

The Mexico Residency Checklist

Everything you need to qualify for and apply for Mexican residency, on one clear checklist. Print it, tick the boxes, and know exactly where you stand before you book your consulate appointment.

[Temporary & Permanent](#)[Single applicant or family](#)[Income or savings](#)

How to read this: Mexican residency is granted by consulates, and the exact figures and paperwork vary slightly from one consulate to the next. The requirements below are the standard 2026 amounts and are directionally accurate everywhere. Use them to plan with confidence, then confirm the fine print for your specific consulate before you apply.

1 Pick your residency type

Two paths lead to the same place: a legal life in Mexico. Which one you qualify for comes down to how much income or savings you can show.

START HERE FOR MOST PEOPLE

Temporary Resident

Valid 1–4 years and renewable. Lower financial bar. The usual first step, and it can lead to permanent residency later. Best if you're testing the waters or don't yet meet the permanent thresholds.

HIGHER BAR, MORE FREEDOM


Permanent Resident

No renewals, no expiry, and the right to stay indefinitely. Requires higher income or savings. Ideal for retirees and anyone ready to make Mexico home for good.

2 Meet the financial requirement

You qualify with **either** monthly income **or** savings, you don't need both. Show whichever set of numbers is easier for you to prove.

Prove one of these	Temporary Resident visa	Permanent Resident visa
Monthly income UNITED STATES · USD	\$4,130 /mo	\$6,923 /mo
Savings balance UNITED STATES · USD	\$69,597	\$278,447
Monthly income CANADA · CAD	CA\$6,461 /mo	CA\$10,832 /mo
Savings balance CANADA · CAD	CA\$108,894	CA\$435,672
Add for each dependent	+ \$1,520 / CA\$2,090	+ \$1,520 / CA\$2,090

 **Income route:** your last **6 months** of bank statements (or pension/employment letters) must average at or above the monthly figure.

 **Savings route:** your last **12 months** of bank or investment statements must average at or above the balance figure.

3

Gather your documents: single applicant

The core set every applicant needs. Bring originals plus one photocopy of each.

- Valid passport:** with at least 6 months left before it expires, plus one photocopy.
- Visa application form:** the consulate provides this; complete and sign it.
- One passport-style photo**
Color, white background, front-facing, no glasses (about 3.9 × 3.1 cm).
- Proof of legal status** where you're applying
Only if you're not a citizen of that country, e.g. a green card, PR card, or valid visa.
- Financial proof:** one of the two routes below.

CHOOSE ONE

Income: last 6 months of bank statements meeting the monthly threshold.

OR

Savings: last 12 months of statements meeting the average-balance threshold.
- Visa fee**
Roughly \$54 USD / \$80 CAD. Many consulates take cash only, so bring exact change.
- Confirmed appointment:** booked online with your consulate before you arrive.

4 Bringing family? Add these

Spouses and children can be included under “family unity.” Each dependent needs their own core documents above, plus the items here.

Extra documents per family member

- Marriage certificate:** for a spouse
Apostilled, with a Spanish translation.
- Birth certificate:** for each child
Apostilled, with a Spanish translation.
- Each dependent's own** passport, photo, and application form.

Extra money to show

Add the per-dependent amount from the table (about **\$1,520 USD / CA\$2,090** each) on top of your own income or savings requirement, for every family member you include.

5 After approval: finish in Mexico

The consulate gives you a visa sticker, not your resident card. One important step remains once you land.

- 1 Enter Mexico within 180 days** of the visa being issued. It's valid for a single entry.
- 2 Visit an INM office within 30 calendar days** of arriving to exchange your visa for the physical resident card (the “canje”).
- 3 Don't miss the 30-day window.** Let it lapse and the process can reset, this is the step most people find stressful, and where having someone on the ground with you matters most.

MEXICO RESIDENCY, DONE FOR YOU

Don't want to manage all of this yourself?

Reloca handles the entire process: document prep and apostilles, consulate booking and briefing, and a bilingual facilitator who goes with you to the INM office in Mexico. We've helped hundreds of Americans and Canadians get their resident cards.

[Book a free intro call →](#)

Money-back guarantee: full refund if you don't receive your resident card.

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This checklist is general guidance based on standard 2026 consulate requirements and is not legal or immigration advice. Requirements and figures vary by consulate and can change; confirm the details for your specific consulate before applying.