



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		26 February 2007
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Biographies		
Organization Chart	Lebanon: Rights associated with the " <i>permis de séjour</i> ," including renewability, right to enter, remain in and exit the country, and right to employment and social services; whether there is any difference between the " <i>permis de séjour</i> " and the " <i>carte de séjour permanent</i> "	
Employment		
Legal and Policy		
References	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Publications		
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	The " <i>permis de séjour</i> " is referred to as a stay permit by the Lebanese General Directorate of General Security (Lebanon n.d.). An official from the Embassy of Lebanon in Washington said that there is no such thing as a " <i>carte de séjour permanent</i> " [permanent residency card] (ibid. 16 Jan. 2007). However, the General Directorate's Web site indicates that it issues a three-year residence permit for either a temporary stay or a permanent stay (Lebanon n.d.). The principal difference between the two is that the permanent stay residence permit is renewable (ibid.).	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms	An official from the Embassy of Lebanon in Ottawa stated that there is no single set of provisions that applies to all stay permits (23 Jan. 2007). The rights associated with the stay permit, such as renewability and the right to enter, remain in and exit the country, depend on the reason for which an individual is initially granted the permit (Lebanon 23 Jan. 2007; ibid. 16 Jan. 2007). These include investing, working or visiting in Lebanon, and staying because of marriage (ibid. 23 Jan. 2007).	
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets	The Embassy Official in Ottawa stated that some stay permits are renewed each year and some are renewed every two years (ibid.). For example, the Official from the Lebanese Embassy in Washington said that if an individual is a student, the stay permit is issued annually (ibid. 16 Jan. 2007). Somewhat similarly, the Washington embassy official said that if the individual is employed by a multi-national company, the stay permit is valid for six to twelve months (ibid.), and the Lebanon Opportunities Web site, an information resource dedicated to real estate, finance, business and the economy, states that residence in Lebanon is conferred to workers on an annual basis (n.d.). According to the United Nations news service, others who are eligible for three-year renewable residence permits include children with Lebanese mothers and foreign fathers (at no cost) and foreign women married to Lebanese men (UN 29 Jan. 2006). However, foreign men married to Lebanese women are not eligible for the permit (ibid.).	
Responses to Information Requests		
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Proactive Disclosure	With respect to employment and social services, the Official from the Embassy in Washington stated that, to his knowledge, there are no employment and social services associated with the stay permit (16 Jan. 2007). In contrast, the	

Lebanon Opportunities Web site indicates that foreign employees in Lebanon are able to join the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) as long as their home country has equal or better provisions for Lebanese citizens employed there (n.d.). The NSSF is a social insurance program that covers medical and maternity care, family allowance, end-of-service pensions and work-related health problems (Lebanon Opportunities n.d.). However, the Lebanon Opportunities Web site notes that it is rare for foreign employees to join the NSSF (ibid.). Additional information regarding the right of stay permit holders to receive employment and social services could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Conditions for obtaining stay permits

The General Directorate lists the following conditions on its Web site for obtaining a stay permit:

1. [The applicant should] hold a valid work permit for a period of not less than six months with a work contract ratified by the notary public.
2. The applicant should be of Lebanese nationality, in addition to his own nationality
3. The applicant should be from a Lebanese mother and father.
4. The applicant's mother should not only be Lebanese, but he should also be under his mother's care, if he is under 18 years of age or undertaking education.
5. The applicant should be married to a Lebanese.
6. The applicant should be a student in a university or ... college.
7. The applicant should be a religious man, exclusively devoted to his religion.
8. The applicant should prove that his monthly salary is not less than three million Lebanese pounds [CAD 2,349 (XE.com 12 Feb. 2007a)], or [prove] that he has a bank account balance of not less than one million Lebanese pounds [CAD 783 (ibid. 12 Feb. 2007b)], in one of the Lebanese banks. The account should be frozen for more than three months. Furthermore, the applicant should provide a document written by the notary public, in which he commits not to carry out any ... activity in Lebanon [for which he will be paid], in addition to both a lease and a property certificate.
9. The applicant should be the wife of a Palestinian refugee living in Lebanon since 1948, or holding a card still under assessment.
10. The applicant should be a permanent employee or ... a contract [employee] of not less than one year with one of the embassies in Lebanon. (Lebanon n.d.)

Conditions for obtaining a temporary stay residence permit

The General Directorate also provides the conditions under which foreigners and Arabs, with the exception of Palestinian refugees, are granted a three-year residence permit (ibid.). The Arab or the foreigner

1. ... [is the] son/daughter of a Lebanese mother, provided that he doesn't work.
2. ... [is the] wife of a Lebanese provided that she doesn't work.
3. ... was born in Lebanon and whose parents are not Lebanese, provided that he is pursuing his study.

4. ... is of a Lebanese origin and holds a second nationality that obliges him to obtain a residence permit in Lebanon. (Lebanon n.d.)

Retired diplomats who at one time worked in Lebanon are also eligible, whatever their nationality (ibid.).

Conditions for obtaining a permanent stay residence permit

The General Directorate states that a three-year renewable residence permit may be obtained by foreign or Arab nationals provided that one of the following criteria is satisfied:

1. The applicant should be of Lebanese origin and provide documents proving this fact [and] should also hold foreign or Arab citizenship.
2. The applicant should have a Lebanese mother who is taking care of him. He should not be more than 15 years of age while presenting this demand.
3. The applicant should be the wife or husband of a Lebanese [and] prove that by a valid marriage certificate. As for the husband, he should provide a document written by the notary public in which he commits not to carry out any paid activities.
4. The applicant should prove that his monthly salary is not less than five million Lebanese pounds [CAD 3,917 (XE.com 12 Feb. 2007c)] or the equivalent in a foreign currency. This [income should] originate from financial transactions or retirement fees and be sufficient enough to cover his needs. He should provide a document written by the notary public in which he commits not to carry out any ... activities in Lebanon [for which he will be paid].
5. The applicant should prove that he has a bank account balance of not less than 300 million Lebanese pounds [ibid. CAD 235,091 (XE.com 12 Feb. 2007d)] in one of the Lebanese banks. The account should be frozen for more than three months. Furthermore, the applicant should provide a document written by the notary public in which he commits not to carry out any ... activities in Lebanon [for which he will be paid]. The applicant should provide a copy of the account balance signed by the chief of the "General Security" office personally.
6. The applicant should be a permanent or retired employee or worker in an embassy or international organization, at the request of the embassy until the end of [his] mission
7. The applicant should be an Arab or foreign investor, according to the judgment of the director general and after an examination of the requested documents. (Lebanon n.d.)

The General Directorate also states the following regarding "permanent stay":

The Arabic or foreigner citizen who presents a "work permit" valid for **two years** in order to obtain a residence permit is granted a residence permit valid for **one year**. The same "work permit" will be valid for the renewal of the residence permit for a second year, ... in accordance with the applied regulations. The Arabic or foreigner loses his right to the pre-obtained "residence permit" if his stays outside Lebanon exceed six months. (ibid.)

The General Directorate Web site also specifies that there is an annual and a permanent residence permit for investors and Arab businessmen; the permanent residence permit is valid for three years and is renewable (ibid.).

Regarding a "temporary stay" in Lebanon, the Web site of the General Directorate contains the following information:

A temporary stay is given to those having a work permit. Those should have a work permit and a yearly stay, 3 months after entering Lebanon. In case the employer failed to carry out this measure, he is required to present himself at the Labor ministry to have a quittance for his employee. He should also present himself with his employee at the "Surete Generale's" local office, associated with the employee's area to obtain a temporary stay for his employee allowing him to obtain a work permit. (Lebanon n.d.)

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Lebanon. 23 January 2007. Embassy of Lebanon, Ottawa. Telephone interview with a consular official.

_____. 16 January 2007. Embassy of Lebanon, Washington, DC. Telephone interview with a consular official.

_____. N.d. General Directorate of General Security. "Residence in Lebanon." <<http://www.surete-generale.gov.lb/english/english.htm>> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2007]

Lebanon Opportunities. N.d. "Business Information." <<http://www.opportunities.com.lb/Lebanon/bhb/initdoc.asp?catId=5>> [Accessed 18 Jan. 2007]

United Nations (UN). 29 January 2006. Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN). "Lebanon: Discrimination Against Children of Foreign Fathers." <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=51405&SelectRegion=Middle_East> [Accessed 18 Jan. 2007]

XE.com. 12 February 2007a. "Universal Currency Converter Results." <<http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi>> [Accessed 12 Feb. 2007]

_____. 12 February 2007b. "Universal Currency Converter Results." <<http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi>> [Accessed 12 Feb. 2007]

_____. 12 February 2007c. "Universal Currency Converter Results." <<http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi>> [Accessed 12 Feb. 2007]

_____. 12 February 2007d. "Universal Currency Converter Results." <<http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi>> [Accessed 12 Feb. 2007]

Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: Keesing Reference Systems, United States (US) Visa Reciprocity and Country Documents Finder.

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