

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

We are excited to see that the DE Rantau programme has sparked your interest! You can find some of the most frequently asked questions regarding DE Rantau Nomad Pass application answered here:

SECTION A: GENERAL QUESTIONS

No.	Question	Answer
1.	What is DE Rantau Nomad Pass?	DE Rantau Nomad Pass is a type of Professional Visit Pass newly designed to allow qualified foreign digital nomads to travel and work in Malaysia.
2.	Who can apply?	Digital freelancer, independent contractor, and remote worker whom are IT & digital professionals in various domains i.e. software engineers, backend engineers, UX, UI, cloud, cybersecurity, blockchain, AI (Artificial Intelligence), machine learning, data-related etc.), digital marketing, digital creative content, digital content development etc.
3.	What is the type of pass offered and its duration?	Professional Visit Pass (Pas Lawatan Ikhtisas) valid between 3 to 12 months of stay with the option to renew for additional 12 months, allowing total of 24 months of stay.
4.	Do I need to be in Malaysia to apply?	No, you are not required to be in Malaysia to apply.
5.	Is this open to all nationalities?	The pass is open for application for citizens of all nationalities. However, approval from Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysia is required for Israel citizen to enter Malaysia.
6.	Is there any minimum age requirement for the DE Rantau Nomad Pass?	The main pass holder must be over 18 years old.
7.	Can I bring my family?	Only immediate family members (dependent) of the main pass holder are eligible to apply: a. Husband / Wife/ Common-Law partner. b. Child, adopted child or stepchild under the age of 18 years. c. Disabled child (no age limit) verified by experts. d. Parent / parents to main pass holder only Kindly refer to applicable fees in Section C below.
8.	Can my spouse work in Malaysia under this pass?	No.
9.	Can a dependent enter Malaysia later and not together with the main applicant?	A dependent has an option either to enter Malaysia together with main pass holder or to enter individually after main pass holder is in Malaysia.

No.	Question	Answer
10.	What are the benefits of being a DE Rantau Pass holder?	Holder of DE Rantau Nomad Pass will be recognized as a member of DE Rantau and is eligible to get access to exclusive benefits provided for digital nomads such as nomad-ready living and working hubs, handpicked local services, discount vouchers, latest information, and promotions.
11.	Will this pass be multi-entry?	Yes, this pass allows multiple entries.
12.	What happens if my passport (or my dependant's passport) has less than 6 months validity before expiring at the point of application and during the validity period of DE Rantau Nomad pass?	The validity of the passport must be more than 14 months upon submission of application. Thus, if the validity is less than 14 months, you need to apply for a new passport.
13.	Does DE Rantau Nomad Pass allow me to open a local bank account?	Most banks in Malaysia do not accept Professional Visit Pass for the applicant to open a bank account. You may seek further clarifications with the respective bank of interest.
14.	Can my child attend school in Malaysia while holding the DE Rantau Nomad dependant pass?	For child of DE Rantau Nomad holders who wish to study in Malaysia, please apply for a Student Pass via the school. Please check directly with the relevant schools for further clarifications before applying. However, the Student pass is not required for the dependent whom is home schooling.
15.	Can I stay in Sabah and Sarawak using DE Rantau Nomad Pass?	At the moment, DE Rantau Nomad pass facilitates your stay only in any states in Peninsular Malaysia. You can still travel to Sabah or Sarawak, but your entry into these 2 states will be using the tourist pass. <i>MDEC is currently working with the relevant states to address this limitation.</i>

SECTION B: PASS APPLICATION

No.	Question	Answer
1.	Where do I apply for the DE Rantau Nomad Pass?	All applications must be made online at: https://mdec.my/derantau/foreign/
2.	How long does the application process take?	The application will be processed within 6 to 8 weeks upon receipt of the completed submission. However, the application processing time may prolong/will be extended if we require further information/documents during the due diligence exercise. The issuance of pass sticker will be completed within 1 week.
3.	What are the documents that I need to submit as proof that I am a digital freelancer or a remote worker earning >USD24,000 per annum?	If you are a digital freelancer, the documents required are your contracts or purchase orders or invoices with your clients, clearly stating the contract duration and value. If you are a remote worker, the document required is your active employment contract with a non-Malaysian company, with monthly or annual salary clearly stated, with indication that you are not required to work from the office and are allowed to work remotely.
4.	I am a freelance digital content creator. I do not have specific contract with any clients, but I receive income from a digital content platform. Can I submit this as proof of my income & my profession as a freelance digital content creator?	You need to provide proof that you are a digital freelancer. You may submit documents to prove that your income is generated from the digital content platform. Your annual income should be >USD24,000 per year.
5.	Can I submit my application in my own language?	Applications and supporting documents MUST be in English
6.	What is the validity of the approval?	The approval is valid for 6 months and is non-extendable
7.	How do I check the status of my application?	Application status is available at: https://malaysiadigital.mdec.my
8.	What is a sponsor and who can be a sponsor?	A sponsor is an organisation which will be able to vouch for your presence in Malaysia and also be responsible for your stay, maintenance, and repatriation while you reside in Malaysia. Sponsoring organisation: A sponsoring organisation must be a company registered in Malaysia that gets services and awards project(s) to the Digital Nomad. The sponsoring organisation shall sign a personal bond document. If you are unable to find a sponsor, MDEC shall be the sponsoring organisation. The following terms and conditions apply: 1) Deposit to be paid to MDEC. The amount is similar to the security bond amount. The payment can be made via online payment.

No.	Question	Answer
		2) An agreement shall be signed with MDEC as a sponsor.
9.	What are the documents required for the sponsor?	<p>Personal bond/Security Bond document or Declaration form.</p> <p>This document must be affixed with RM10.00 revenue stamp and endorsed by Inland Revenue Board (IRB).</p>
10.	What happens if my application is rejected?	If your application is rejected, you may appeal within 1 month from the rejection date.
11.	Will I get refund if my application is rejected?	Refund is applicable at 50% of the respective processing fee. However, this refund will be forfeited if you do not respond to our email requesting your bank details within one (1) month.
12.	What is the estimated processing time for my refund?	<p>The refund payment will be processed after 1 month from the rejection date to allow you to submit an appeal application.</p> <p>The process will take 26 working days upon receiving complete and correct bank details.</p>
13.	Which agency do I liaise with, to apply for DE Rantau Nomad Pass and submit hard copy of documents upon getting approval (issuance of pass sticker)?	<p>Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation Sdn Bhd 2360 Persiaran APEC 63000 Cyberjaya Selangor Darul Ehsan</p> <p>For issuance of pass: Expats Service Centre 2nd Floor, Prima 8, Block 3508, Jalan Teknokrat 6, Cyber 5, 63000 Cyberjaya, Selangor Malaysia <i>Operating hours: 8.30am until 1.00pm on Monday to Thursday and 8.30am until 12.00pm on Friday.</i></p>
14.	What happens after my pass has expired?	You will be able to renew your pass 2 months before the expiry of the current pass.
15.	How long is the process for renewal application?	<p>The renewal application will be processed within 6-8 weeks upon receipt of the completed submission.</p> <p>The issuance of pass will be completed within 1 week (subjected to the Immigration Department's discretion)</p>
16.	How do I collect the pass after I get the approval? How long is the process for renewal application?	<p><u>For applicants who are abroad</u> For foreigners who require a visa to enter Malaysia, you may apply for evisa via https://malaysiavisa.imi.gov.my/evisa/evisa.jsp or visit the Embassy/Consulate of Malaysia as stated in the approval letter.</p> <p><u>For applicants in Malaysia</u> If you have entered Malaysia as a tourist, you are required to leave Malaysia and re-enter Malaysia for issuance of pass sticker once your application is approved. For foreigners who require a visa to enter Malaysia, you may apply for evisa via https://malaysiavisa.imi.gov.my/evisa/evisa.jsp or visit the Embassy/Consulate of Malaysia as stated in the approval letter.</p>

No.	Question	Answer
		<p>If you are in Malaysia with long term pass i.e Employment Pass/Student Pass, please refer to question 17 and 18.</p> <p>For the above scenario, once you have entered Malaysia, you may submit the original passport, Immigration payment and related documents (details will be specified in the approval email notification) to Expats Services Centre where we will issue your pass within 1 week.</p> <p>The renewal application will be processed within 4 weeks upon receipt of the completed submission.</p> <p>The issuance of pass will be completed within 1 week (subjected to the Immigration Department's discretion)</p>
17.	<p>I am currently on an Employment Pass, and I plan to be on DE Rantau Nomad Pass when my current pass expires. How do I do this? Do I need to leave Malaysia before I apply for DE Rantau Nomad Pass?</p> <p>How do I collect the pass after I get the approval?</p>	<p>You may apply for the DE Rantau Nomad Pass while in Malaysia. You are required to provide a release letter from your employer and to shorten the Employment Pass if you do not wish to leave Malaysia.</p> <p><u>For applicants who are abroad</u> For foreigners who require a visa to enter Malaysia, you may apply for evisa via https://malaysiavisa.imi.gov.my/evisa/evisa.jsp or visit the Embassy/Consulate of Malaysia as stated in the approval letter.</p> <p><u>For applicants in Malaysia</u> If you have entered Malaysia as a tourist, you are required to leave Malaysia and re-enter Malaysia for issuance of pass sticker once your application is approved. For foreigners who require a visa to enter Malaysia, you may apply for evisa via https://malaysiavisa.imi.gov.my/evisa/evisa.jsp or visit the Embassy/Consulate of Malaysia as stated in the approval letter.</p> <p>If you are in Malaysia with long term pass i.e Employment Pass/Student Pass, please refer to question 18 and 19.</p> <p>For the above scenario, once you have entered Malaysia, you may submit the original passport, Immigration payment and related documents (details will be specified in the approval email notification) to Expats Services Centre where we will issue your pass within 1 week.</p>
18.	<p>I am currently on an Employment Pass, and I plan to be on DE Rantau Nomad Pass when my current pass expires. How do I do this? Do I need to leave Malaysia before I apply for DE Rantau Nomad Pass?</p>	<p>You may apply for the DE Rantau Nomad Pass while in Malaysia. You are required to provide a release letter from your university to confirm the completion of your study with a full transcript, to shorten the student pass. You may apply for the DE Rantau Nomad Pass while in Malaysia. You are required to provide a release letter</p>

No.	Question	Answer
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19.	I am currently an international student holding a Student Pass. I plan to be on DE Rantau Nomad Pass upon completing my study. Can I convert my Student Pass to be DE Rantau Nomad Pass? How do I do this?	You may apply for the DE Rantau Nomad Pass while in Malaysia. You are required to provide a release letter from your university to confirm the completion of your study with a full transcript, to shorten the student pass.

SECTION C: PAYMENTS

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1.	What is the fee structure and when do I make the payment?	<p>Fees of RM1,080.00 per applicant and RM540.00 for each dependent are to be paid upon submission of application for all categories and are non-refundable.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Processing fee per applicant</td> <td>RM1,080.00 (incl. 8% SST (SALES & SERVICE TAX))</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Processing fee per dependent</td> <td>RM540.00 (incl. 8% SST)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Immigration Pass Fee per applicant</td> <td>RM90 (every 3 months) RM360 (1 year)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple Entry Visa Charges (if applicable)</td> <td>Charges vary across countries</td> </tr> </table> <p>All fees are subject to 8% SST. All payment is to be made upon application and is payable to Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation Sdn Bhd via online payment.</p>	Processing fee per applicant	RM1,080.00 (incl. 8% SST (SALES & SERVICE TAX))	Processing fee per dependent	RM540.00 (incl. 8% SST)	Immigration Pass Fee per applicant	RM90 (every 3 months) RM360 (1 year)	Multiple Entry Visa Charges (if applicable)	Charges vary across countries																																																																						
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2.	Are there any charges if MDEC becomes the sponsoring organisation?	<p>A security bond will have to be paid as per the rates below. You will be refunded the full amount when your pass expires.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Security Bond/Bank Guarantee Rates</th> </tr> <tr> <th>RM2,000.00</th> <th>RM1,500.00</th> <th>RM750.00</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Canada</td> <td>Saudi Arabia</td> <td>Bangladesh*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USA</td> <td>Africa</td> <td>Philippines</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colombia</td> <td>Australia</td> <td>India</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Angola</td> <td>British C.I</td> <td>Myanmar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burkina Faso</td> <td>Brunei</td> <td>Nepal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central African Republic</td> <td>China*</td> <td>Pakistan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Republic Congo</td> <td>Europe</td> <td>Sri Lanka</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burundi</td> <td>Iran</td> <td>RM500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Republic Democratic Congo</td> <td>Iraq</td> <td>Indonesia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cameroon</td> <td>Portugal C.I</td> <td>RM300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cote D'Ivoire</td> <td>Taiwan</td> <td>Thailand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Djibouti</td> <td>Tunisia</td> <td>RM200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equatorial Guinea</td> <td>Vietnam</td> <td>Singapore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eritrea</td> <td>RM1,000.00</td> <td>RM1,500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ethiopia</td> <td>Japan</td> <td>Others</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guinea-Bissau</td> <td>South Korea</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ghana</td> <td>Macao</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liberia</td> <td>Hong Kong</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mali</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mozambique</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Niger</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nigeria</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rwanda</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western Sahara</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Security Bond/Bank Guarantee Rates			RM2,000.00	RM1,500.00	RM750.00	Canada	Saudi Arabia	Bangladesh*	USA	Africa	Philippines	Colombia	Australia	India	Angola	British C.I	Myanmar	Burkina Faso	Brunei	Nepal	Central African Republic	China*	Pakistan	Republic Congo	Europe	Sri Lanka	Burundi	Iran	RM500.00	Republic Democratic Congo	Iraq	Indonesia	Cameroon	Portugal C.I	RM300.00	Cote D'Ivoire	Taiwan	Thailand	Djibouti	Tunisia	RM200.00	Equatorial Guinea	Vietnam	Singapore	Eritrea	RM1,000.00	RM1,500.00	Ethiopia	Japan	Others	Guinea-Bissau	South Korea		Ghana	Macao		Liberia	Hong Kong		Mali			Mozambique			Niger			Nigeria			Rwanda			Western Sahara		
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No.	Question	Answer
		<p>* Bank Guarantee applies to Bangladesh and China ONLY. The Bank Guarantee (BG) must be issued by a bank in Malaysia and to be affixed with the stamp duty. The stamp duty must be endorsed by Inland Revenue Board (IRB). Only citizens of Bangladesh & China who have the capability to produce this BG will be eligible to apply for the DE Rantau Nomad Pass.</p>

SECTION D: TAX

CATEGORY	SOURCE OF INCOME	TAX TREATMENT
Freelancers (Foreign)	Outside of Malaysia	Will be eligible for taxation as per: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 4(a) Income Tax Act 1967 (ITA 1967) 2. Subject to the provisions of Section 7 of ITA 1967
	Worldwide	
	Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subject to Withholding Tax under Section 109B, ITA 1967 for the first 182 days of stay. 10% tax rate applicable or preferential rates specified in DTA ▪ After 182 days, Income shall be taxable under Section 4(a), ITA 1967 due to classification as residence under Section 7, ITA 1967 and conducting business under Section 12 ITA 1967 ▪ Tax paid (first 6 months / 182 days) through withholding tax under Section 109B will be given a tax credit under Section 110, ITA 1967 upon submission of related Tax Return when this income is properly declared under Section 4(a), ITA 1967
Remote Worker (Foreign)	Outside of Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tax not applicable if the number of days stayed in Malaysia not exceeding 60 days. Tax exemption under Para. 21 & 22, Schedule 6, ITA 1967 ▪ Will be Taxable under Section 4(b)/ Sub-section 13(2) and Article 14 DTA if the number of stays is 61 days and more. ▪ Tax rate will be based on residential status under Section 7, ITA 1967. ▪ The Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia's Public Rulings bill 8/2011 is also referred to <p><i>References: Article 14 DTA Malaysia / Contracting Countries and Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia's Public Ruling No. 8/2011</i></p>

For tax related enquiries, you may contact **Hasil Careline at 03-8911 1000 or +603-8911 1100 (for Overseas)**

For further assistance, you may contact the following officers based in W.P Kuala Lumpur listed at <https://www.hasil.gov.my/en/contact-us/call/customer-care-officer/>.

It is recommended to inquire about **tax treatment for non-resident individuals** for further enquiries related to the programme.

References:

1. **Income Tax Act 1967 (ITA 1967)** / *Akta Cukai Pendapatan 1967 (ACP 1967)*:
 - a. Section 3, 4, 7, 12, 13, 109B, 110, Para. 21 and 22, Schedule 6
2. **Effective Double Taxation Agreements (DTA)** / *Perjanjian Pengelakan Percukaaian Dua Kali (PPPDK)*:
 - a. Article 14 (Independent Personal Services)
3. **Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia's Public Rulings** / *Ketetapan Umum Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri (LHDN)*:
 - a. No. 8/2011: Foreign Nationals Working in Malaysia - Tax Treatment / *Warganegara Asing Yang Bekerja Di Malaysia - Layanan Cukai*
 - b. No. 11/2017: Residence Status of Individuals / *Taraf Mastautin Individu*
4. **The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**
 - a. Action 1 of Inclusive Framework on Based Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)

