**Visa Process in Panama**

**Republic of Panama
Executive body
Decree No.3
(Feb. 22nd, 2008)**

**Chapter I
Common Requirements**

**Article 28.** The Application Permit for temporary residence or permanent residence that is presented to the National Migration Services Administration must be presented by the legal guardian accordingly to the stablished requirements for each category of visa or permit, except for those categories that are requested abroad and they are applicable for education, then they must meet the following requirements:

1. Copy of the passport duly certified by a Panamanian public notary, or accompanied by the certified diplomatic representation accredited in the country or by the appropriate authority at the place of issuance. *When deemed necessary due to security reasons, the National Migration Service may ask the applicant for proof of authenticity of passport.*
2. Criminal record certificate, from the country of origin or residence. In those countries in which this document is not issued, the applicant must provide a certification from a diplomatic agent or a consul from the applicants country of origin credited in the Republic of Panama, where it shall state the absence of this document and a sworn declaration certified by a public notary, stating that the applicant does not have any criminal records.
3. Health certificate issued by a competent professional, issued within the last three (3) previous months to the petition.
4. Payment of two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00) for the National Treasury as entitlements for the application of a migratory category, and of eight hundred dollars ($800.00) for the National Migration Service Administration for the deposits in concept of repatriation.
5. Sworn declaration of personal records.

Every document from abroad must meet the legalization requirements.

**CHAPTER VII
SHORT STAY VISA
Article 46.** May apply for short stay visa, all foreigner that enters the national soil, discouraged to stablish his residence in the country, with the purpose established in the subcategories of this Chapter and following the formalities stated in Article 28 of the Decree (except for number 4) and the article 17 of the present article, and those required by the subcategory upon request. The foreigner must justify the term required, which cannot be more than nine (9) months, and it is unextendable after the term has expired.

**SHORT STAY VISA FOR RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTISTS
Article 50.** May apply for this visa, the foreigner that enters the national soil to carry out, with nonprofit purposes, the following activities: student exchange programs, cultural missions, education, health, scientific, investigation and internships. These must be granted under agreements with the government or between embassies; foreign legal persons and companies, educational institutions, nongovernment and government organizations, recognized by Panamanian laws.

**Article 51.**  In addition to the requirements mentioned on article 46 of this bylaw, the applicant must present:

1. A letter from the educational or government institutions, non-government organizations based in Panama, which certifies the activity that the foreigner will be developing during the time for which the license extends.
2. In the case that the institution will take care of stay costs of the applicant, a written compromise must be presented. If the applicant has a scholarship, a certification from the entity that provides it must be provided.
3. In case of being a nongovernment association or organization, they must be registered in the Ministry of Government and Justice.
4. Payment for migratory services in the amount of one hundred dollars ($100.00) for the National Migration Service Administration.