



Residency in Mexico

Lee Harrison

World's easiest place to become a resident

- ◆ Easy visa process
- ◆ Can qualify with savings in lieu of income!

World's easiest place to become a resident

- ◆ Easy visa process
- ◆ Can qualify with savings in lieu of income!
- ◆ No minimum stay times in-country
- ◆ Lenient rules for tax residency
- ◆ Easy to do it yourself, in English, at the nearest consulate

Do you even need residency?

Easy to do without it

- ◆ Usually 180 days granted on entry with passport
- ◆ No cumulative limits on stay time
- ◆ Can drive your own car in Mexico
 - ◆ Easy, online car permits for tourists

Do you even need residency?

Advantages for residents

- ◆ You don't have to leave every six months
- ◆ Many banks require residency
- ◆ Access to Mexico's high-interest T-Bills
- ◆ Duty-free import of household effects

Do you even need residency?

Advantages for residents

- ◆ You don't have to leave every six months
- ◆ Many banks require residency
- ◆ Access to Mexico's high-interest T-Bills
- ◆ Duty-free import of household effects
- ◆ *They have to take you when you show up!*

The residency process

- ◆ Residency process begins at your home-country consulate

The residency process

- ◆ Residency process begins at your home-country consulate
- ◆ Start as a temporary resident (*Residente Temporal*), for four years, followed by *Residente Permanente*

The residency process

- ◆ Residency process begins at your home-country consulate
- ◆ Start as a temporary resident (*Residente Temporal*), for four years, followed by *Residente Permanente*
 - ◆ You generally get one year at first, followed by an additional 3 years
 - ◆ Temporary residency can't be extended, can be restarted

The residency process

- ◆ After a total of four years, you can convert to *Residente Permanente* without meeting specified financial criteria

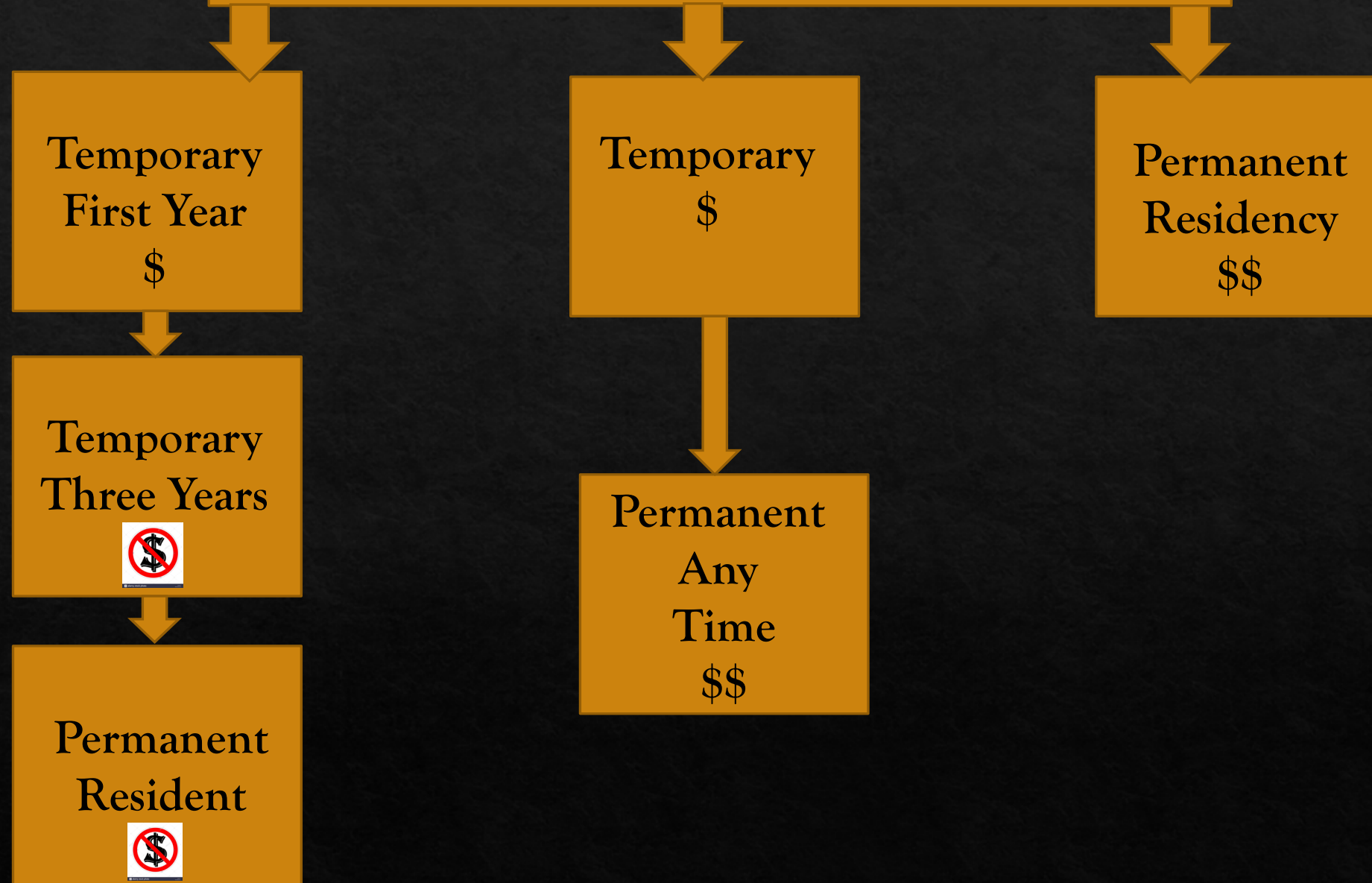
The residency process

- ◆ After a total of four years, you can convert to *Residente Permanente* without meeting specified financial criteria
- ◆ You can upgrade to *Residente Permanente* at any time (in-country) if you meet financial criteria.

The residency process

- ◆ After a total of four years, you can convert to *Residente Permanente* without meeting specified financial criteria
- ◆ You can upgrade to *Residente Permanente* at any time (in-country) if you meet financial criteria.
- ◆ If you qualify, you can start out with *Permanente*

Choose your residency path



Three steps to the process

1. Requesting a visa at the consulate
 - ◆ Can usually use English documents
 - ◆ Take all documents...hand over only what they ask for.
2. Your initial entry into Mexico
3. Getting your residency card in-country

Current changes to the process

- ◆ Change to “economic solvency” formula, from minimum wage to UMA, results in lower income thresholds.
 - ◆ Not yet implemented
- ◆ Today, most consulates have similar financial criteria.
- ◆ What the consulate says, goes!

Common types of Temporary Resident visas

- ◆ Economic Solvency
- ◆ Real Estate Investment
- ◆ Investor visa
- ◆ Family unification

Step One

Qualifying for Temporary Residency

Economic Solvency

- ◆ Income of \$2,530 per month, over the past 6 months
- ◆ Savings of \$42,164, minimum, over the past year

Amounts are per person... or use family unity

Thresholds are per the Phoenix consulate (5/10/22).

Qualifying for Temporary Residency

Real Estate and Investors

- ◆ Real estate with value of \$337,300
- ◆ Investment of \$168,650 in a Mexican company
- ◆ Employment of at least three Mexican workers in your company

Per the Phoenix consulate (5/10/22).

Qualifying for Temporary Residency

Family Unification

- ◆ Proof of relationship with one of the following:
 - ◆ Temporary resident, or temporary resident visa holder
 - ◆ Permanent resident, or permanent resident visa holder
 - ◆ Mexican Citizen
- ◆ In some cases, an additional income of \$844 per month, or additional savings of \$844.

Per the Phoenix consulate (5/10/22).

Common Types of Permanent Residency

- ◆ Economic Solvency
- ◆ Family Unification (including with foreign resident)

- ◆ Upgrade from Temporary Residency after 4 years
 - ◆ There is no specified income requirement

Qualifying for Permanent Residency

Economic Solvency

- ◇ Income of \$4,216 per month, over the past 6 months
- ◇ Savings of \$168,650, minimum, over the past year

Amounts are per person (except for family unity)

Applies to new applicants or temporary with less than 4 years

This is per the Phoenix consulate (5/10/22).

Qualifying for Permanent Residency

Family Unification

- ◆ Proof of relationship (sibling, parent or child) with one of the following:
 - ◆ Permanent resident visa holder
 - ◆ Permanent resident
 - ◆ Mexican Citizen
- ◆ In some cases you'll need an additional income of \$844 per month, or an additional \$844 in savings.

Per the Phoenix consulate (5/10/22).

Step Two

Your first entry with a visa

- ◆ You must enter Mexico within six months

Step Two

Your first entry with a visa

- ◆ You must enter Mexico within six months
- ◆ Do not let them process you in as a tourist
 - ◆ Your entry should be for 30 days

Step Two

Your first entry with a visa

- ◆ You must enter Mexico within six months
- ◆ Do not let them process you in as a tourist
 - ◆ Your entry should be for 30 days
- ◆ Within 30 days, you must register with *Instituto Nacional de Migración* (INM) to get your card

Step Three

Getting your residency card

- ◆ This happens at your local immigration office (INM) in Mexico.
- ◆ They will:
 - ◆ Take your money (or send you to make a deposit)
 - ◆ Take your photo (or send you to get one)
 - ◆ Take your fingerprints
 - ◆ Issue your card (or send you home to wait for it)

Getting your residency card

- ◆ Bring the following:
 - ◆ Original and copy of passport
 - ◆ Copy of your visa
 - ◆ Online application (you can do this in the office, too)
 - ◆ Tourist entry card

- ◆ Service while you wait in most offices

Fees for 2022 *(pago de derechos)*

◆ Residente temporal:

◆ One year: \$4,739 MXN (US\$231)

◆ Two years: \$7,100 MXN (US\$346)

◆ Three years: \$8,993 MXN (US\$439)

◆ Four years: \$10,658 MXN (US\$520)

◆ Residente permanente: \$5,776 MXN (US\$282)

◆ Processing fee \$1,514 MXN (US\$74)

Bringing your vehicle

- ◆ Get the vehicle permit online, in advance, from Banjercito (for tourist or first resident entries)
- ◆ You'll receive the permit by email
- ◆ The charge is \$52, plus a \$400 deposit

You can also go to a consulate, or stop at the border

Bringing your pets

- ◆ International Veterinary Health Certificate no longer required, but it's most convenient.
 - ◆ Otherwise need proof of rabies vaccination and letter attesting to good health.
- ◆ If coming by air, follow airline guidance, and watch temperature limits.

Importing household effects

- ◆ Duty-free importation of household goods
 - ◆ Get authorization from consulate
 - ◆ Customs agent required

- ◆ Is it easier to just pay the duty?
 - ◆ \$1,500 limit per person, “Craigslist value”

Becoming a citizen of Mexico

- ◆ Eligible after five years (Temporary or Permanent)
- ◆ Exam on Mexican Culture, and Spanish reading comprehension
- ◆ Exempt from exam if under 18 or over 60, but you still need basic Spanish comprehension

Questions?