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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

Permanent Residence Card (PRC) Information for Foreign Nationals in Vietnam

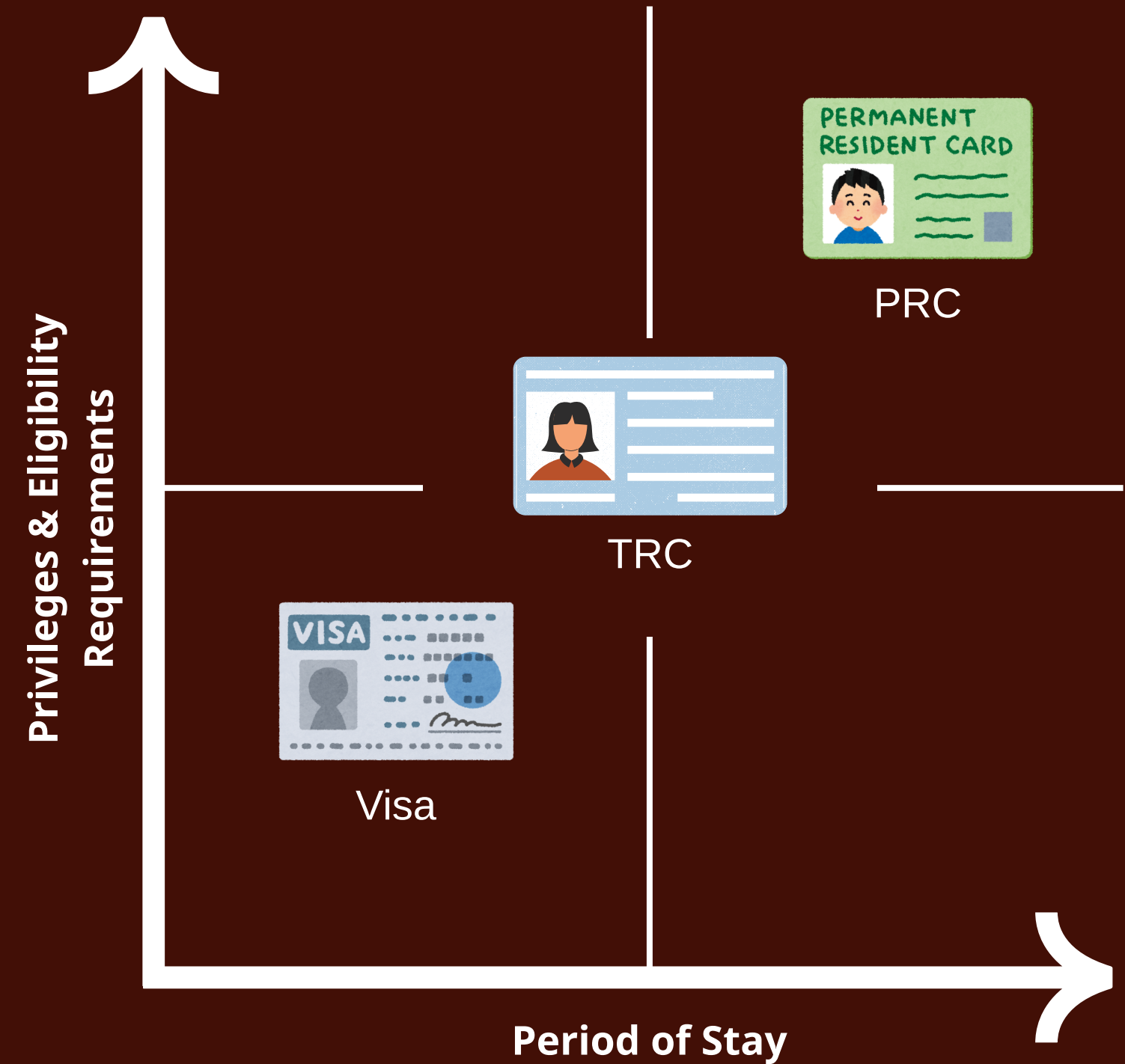
	SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Independence - Freedom - Happiness	
		
	Full name:	
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	ID No.:	Gender:
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The Permanent Residence Card (PRC) in Vietnam's Residence System

What is a Permanent Residence Card?

A Permanent Residence Card (PRC) is the highest form of legal residence status granted by the Vietnam Immigration Department. It allows eligible foreign nationals to reside in Vietnam indefinitely without being subject to a fixed period of stay.

- ✓ Serves as a substitute for a visa.
- ✓ Allows unlimited entry and exit, and indefinite residence in Vietnam without visa renewals or periodic reissuance of residence cards based on specific purposes (e.g., investment or employment).



TRC vs. PRC: Key Differences

	TRC	PRC
Nature	Residence for a fixed period, granted for a specific purpose (e.g., employment, investment, or family reunification).	Indefinite residence.
Validity Period	Valid for up to 10 years (and must expire at least 30 days before the holder's passport expires).	Indefinite.
Renewal Requirements	Requires a full reassessment of eligibility for each issuance or renewal.	Only the physical card needs to be renewed every 10 years; no reassessment of eligibility is required.
Commonality	Widely available with eligible corporate sponsorship.	Extremely limited, with very strict legal eligibility requirements.

Four Categories of Foreign Nationals Eligible for a PRC

PERSONS WITH MERITORIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS



Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development or defense of Vietnam and have been awarded a Vietnamese State Order or Honorary Title.

ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS



Foreign nationals sponsored by their parent, spouse, or child who is a Vietnamese citizen permanently residing in Vietnam.

EXPERTS & SCIENTISTS



Foreign experts and scientists who are temporarily residing and working in Vietnam.

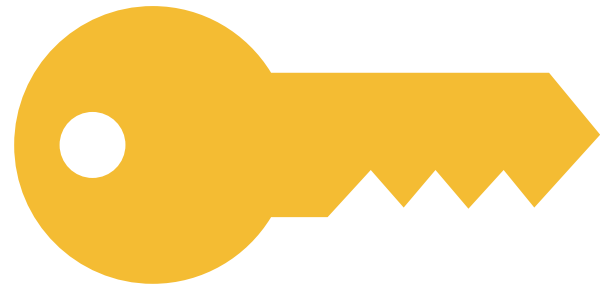
STATELESS PERSONS



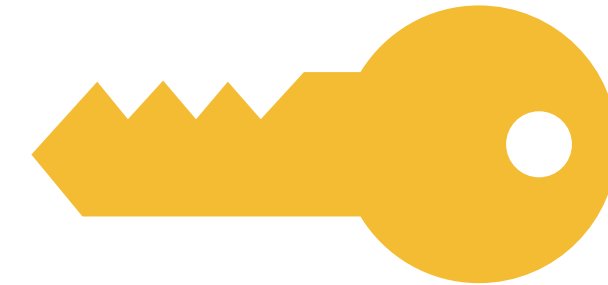
Stateless persons who have continuously resided in Vietnam under temporary residence status since before 2000.



Necessary and Sufficient Conditions for Obtaining a PRC



Applicable only to Experts and Scientists: Must be individually recommended by a Minister or the Head of a ministerial-level agency responsible for the applicant's professional field.



Applicable only to the Family-Based Category: Must have continuously resided in Vietnam under temporary residence status for at least three (3) years, as evidenced by Vietnamese immigration entry and exit stamps.

Core Requirements (Applicable to All Categories):

Must have lawful accommodation in Vietnam and a stable source of income sufficient to support living expenses in Vietnam.



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Receiving Authority

Immigration Department Ministry of Public Security

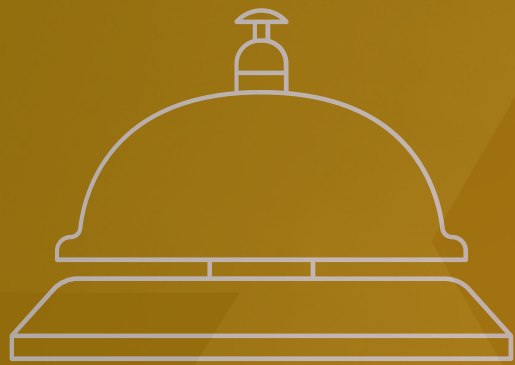
- Applicable to: Individuals with exceptional contributions and scientists/experts
- Offices: Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City

Immigration Division Provincial/City Police

- Applicable to: Family-sponsored applicants and stateless persons.
- Office: The Immigration Division of the Provincial/City Police where the foreign national applies for permanent residence.



The PRC Application and Approval Process



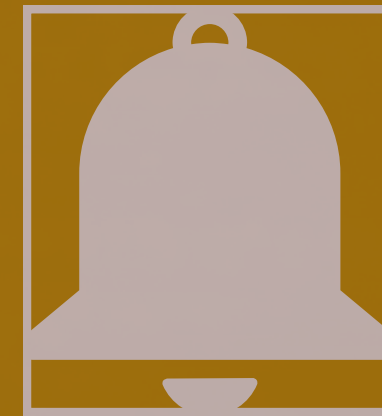
Application Receipt

Submit the application to the Vietnam Immigration Authority. The officer reviews the application, collects the required fee, and issues an appointment slip.



Application Review

The Minister of Public Security makes the final decision. Processing time: 4 months, extendable by up to 2 months if additional verification is required.



Notification

If the application is approved, the local Public Security authority will notify the foreign national of the decision in writing.



Card Collection

The foreign national must appear in person to collect the Permanent Residence Card (PRC) from the local Vietnam Immigration Authority.



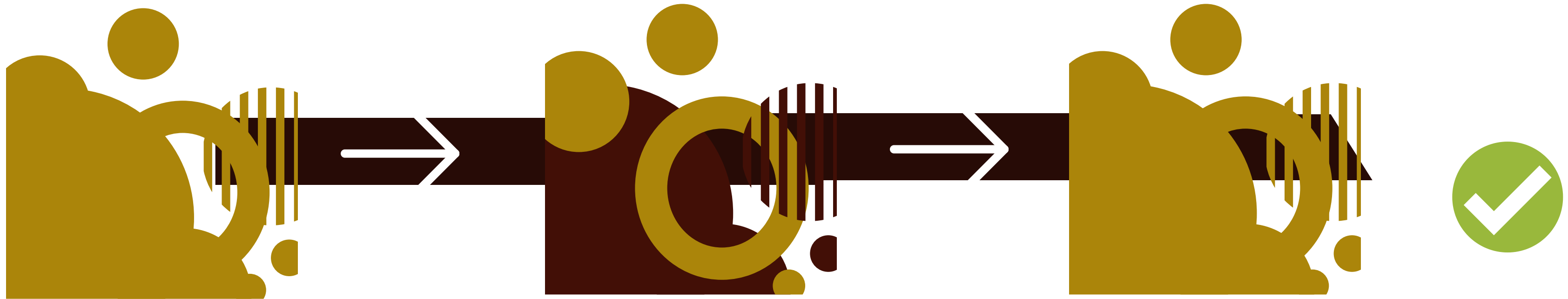
Mandatory Card Replacement Requirement

Mandatory Card Replacement Requirement

- The PRC grants permanent residence status; however, the physical card itself has a validity period.
- Every 10 years, PRC holders are required to visit the Immigration Division of the Provincial/City Police to complete the procedure for replacement of the physical card.
- The card replacement process is straightforward and requires only: Form NA13, the existing PRC, and a copy of the passport. No re-assessment of the original eligibility conditions is required.

Practical Challenges:

Why Is the PRC Considered a Highly Privileged Status?



Diplomatic Note from the Embassy

Obtaining a diplomatic note requesting permanent residence from the applicant's embassy or diplomatic mission is a complex process that depends on the policies of the applicant's home country.

Ministerial-Level Endorsement

For experts and scientists, securing an official recommendation from a Minister or the Head of a ministerial-level agency is subject to exceptionally rigorous evaluation of the applicant's expertise and contributions.

Continuous Residence Period

For the Family-Based Category, proving three (3) years of continuous temporary residence requires the applicant's entry and exit records to demonstrate compliance with the required period of physical presence in Vietnam during the preceding four (4) years.

The Golden Key Advantage

For Long-Term Residence in Vietnam



- 1 The PRC is a privilege not designed for everyone, but it provides the highest level of legal security, removing the need for ongoing visa extensions and work permit renewals.
- 2 The key to success is accurately identifying **the four target groups** and ensuring comprehensive preparation of the essential supporting documents.

Establishing the right legal pathway today lays the groundwork for **a stable and unrestricted future** in Vietnam



THANK YOU!

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