**HUNGARY · BUSINESS RESIDENCE**

# Build your business in Hungary

A residence route for non-EU entrepreneurs who want to earn independently or lead an operating business from Hungary.



**BUDAPEST** THE DANUBE AND THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT

## Guest self-employment at a glance

### 1 + 2 years

**INITIAL TERM + EXTENSION**

Up to one year initially, then up to two more years for the same business purpose.

### From year 2

**FAMILY REUNIFICATION**

An eligible spouse and minor children may apply after the sponsor has held the permit for one year.

### €70,000+

**RECOMMENDED SAVINGS**

Westbridge's planning benchmark for documented savings. The authority assesses means case by case.

## Choose a business model that fits your experience

**Start an independent business**

Sell services directly to clients. Examples include software development, IT consulting and other independent professional services.

**Buy into an existing company**

Acquire a stake and take a genuine executive role. Review the company's trading history, tax status, accounts and your planned duties.

**Launch a new Hungarian company**

Build a business around customer demand, such as trading, e-commerce, distribution or a service company. Plan how it will earn revenue and fund operations.

**Operate a franchise**

Use an established brand and operating model. Show the franchise agreement, launch budget and your role in running the business.

**A base in the EU single market.** Run the business from Hungary and build relationships with local suppliers and European customers. The permit covers genuine independent activity or qualifying executive duties. A share purchase alone does not establish eligibility.

Immigration authority · Guest self-employment · Act XC of 2023 · Budapest photo · Tolga Bakı / CC0

**GUEST SELF-EMPLOYMENT · APPLICATION & COSTS**

# From business plan to filing

A credible plan connects your experience, customer demand and available funds to a business you can operate from Hungary.

## What the authority reviews

### A plan backed by evidence

Set out your role, customers, pricing, startup costs and cash flow. Support the plan with contracts, orders or supplier agreements.

### An operating role in the company

Show why your presence is essential and how the company can sustain itself, or document at least five eligible full-time employees for six continuous months.

### Personal and financial documents

Bring your passport and proof of housing, health cover and funds. Registered sole traders must show tax clearance and annual self-employment income above HUF 7,747,200 (≈€21,369) in 2026 (24 monthly minimum wages).

## How Westbridge helps

**01** **Assess eligibility and structure**
Choose the business model and identify the evidence for your role.

**02** **Write the plan and set up**
Draft the plan, coordinate initial setup and gather supporting records.

**03** **Prepare the residence filing**
Confirm where to apply and prepare the application and biometrics.

**04** **Prepare for extension and family**
Keep business records and plan reporting, renewal and family filings.

## Your budget, by item

| Budget item | Amount or basis |
|---|---|
| **Westbridge professional fee** | **€8,000** for business plan support, initial setup assistance and initial residence application preparation. |
| **Immigration authority fees** | Initial filing abroad €110. Where domestic filing is available, HUF 26,000 (≈€72) online via Enter Hungary or HUF 39,000 (≈€108) in person. Extension HUF 26,000 (≈€72). |
| **Available personal savings** | **€70,000+** recommended. Document accessible funds separately from business expenditure and professional fees. |
| **Company capital or acquisition** | New Hungarian Kft. minimum registered capital HUF 3,000,000 (≈€8,275). Share purchase price, due diligence and franchise entry or royalty fees vary. |
| **Setup and ongoing operations** | Allow for external legal costs, licensing, banking, accounting, taxes and contributions, plus rent, inventory or payroll as applicable. |
| **Personal and family expenses** | Budget for translations or legalisation, travel, insurance and housing. Family filings and renewal support can be quoted separately. |

The initial Westbridge fee plus the standard filing fee abroad is **€8,110**, before applicable VAT and third-party costs. The engagement sets the final scope and VAT treatment.

> **Plan for year three.** A further same-purpose stay requires a new issuance application. Switching to another permit type from inside Hungary is barred under this route. Holders are ineligible for Hungary's National Residence Card.

**DISCUSS YOUR BUSINESS PLAN**

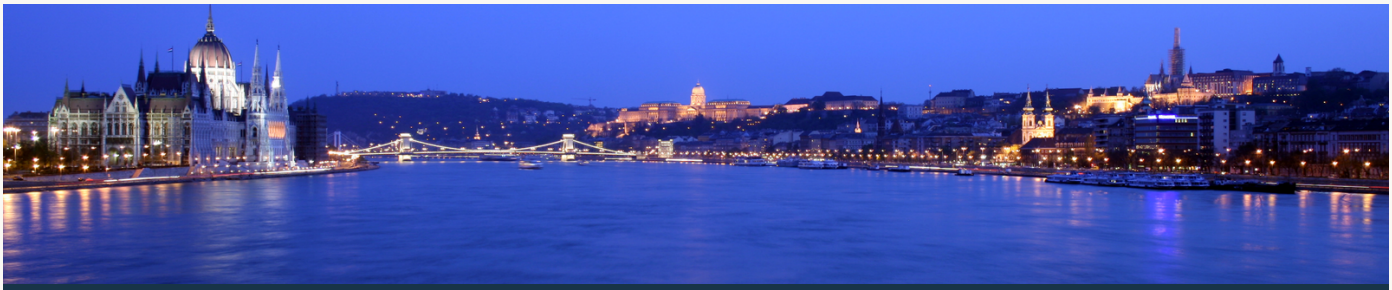
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Immigration authority · Guest self-employment · Official fees · Civil Code §3:161 · Decree 35/2024 · Act XC of 2023

**HUNGARY · HIGHLY QUALIFIED EMPLOYMENT**

# The EU Blue Card in Hungary

A residence and work permit for highly qualified professionals taking up a skilled job in Hungary, with a route to future mobility within the EU Blue Card system.



**BUDAPEST** THE DANUBE AFTER DARK

## Minimum gross monthly remuneration

| Threshold in Hungary | 2026 | 2027 |
|---|---|---|
| **Standard threshold** | HUF 1,001,048 (≈€2,761) | HUF 1,091,244 (≈€3,010) |
| **Specified healthcare roles only** | HUF 800,838 (≈€2,209) | HUF 872,995 (≈€2,408) |

The 2027 thresholds also apply to cards valid in 2027 and to 2026 applications decided in 2027. The lower rate applies only to designated occupations, such as general practitioners, pharmacists and certain nursing roles.

## What you need and what the card offers

### A genuine highly qualified job

A qualifying employment contract or preliminary agreement covering at least six months, with remuneration that meets the applicable threshold.

### Qualifications that match the role

Usually a relevant tertiary qualification. For eligible ICT managers and specialists, at least three years of relevant experience within the previous seven years can qualify. Regulated roles may require recognition or licensing.

### Standard supporting documents

Passport, proof of accommodation, healthcare cover and evidence of means. Bring diplomas, experience records or professional licences as applicable.

### Up to four years, renewable

The card can be extended by up to four years at a time. Eligible family members can apply for reunification without a one-year wait.

### Mobility within the EU Blue Card system

After 12 months in the first participating Member State, qualifying holders can apply in another participating state under its Blue Card rules.

### Changes in employment

During the first year, work is limited to the approved highly qualified job. Changes in employer, occupation or workplace can trigger a new filing. Job loss must be reported.

**Long-term residence.** For eligible EU Blue Card holders, qualifying periods in participating Member States can count towards EU long-term residence. The Hungarian mobility route generally requires five qualifying years overall, including the two years immediately before filing in Hungary on an EU Blue Card.

Budapest photo · Karelj / Public domain

Immigration authority · EU Blue Card · Official 2027 salary update · EU mobility rules · EU residence card

**HUNGARY · HUNGARIAN CARD & WESTBRIDGE SERVICES**

# Choose the card that fits your role

The Hungarian Card (Magyar Kártya) is a Hungarian residence and work permit for specified qualifications and occupations.

**Who can qualify.** Eligible fields include IT, engineering, natural sciences and certain music qualifications. Separate categories cover professional athletes and coaches, performers, and staff of registered film producers. Working owners or directors and some cross-border assignees can also qualify.

**What to prepare.** A genuine job or qualifying engagement, evidence of the required qualification or professional status, and proof of identity, housing, health cover and means.

## EU Blue Card and Hungarian Card compared

| Feature | EU Blue Card | Hungarian Card |
|---|---|---|
| **Best fit** | Highly qualified jobs across eligible sectors that meet the Blue Card pay threshold. | Roles matching listed qualifications or specific sports, performance and film categories. |
| **Pay floor** | 2027 gross monthly pay of HUF 1,091,244 (≈€3,010) standard or HUF 872,995 (≈€2,408) for specified healthcare roles. | General wage floors apply. In 2026, gross monthly full-time pay starts at HUF 322,800 (≈€890) or HUF 373,200 (≈€1,029) for roles requiring at least secondary education or vocational qualifications. |
| **Permit term** | Up to 4 years, extendable by up to 4 years each time. | Up to 3 years, extendable by up to 3 years each time. |
| **Family reunification** | Available for eligible family members without a one-year wait. | Available for eligible family members without a one-year wait. |
| **Work and mobility** | Hungarian employment plus access to EU Blue Card mobility, subject to the receiving country's rules. | Authorises qualifying work in Hungary. Work in another country requires separate authorisation there. |

## Westbridge employer engagement

We identify employers with genuine vacancies, coordinate authorised introductions, support negotiations and draft the permit applications and supporting documents.

| Professional fee | Payment schedule |
|---|---|
| **Initial engagement** | **€5,000** one-time fee |
| **Annual engagement** | **€20,000** per year in four quarterly instalments of **€5,000** |
| **First-year professional fees** | €25,000 if four instalments fall in year one |

Proposed employer-side fees, with scope and VAT treatment set in the engagement. Jobseekers pay zero placement fees. Budget separately for filing (typically €110 abroad), translations, recognition and family applications.

**REQUEST AN EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY REVIEW**

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