainful employment in Bermuda within the tenure of his/her 1Yr Certificate. Each application will be considered on its own merits. Persons should seek tax advice to fully understand the implications for their home country of residing in Bermuda.

### **II. Guidance Principles**

The intention of this policy is to attract persons:

- to reside in Bermuda for durations of 1 year to boost economic activity on the island;
- who have the financial means to fully sustain themselves;
- who would work, if applicable or required, outside of Bermuda and not for Bermuda-based or Bermuda registered legal entities or partnerships;

### **III. Eligible Persons**

The 1Yr Certificate is for persons who are able to Work Remotely **from** Bermuda and to Non-Bermudian Post-Secondary Students to enable them to complete their higher education **from** Bermuda.

### **IV. Eligibility requirements**

To be eligible for a 1Yr Certificate a person must:

1. pay the application fee;
2. be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
3. not have been convicted, whether in Bermuda or elsewhere, of an offence which, in the Minister’s opinion, shows moral turpitude on the applicant’s part;

4. not have been convicted, whether in Bermuda or elsewhere, of an indictable offence in Bermuda or have been convicted of an offence outside Bermuda which if committed in Bermuda, would have been an indictable offence;
5. possess valid health insurance coverage or purchase locally provided health insurance coverage;
6. demonstrate employment with a firm or their own company registered and operating overseas, in the case of a remote worker; or
7. provide evidence of enrollment in a Research, Undergraduate, Graduate or Doctorate Program, in the case of a Student;
8. have means and/or have a continuous source of, annual disposable income, which will enable an individual to sustain his or her household and lifestyle in Bermuda and overseas without the need to engage in gainful occupation in Bermuda pursuant to section 57 of BIPA.

## **V. Application Process**

The process is as follows:

- Step 1: The applicant for the 1Yr Certificate must complete an online application form and submit it with supporting documentation to the attention of the Chief Immigration Officer, in the Department of Immigration (the "Department"). The required information and documentation is included with the application form.
- Step 2: The Department will process the completed application.
- Step 3: The Department will advise if the applicant has been successful and issues a 1yr Certificate within ten (10) business days of receipt.

## **VI. Sponsored Dependents Residing in Bermuda**

Sponsored dependents of the 1 Yr Residential Certificate holder may be given permission to reside with the holder provided that the sponsor submits evidence of financial support for the sponsored dependents.

The Department reserves the right to require further documentation if required to assess the ability of the sponsor to support the sponsored dependent(s). Each application will be considered on its own merits. Should the sponsored dependent status change in any way, the residential certificate holder must advise the Department of the change. Failure to do so could result in the primary residential certificate holder's certificate being revoked.

**VII. Convictions of Sponsored Dependents or Residential Certificate holder**

In the event that a sponsored dependent or residential certificate holder is convicted of a criminal offence, the Department will consider each case on its merits. In serious cases where the Minister believes that the sponsored dependent or residential certificate holder poses a threat to Bermuda, the sponsored dependent or residential certificate holder may be required to leave Bermuda.

**VIII. Employment of Sponsored Dependents**

A sponsored dependent is prohibited from seeking or obtaining gainful employment in Bermuda in a local company or company registered in Bermuda. For the avoidance of doubt, sponsored dependents can volunteer for unremunerated positions with not-for-profit organizations, registered charities or religious institutions without permission from the Department.

**IX. Sponsored Dependents Remaining after 1Yr Residential Certificate holder departs**

Sponsored dependents who wish to remain in Bermuda after the 1Yr Residential Certificate holder has left Bermuda require permission to reside. Permission may be granted, but subject always to the sponsored dependent providing satisfactory evidence to the Department that they have the financial means to remain in Bermuda.

**X. Renewal**

Having a 1Yr Residential Certificate does not entitle a person to renewal of that Certificate. In order to obtain a subsequent 1Yr Certificate, a new application is required.

**XI. Application & Fees**

- The 1Yr Certificate application fee amount can be found on the fee schedule on the Department of Immigration website at: <https://www.gov.bm/all-immigration-fees>
- As of August 2020, the application fee is **\$263**.
- This Policy is made effective as at **1<sup>st</sup> August 2020** by order of the Minister of Labour.
- This Policy is subject to review and amendment.