



A new Residence Card, called *Carte de séjour compétences et talents*, makes it easy to emigrate to, and work in France

The residence card “Competences and Talents” can be granted to a foreign citizen if he/she is likely to make a significant or lasting contribution through their skills or talents, to France’s economic or national development, or to France’s influence, in particular in the intellectual, scientific, cultural, humanitarian or athletic areas. This contribution should also benefit directly or indirectly the country of origin. The card allows for a three-year stay and can be renewable.

The spouse and children of the recipient of the “competences and talents” card will be issued a temporary residence card called “Vie Privée et Familiale”.

Residents of the Midwest that are interested can contact the Consulate General of France in Chicago

1- The residence card « competences and talents » is granted for 4 categories of foreign citizens in connection to a professional project in France.

a) The card can be granted to employees: the application package should include a working contract. The employment contract must match the qualification, experience and, if applicable, diplomas or job titles of the candidate.

b) The card can be granted to investors creating activity in one of the following economic projects:

- Project leading either to the creation of at least two positions including that of the project initiator or the maintenance of at least two existing positions;

- Project including investment in tangible assets (assets consisting of land acquisition, buildings, mechanical equipment) or intangible assets (assets consisting of technology transfers, rights, patents, licenses, *savoir-faire* or non-patented technical knowledge) of at least 300,000 euros;

- Project initiated by a foreign company in existence for at least two years or already established in France.

The objective of the created activity will be considered based on its pertinence to its location in France. A project integrated in a competitive cluster will be privileged.

Occupations, employments or activities requiring high-level qualifications and potentially leading to job creation will be privileged. The sector in which the project will be developed will also be taken into account.

c) The card can be granted to independent professionals (authors, translators...).

d) The card can be granted to athletes and trainers:

For individual Olympic sports, the applicant must have been a national champion in the country of origin, during the sports' season preceding the application or must have participated as an official competitor in continental or world championships.

For collective Olympic sports, the applicant must be a permanent member of a national team. For non-Olympic sports, the applicant must be a permanent member of the national team.

For trainers and technicians, the applicant must be the permanent trainer of the national team or a major league team.

2 – Conditions for diplomas and professional experience

Excluding artists and athletes, a candidate without professional experience, whose level of education would be inferior to that of a bachelor degree is not eligible for the card.

A bachelor degree associated to a professional experience of at least three years, a master associated to a professional experience of at least one year are valid for application to the "competences and talents card".

According to the quality of the applicant's project and his/her capacity to carry it out, a doctorate degree is adequate to obtain the "competences and talents" card without professional experience required.

Degrees in physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, computer science, agronomy, marketing, human resources, management, finance, actuarial, accounting, of a level equal to, at least, of a master will be valued.

A candidate without a diploma must justify of a professional experience of at least five years./.