

Business Setup in Oman

The 2025/2026 Strategic Guide

A comprehensive roadmap for investors, entrepreneurs, and global companies to navigate legal structures, residency, and fiscal compliance.



The Oman Advantage: Stability Meets Opportunity



Strategic Gateway

Direct access to global markets via key ports (Sohar, Salalah, Duqm).



Pro-Business Reforms

100% foreign ownership now available in most commercial sectors.



Political & Economic Stability

Secure environment, peaceful diplomacy, USD-pegged currency.



Digital Transformation

AI-driven 'Invest Easy' portal streamlines entry.

Aligned with Oman Vision 2040 to diversify beyond oil into logistics, tourism, and technology.

Selecting the Right Vehicle for Market Entry



Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Most common structure.
Limited liability protection.
100% foreign ownership possible.

Ideal for trading & services.



Single Person Company (SPC)

Owned by one individual (100% control).
Limited liability distinct from owner.

Perfect for solo entrepreneurs.



Branch Office

Foreign parent company extension.

No separate legal personality.

Used for executing government contracts.



Freelance License

For independent professionals (consultants, designers).

No local sponsor needed.

Work with multiple clients.

Location Strategy: Mainland vs. Free Zones



Mainland Oman

- **Scope:** Trade directly within the local Omani market.
- **Contracts:** Eligible to bid on government tenders.
- **Workforce:** Subject to Omanization quotas (after Year 1).

Free Zones (Sohar, Salalah, Duqm)

- **Scope:** Import/Export, re-export, logistics, manufacturing.
- **Incentives:** 100% foreign ownership, 0% personal income tax.
- **Tax Holidays:** Up to 30 years corporate tax exemption.

The Registration Roadmap

From Concept to Commercial Registration (CR)



Timeline: CR issued in 10-15 days.
Full operations in 3-6 weeks.



Investment & Cost Analysis



Basic Setup

~OMR 500

CR, Investment License (1 yr), OCCI Membership, Initial gov fees.

Standard / Virtual

~OMR 1,700

Includes all Basic features + Virtual address solution.

Premium / Private

~OMR 3,500+

Dedicated private office space, full support services, expedited processing.

Total Estimated Budget: OMR 4,000–7,000
(includes professional fees, deposits, and initial operations).

The Documentation Checklist



Core Requirements

- Passport copies (min. 6 months validity) & photos.
- Drafted & Notarized MoA / AoA.
- Lease agreement (Munassiq) or proof of address.

Conditional Requirements

- Bank Capital Certificate (e.g., OMR 20,000+ for specific LLCs).
- Police Clearance (for investors from home country).

Attestation Note:

All foreign documents must be attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Omani Embassy in the country of origin.

Residency Pathways: Securing Your Right to Work



Investor Visa

Eligibility: Tied to company ownership (LLC/SPC).

Validity: 2 years (renewable).

Process: Requires medical exam & biometrics.



Freelance Visa

Target: Independent professionals & consultants.

Benefit: No local sponsor needed.

Flexibility: Work with multiple clients.

Cost: OMR 450-700.

The Golden Visa: A Premium Residency Tier



Eligibility Categories



Real Estate: Investment of OMR 250k - 500k.



Retirees: Income > OMR 2,000/mo (Age 55+).



Investors: Capital investment min OMR 500k (for 10-year option).

Key Benefits

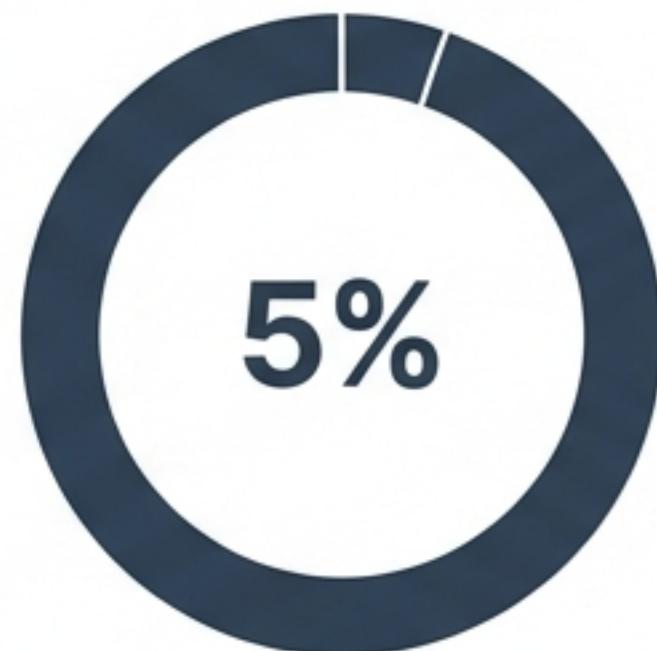
- ✓ 5 or 10 Year Validity
- ✓ Family Sponsorship (Spouse, Children, Parents)
- ✓ Property Ownership Rights
- ✓ Work Freedom (No Sponsor)

The Fiscal Landscape: Competitive and Transparent



Corporate Income Tax (Standard)

3% for SMEs < OMR 100k revenue.



Value Added Tax (VAT)

Mandatory if turnover > OMR 38,500.



Excise Tax

On tobacco, energy drinks, specific goods.



Personal Income Tax (Forecast)

5% anticipated on income > OMR 42k.

Financial Compliance & Accounting Standards



Mandatory Standards

Operations must follow IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards).

Record Keeping

VAT records must be maintained for 10 years. Invoices & ledgers must be audit-ready.



Audits

Annual financial audits are mandatory for tax filings.

Payroll

Must comply with Wage Protection System (WPS) for salary transfers.

Intellectual Property: Protecting Your Brand

Critical Distinction: Commercial Registration (CR) permits trade but does NOT protect your brand name or logo.



Step 1: Search

Database check for existing trademarks

Step 2: Filing

Nice Classification system - 45 classes

Step 3: Publication

90-day opposition period for third parties

Step 4: Issuance

Certificate valid for 10 years, renewable

Ericks NOT protect your brand name or logo.

And do enseluate.

Operational Readiness: Banking & Workforce

Corporate Banking

- Timeline: 48 hours to 3 weeks post-CR.
- Requirements: KYC, CR, Lease Agreement, Capital Deposit.



Labor Laws (Omanization)

- Year 1: New companies are EXEMPT from quotas.
- Year 2: Requirement to hire 1 Omani employee.
- Work Permits: Mandatory for all expats (Medical + Ministry of Labor clearance).



2026 Outlook: Digital & Green Reforms

Digital Transformation

AI-driven 'Invest Easy' portal reducing setup time. Digital notarization accepted.



Green Economy

Tax exemptions (up to 5 years) for renewable energy & sustainability sectors.



SME Fast-Track

Priority access to government tenders < OMR 100,000.



Your Gateway to the Gulf is Open

Oman offers a unique blend of stability, strategic access, and competitive costs. The path is clear, and the regulatory framework is designed for your growth.

14+ Years
Experience

10,000+
Entrepreneurs Served

Specialized in Company
Formation & Tax

MAKE MY COMPANY
Company Formation Experts

(+968) 79646432 | info@omanbusinesssetup.com