

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE IN DUBAI



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Professional companies are usually partnerships that can offer professional services, such as most consultancies, media, craftsmen & artisans, and accounting. These companies cannot engage in commercial activities.

The main feature of a Professional Company is that 100% foreign shareholding is permissible (very few exceptions); however, this form of company can be formed only by an individual or a group of individuals (corporate shareholding is not allowed). These companies can bid for Government contracts, as opposed to free zone companies, which are usually not allowed to do so.

Businesses can be registered anywhere in the mainland; a wide range of choice - from the lanes of old Deira to the shining towers of Business Bay.

What **activities** can be carried out with a **Professional Licence** in Dubai ?

A Professional License can have consultancy activities, such as marketing consultancy or management consultancy, artistry, crafts, Information technology, or media-related activities.

The license can be registered on a Desk space. However the desk allows only 1 employee visa apart from 2 investor visas. Start ups can on a desk space an shift into offices when their business gorws.



Who can be the **owners** ? Does a it need a **manager**

The legal structure of the license can be Sole Establishment (if 1 Partner) or Civil Company (If two or more partners). The UAE National will have no shares in the License but will only act as a Service Agent, i.e. a liaison between the entity and Government departments such as Ministry of Labour.

Only individuals can be shareholders in a Professional License.

Every license has to appoint a manager. The name of the manager will be on the license and he/she is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the company.

In case of consultancy activities, the manager of the License would have to take an exam in the American University of Dubai (AUD), the cost of which is AED 2,100. It is an online multiple-choice-questions-based test and is a 100-mark test. 60% is the passing criteria.





Is there a **minimum capital** required for **Professional Licence**?

There is no minimum capital for a Professional License in Dubai. However, it should be mentioned in the Memorandum of Association.

TRADE NAMES

There are certain guidelines to follow for trade names in Dubai. Please refer to our guide on this subject.



Advantages of setting up a company in Dubai Mainland



GROWING ECONOMY

Dubai has been successful in terms of economic growth, and in diversifying away from oil. Sectors such as trade, logistics, transportation, finance, services and tourism account for almost 75% percent of Dubai's GDP.



TAX FRIENDLY

There are no personal or corporate income taxes. This enables companies in Dubai to deploy their capital and earnings to expand their businesses, and attract good talent from all parts of the world.



FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Dubai's Department of Economic Development (DED) has been instrumental in driving Dubai's economic agenda. Their initiatives in making doing business in Dubai easier, and strong Government support, have resulted in Dubai being attractive to both local and international investors.



FREE ZONE NETWORK

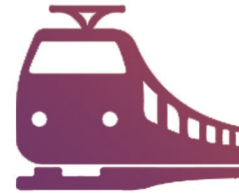
Dubai has more than 22 Free Zones that attract investors from all over the world. These are organized into clusters and provide one-window clearance for business that setup and operate. Investors have 100% ownership of their assets, along with no restrictions on repatriation of profit and capital.

Advantages of setting up a company in **Dubai Mainland**



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Dubai is located between Asia, Europe and Africa, a gateway to over 2 billion people.



EXCELLENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Dubai has an excellent network of roads and highways, a world-class Metro system and exceptional ports and airport facilities.



ACCESS TO A POOL OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Companies operating in Dubai have access to a multicultural pool of talent from across the world. The local Emirati population is highly educated and seeks more active participation in the private sector.



SECURITY

The UAE has had a politically stable climate since inception. Dubai is known as one of the most tolerant, prosperous, secure and safe societies in the world and is ranked as the top Middle Eastern city in Mercer's Quality of Life Index.

Advantages of a Professional License in Dubai

EASY SETUP

The license can be setup within a few days if you meet the required criteria. You can set up such a license with a desk space, unless more visas are required.

COST-EFFECTIVE

Unlike many free zones, the Dubai company is economical, since you do not need to commit to a large office space in the first year.

FLEXIBILITY IN DOING BUSINESS

Unlike free zone companies, Professional companies in Dubai can do business anywhere in the UAE, and in other countries as well. The company can also enter into agreements with Government entities.

RANGE OF LOCATIONS

Unlike a free zone, which is a designated area, you can set up a Dubai Professional License company in any area of Dubai, including Deira, Bur Dubai, Business Bay and anywhere else on the Dubai mainland.

OPTIONS FOR MULTIPLE VISAS

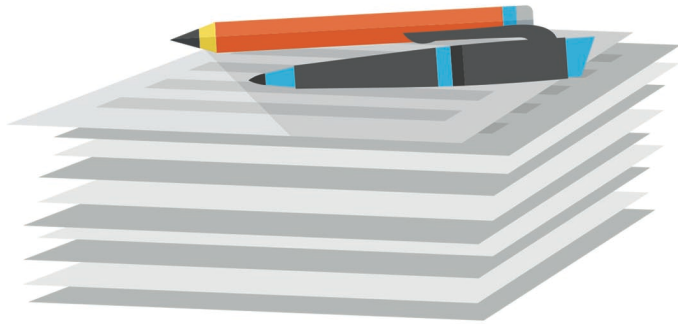
Dubai companies allow for unlimited visas when setting up on the mainland. The number of visas allowed depends on the office space taken, which is usually calculated at 80 square feet per visa. In some cases, the DED is flexible on this allocation, for example in instances where the Dubai company has a large outdoor sales force.

SPONSOR OF DEPENDENTS

The Professional License company can apply for multiple visas for their employees, and the shareholders and employees can sponsor visas for their dependents - spouse, child, parents, maid, cook etc.



How to apply for a **Professional License** in Dubai ?



Select a business activity



Find a UAE National to act as service agent



Decide the distribution of the shareholding, the profits and losses among the partners and other operational modalities



Reserve of a new trade name



Sign the Partnership Agreement in the Dubai Courts



Rent office space in Dubai



Pay the DED fees and obtain the Professional license

Costs of setting up a Professional License in Dubai

The cost of a Professional License in Dubai starts from **AED 25,000**, and depends on the activity chosen, and office space that the company rents.

Additional costs include the registration of the company with the Ministries of Immigration and Labour and visa costs.




Let's Get Started!

WE
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- ~ Setting up businesses in Dubai since 2004
- ~ Experts in consultancy and company formation
- ~ Team of highly qualified Lawyers, Chartered Accountants and Relationship Managers
- ~ Ready to assist you in English, Arabic, French, German, Turkish, Hindi, Afrikaans & Tagalog.

Our services cover more than just company setup – we take care of all aspects of your business.

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