



## How to Obtain a Work Permit for Belize

Note: There are two available options for work permits – Permits for the self-employed and permits for those being employed or seeking employment.

According to the Belize Labor Department, the following applies to foreign nationals who wish to work in Belize under self-employed status:

### **Requirements:**

1. 3 photos (passport size)
2. Copy of passport (only the pages with information on them)
3. Copy of qualifications
4. Police record from place of origin
5. Proof of funds (bank statement can work)
6. Completed application form (this can be purchased from the Angelus Press in Belize City and Belmopan)
7. Payment of BZ\$25 (US\$12.50) processing fee and BZ\$20 (US\$10) Stamp Duty at the Belize Treasury.
8. Receipt of payments (#7 above) along with completed application form (#6 above) should then be submitted to the Labor Department along with proof of establishment of a business.
9. Self-employed workers are encouraged to establish a business in Belize that includes registering the business and establishing a location for the business.
10. Once all necessary documents have been submitted, the approval process normally takes 2 – 3 weeks. The approval is made by an approval committee.
11. Once approval is granted, the applicant is issued an approval letter. This must be taken to the Immigration Office for issuance of permit in the applicant's passport.

If the foreign national will be working for a specific company in Belize, that company can apply for the permit on behalf of the foreign national. This eliminates the need for the individual to establish a business as indicated in #9 above. All the other requirements apply.

It must also be noted that once a company applies for a work permit on behalf of an individual, the individual is limited to working only for that company and the company is the owner of the work permit not the individual ( even though the permit is placed in the individual's passport).