

Press Release
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City opens Business Immigration Office

Vienna's appeal as a business location strengthened with new service point for international professionals

The City of Vienna, together with the Vienna Business Agency and in cooperation with public employment service, AMS Vienna, is opening a new Business Immigration Office – a dedicated service point for international specialists, companies, organisations and research and educational institutions. The aim is to provide legal advice on matters such as residence permit applications and multilingual advice on employment and residence law under one roof.

Vice Mayor and City Councillor for Integration Christoph Wiederkehr highlighted the importance of the office: “Vienna is a cosmopolitan city and qualified workers from abroad not only strengthen our economy, but also enrich our society. With the new Business Immigration Office, we are offering the best possible service to enable smoother handling of future residency procedures for qualified specialists and key workers. The close networking of official processes and multilingual advisory services is exemplary and makes it easier for workers and entrepreneurs to settle in Vienna.”

The Business Immigration Office will serve as the first point of contact for people from third countries who want to work in Austria. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship of the City of Vienna (MA 35), with its 22 employees, processes applications for residence permits such as Red-White-Red cards on site. The Vienna Business Agency's multilingual team provides comprehensive advice on residence and employment law in Vienna just a few rooms away in the Business Immigration Office. This bundling of processes benefits not just clients, but also Vienna as a business location.

According to City Councillor for Finance and Economic Affairs, Peter Hanke, “By opening the Business Immigration Office in Vienna, we are ringing in a new era for international executives and companies. We want to give them a warm welcome here in Vienna and optimise immigration processes. To do this, we are combining the advisory know-how of the experts at the Vienna Business Agency with MA35. I am certain that this will bring us advantages in international competition.”

Close cooperation between immigration authorities, the Vienna Business Agency and AMS Vienna

In 2020, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship of the City of Vienna approved around 1,800 applications for residence permits from qualified workers from abroad. Applicants can now book an appointment online and submit their applications to the Business Immigration Office in person.

The Vienna Business Agency expects to carry out at least the same number of mid-application consultations in the Business Immigration Office. Its multilingual team offers expert knowledge and comprehensive information to international specialists, so they can get their working life in Vienna off to a good start.

Managing Director of the Vienna Business Agency, Gerhard Hirczi, said, “For us as a city agency, the opening of the Business Immigration Office is a logical continuation of Vienna's development as an international business location. We estimate that our experts in the Business Immigration Office

will conduct 2,000 initial and advisory interviews per year – right next door to the immigration officers. This office quite literally removes barriers, heralding a cultural change in the city. We are showing businesses that we are doing everything we can to make the process as simple and transparent as possible."

The AMS is also involved in many procedures and provides support in matters of employment market law. Many residence permits, for example, require employment law conditions to be examined by the AMS, and in these cases information is exchanged with the AMS electronically. According to Managing Director of AMS Vienna, Petra Draxl, "For the Viennese employment market, it is important that we provide professional support to international specialist and highly-skilled workers as they start new jobs in Vienna. The Business Immigration Office is the combined hub of the Vienna Business Agency, MA35 and AMS Vienna – here, we can work together to guide applicants through the process, give advice and answer questions so that everything runs as smoothly as possible."

For more information please visit: <https://www.wien.gv.at/kontakte/ma35/business-immigration-office.html>

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