

Client alert

12th March 2026

Issuance of residence permits: increased fees from 1st May, 2026

Summary: Article 128 of the 2026 Finance Law No. 2026-103, published in the Official Journal on 19th February, 2026, provides for an increase in the amount of fees from 1st May 2026, that will be due for the first issuance of a residence permit, as well as an increase in the stamp duty and the regularization fee. Similarly, applications for French nationality and the exchange of driver's licenses are subject to a new fee.

The main increases concern:

- the first residence permit (+ €125 total),
- the reduced fee for certain documents (+ €50),
- applications for French nationality (+ €200),
- the exchange of foreign driving licenses, now subject to a fee (€40).

First-Time Residence Permit Applications

The first issuance of a residence permit will be subject to the payment of a tax and a stamp duty, the total amount of which is set at €350, instead of the current €225.

Similarly, the long stay visa valid as a residence permit (VLS-TS) is subject to a €300 fee, corresponding to the residence permit that this visa replaces.

Reduced tax for certain categories of residence permits

Residence permits issued for study purposes, as well as certain permits granted for family or personal reasons, will remain subject to a reduced tax. However this tax will increase to €150. This applies to the following temporary residence permits :

- “student,” “student mobility program,” “trainee,” “job seeker or business start-up”, “au pair”;
- “private and family life” permit issued to spouses and children who entered through family reunification, and to recipients of work-related accident or occupational disease benefits;
- multi-year “seasonal” residence permit;
- resident card issued to recipients of work-related accident or occupational disease benefits.

Renewal of a residence permit

An application for renewal of a residence permit will be subject to a tax and stamp duty of €250 (compared to 225 euros currently). For foreign nationals benefiting from the reduced rate, the total amount will be €100.

Regularization Fee

Furthermore, the regularization fee applicable to foreign nationals who entered France without the required visa will be increased to €300, including €100 payable upon submission of the application, compared with the current fee of €200, including €50 payable upon submission.

Temporary Residence Permit “autorisation provisoire de séjour”

The issuance and renewal of a temporary residence permit known as an “autorisation provisoire de séjour” (APS) will be subject to a fee of €100. These permits are currently issued free of charge. This measure concerns students covered by bilateral agreements who may benefit, at the end of their studies in France, from a temporary residence permit allowing them to remain in the country after completing a Master’s degree.

However, this fee will not apply to the issuance or renewal of a temporary residence permit granted under Article L.425-4 (foreign nationals who are victims of human trafficking or procuring) or under Article L.581-3 (beneficiaries of temporary protection).

Naturalization and French Nationality

Applications for naturalization, reinstatement of French nationality, and declarations of acquisition of nationality submitted under Articles 21-2, 21-13-1 and 21-13-2 of the Civil Code will be subject to an electronic stamp duty of €255 upon filing (compared with €55 currently).

Exchange of Driver's License

Finally, applications for the exchange of a driver’s license issued by a foreign authority will be subject to a fee of €40. Such applications are currently free of charge.

Summary table

Procedure	Previous Amount	New Amount	Total to Pay / Notes
First residence permit – standard rate	€200 + €25	€300 + €50	€350 (instead of €225)
First residence permit – reduced rate (<i>students, trainees, etc.</i>)	€50 + €25	€100 + €50	€150 (instead of €75)
Renewal – standard rate	€200 + €25	€200 + €50	€250 (instead of €225)
Renewal – reduced rate	€50 + €25	€50 + €50	€100 (instead of €75)
Regularization (entry without required visa)	€200	€300	Partial payment required when submitting the application
Temporary residence authorization (APS)	Free	€100	Some exceptions apply
Application for naturalization / reinstatement / certain nationality declarations	€55	€255	€255 (instead of €55)
Exchange of a foreign driving licence	Free	€40	New fee

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