



Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (CDMM) Phase- II



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Essential Information on EU Blue Card

The following checklist (developed with the latest information available as of May 2024), serves as a tool for highly qualified workers from India to work in a European Union Member State under the EU Blue Card scheme.

The Blue Card is an EU-wide work and residence permit (Directive (EU) 2021/1883) that allows highly qualified non-EU citizens to work and live in 25 of the 27 Member States of the European Union (it does not apply in Denmark and Ireland).

Purpose and Geographical Scope of the EU Blue Card

The EU Blue Card is designed to attract and retain highly qualified non-EU nationals in the EU. It is aimed at enhancing the EU's competitiveness in the global race for talent and to help the EU fill labour and skills shortages with qualified professionals from outside the EU. Blue Card status carries benefits such as favourable family reunification rules, intra-EU mobility, equal treatment to EU nationals in certain areas, as well as easier access to EU long-term residence status.

It is important to note that the Blue Card is only applicable by EU Member States (except Denmark and Ireland); and as such, does not grant the right to enter or reside in non-EU Schengen countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) without additional visa or entry procedures.

Note: Despite the existence of a common EU Blue Card provision, EU Member States still have the authority to determine the number of non-EU nationals eligible to enter their territory under the Blue Card Scheme.



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Preparatory Checklist



While you consider applying for the EU Blue Card, there are certain important criteria (such as educational requirements, job contract, salary threshold) that you need to keep in mind. To this end, the following section includes a set of preparatory questions that you may wish to consider while preparing to apply for the EU Blue Card.

General Eligibility Criteria and Essential Documents



Education

Do I possess a higher education qualification such as a university degree or diploma?

If I do not have a higher education degree, do I have at least five years of relevant professional experience at a level comparable to higher education qualifications and which are relevant to the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer?



General Documents

Do I and my accompanying family members possess all necessary documents, including a valid Indian passport (with a minimum validity of more than 6 months) and, if required, an application for a visa, a valid visa or, where applicable, a valid residence permit or valid long-stay visa?

Have I secured medical insurance for myself, and any accompanying family members (if applicable), if not already covered by the employer?



Employment

Do I have a legally binding job offer/agreement or work contract in an EU country for at least six months?

Do I have an annual gross salary that meet the salary threshold decided by the respective EU Member State (except if the lower salary threshold applies in your case- see below)?

Important Note: In addition to the general set of valid documents mentioned above, please check the immigration portal of the EU Member State (please refer to the weblinks provided in pages 7 and 8), where you are applying, to make sure if there are any additional documents requested for application. The immigration portal would also have more information on the salary threshold applicable in the respective EU Member State.

Important Note: Lower salary thresholds may exceptionally apply for young professionals (graduated from University within the past three years), and shortage occupations. Flexible requirements are also applicable for Information Technology (IT) professionals in select EU MS. It is best to check with the authorities of the respective EU MS on your eligibility for these provisions before you make an application.



Application Procedure

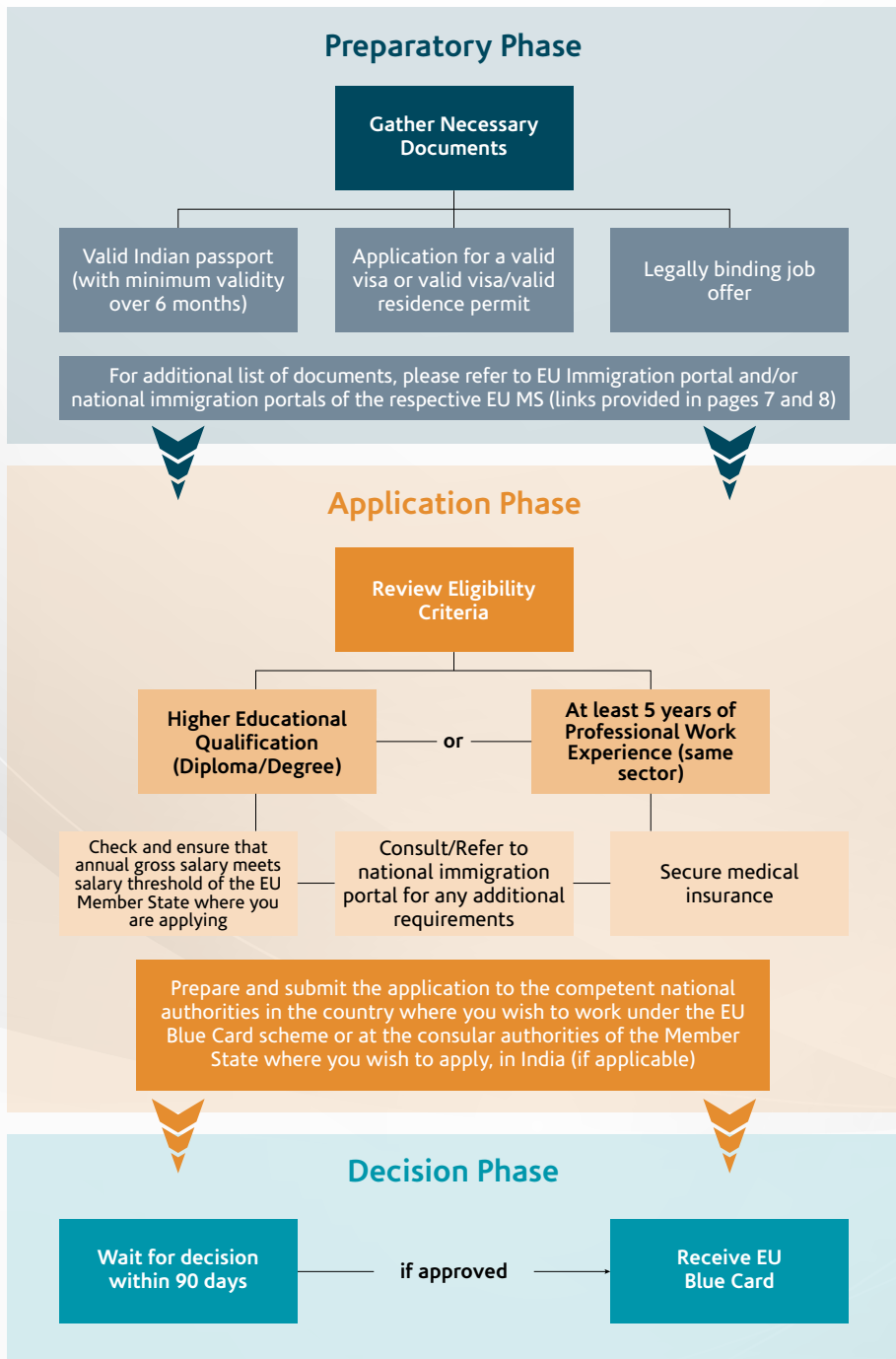
You - or your employer - must make your application to the competent national authorities in the country where you wish to work under the EU Blue Card scheme or, if applicable, at the consular authorities of the Member State where you wish to apply, in India.



Note: There is no uniform EU-wide application process for the EU Blue Card. Application submission procedures, including fees and payment modalities, differ across EU Member States. Normally, these country specific application procedures and information can be found on the immigration portal of the respective EU Member State. For country specific information, please refer to the weblinks provided in pages 7 and 8.



Information regarding the decision period, as outlined in the updated EU Blue Card Directive, specifies that a decision or response to an application must be provided within 90 days from the date of application submission. For applications submitted by "recognised employers" in dedicated Member States, this period is reduced to a maximum of 30 days.



Common reasons for rejection/withdrawal of Blue Card:

1. **False or Incorrect Information:** Ensure all information and documents you submit are correct and genuine. False or misleading details will lead to application rejection.
2. **Failure to Meet Eligibility Criteria:** Ensure that you have a recognized university degree or relevant professional experience. Similarly, make sure you meet the salary threshold required to be eligible for a Blue Card. If you do not meet these criteria, your application will be rejected.



Additional Note: Member States may also conduct a labour market test as per Article 7(2) to determine the availability of suitable EU candidates before approving your Blue Card application.

Benefits as an EU Blue Card Holder

Validity of the Blue Card

The Blue Card is valid for at least 24 months, or, if a work contract is for a shorter period, a further 3 months after the contract ends.

Benefits of the Blue Card



- **Family Reunification:** Blue Card holders can be joined by their family members, who are also granted the right to work. The residency years accumulated by a Blue Card holder contribute towards both the eligibility for an autonomous residence permit and future access to EU long-term residence status for themselves and their family members, including spouses and minor children.



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Increased intra-EU Mobility: EU Blue Card holders can move and work with their families to another EU Member State after 12 months without resetting their accumulated residency period, unlike national residence permit holders who must start over. To this end, as soon as possible and no later than 1 month after the EU Blue Card holder has entered the territory of the second Member State, an application for an EU Blue Card shall be submitted to the competent authority of that Member State.
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Equal Treatment: EU Blue Card holders enjoy the same rights as EU nationals regarding employment conditions, freedom of association, educational and vocational training, mutual recognition of diplomas, social security, and access to goods and services.
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Long-term EU Residency: EU Blue Card holders can acquire EU long-term resident status, subject to certain conditions, further stabilising their residency and work rights within the EU.

Additional Resources and Links for further assistance

EU Immigration Portal: The portal contains practical information for third country nationals intending to move to the EU. It contains specific immigration information on every EU Member State for every category of legal migration. Refer to https://immigration-portal.ec.europa.eu/eu-blue-card_en to access the portal.

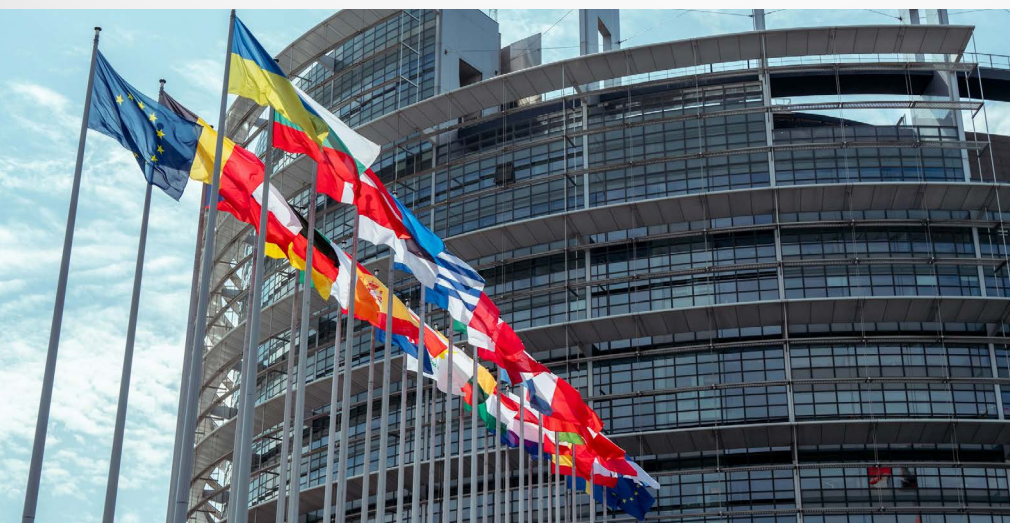
Your Europe Advice: The portal is part of a set of tools with information and advice for citizens and residents about their rights in the EU. It offers practical advice and useful tips on issues such as living, studying, working, travelling or doing business within the EU. Refer to https://europa.eu/youreurope/advice/index_en.htm to access the portal.



National Immigration Portal: For country specific information please refer to the national immigration portals of the EU member states. The weblinks to the portals are provided below.

Austria	https://www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration/eubluecard/
Belgium	Flanders region: https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/work-permits-for-foreign-workers/work-permits-categories-and-procedures/work-permits-european-blue-card Wallonia region: https://emploi.wallonie.be/en/home/travailleurs-etrangers/permis-de-travail/carte-bleue-europeenne-1.html Brussels region: https://economy-employment.brussels/permit-blue-card
Croatia	https://mup.gov.hr/aliens281621-/stay-and-work/stay-and-work-of-highly-qualified-third-country-nationals/281692
Czech Republic	https://frs.gov.cz/en/visa-and-residence-permit-types/third-country-nationals/long-term-residence-permits/blue-card/
Estonia	https://www2.politsei.ee/en/teenused/residence-permit/tahtajaline-elamisloba/tootamiseks/oluline-info-tootamiseks-elamisloa-taotlejale.dot
Finland	https://migri.fi/en/eu-blue-card
France	https://www.welcometofrance.com/en/fiche/talent-passport
Germany	https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/eu-blue-card
Greece	https://migration.gov.gr/en/migration-policy/dioikisi/
Hungary	http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=2238&Itemid=2463&lang=en
Italy	Generic information on visa- https://www.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari-estivi/ingressosoggiornoinitalia/ For blue card in Italy, the employer needs to make the request via immigration portal https://portaleservizi.dlci.interno.it/Alisportello/ali/home.htm
Latvia	https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/article/european-union-blue-card-residence-permit-highly-qualified-employees
Lithuania	https://workinlithuania.com/eu-blue-card/
Luxembourg	https://guichet.public.lu/en/citoyens/immigration/plus-3-mois/ressortissant-tiers/hautement-qualifie/salarie-hautement-qualifie.html
Malta	https://identita.gov.mt/expatriates-unit-highly-qualified-individuals-blue-card/
Netherlands	https://ind.nl/en/residence-permits/work/european-blue-card-residence-permit

Poland	https://mos.cudzoziemcy.gov.pl/en/informacje/blue-card_EN/wprowadzenie_EN
Portugal	https://www.acm.gov.pt/-/o-que-e-o-cartao-azul-ue-e-a-quem-pode-ser-concedido-
Romania	https://igi.mai.gov.ro/permisul-unic-carte-a-albastra-a-ue/
Slovakia	https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/buxus/generate_page.php?page_id=363520
Slovenia	https://infotujci.si/en/third-country-nationals/purposes-of-residence/purpose-of-residence-eu-blue-card/
Spain	https://www.inclusion.gob.es/web/migraciones/hojas-informativas
Sweden	https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Working-in-Sweden/Employed/Special-rules-for-certain-occupations-and-citizens-of-certain-countries/EU-Blue-Card.html



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