



Consulate General of the Philippines  
**MIGRANT WORKERS OFFICE**  
Dubai & Northern Emirates, United Arab Emirates



**MWO-DUBAI ADVISORY NO. 7, SERIES OF 2023**  
**LEGITIMATE FREELANCE VISA IN THE UAE**

The Migrant Workers Office (MWO) – Dubai and Northern Emirates advises the public to employ legal entities only when securing visa and avoid engaging in visa trading in the UAE.


There following are the list of freezones offering legitimate freelance visas and the corresponding eligible field\*:

- **Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone:** media professionals, educationists
- **Dubai Media City:** various fields related to media (actor, aerial shoot photographer, animator, artist, audio/sound engineer, brand consultant, cameraman, choreographer, commentator, composer, content provider, copywriter, director, editor, events planner, graphic and furniture designers, journalists, market analyst, presenters, print media specialists, web designers, web developers and other professionals)
- **Dubai Internet City**
- **Dubai Knowledge Park:** education advisors, e-learning advisors, executive coaches, researchers and trainers
- **Dubai Design District:** Apparel designers, concept designers, fashion stylists, image consultants, fashion artists, hairstylists, interior designers, object designers, personal shoppers, textile designers, visual merchandisers and wedding planners
- **Ajman Free Zone**
- **Dubai Development Authority**
- **Creative City Media Free Zone (Fujairah):** media, events, consultancy, education, communication and marketing, music and entertainment, design and technology
- **Umm Al Quwain Free Zone**
- **Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority (Dafza), Dubai Culture and the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) -“Talent Pass”:** media, education, art, technology, marketing and consultancy.

For domestic workers: According to UAE Federal Decree – Law No. 9 of 2022, domestic workers may not be hired or temporarily employed without a license from the Ministry of Human Resource and Emiratisation (MOHRE). To that effect, it is reiterated that domestic workers can only be employed through licensed agencies, Tadbeers, or through direct sponsorship of a qualified employer.

As regards use of “own visa”, OFWs (both skilled and domestic workers) are advised not to engage in visa trading as such is subject to the UAE Civil Procedure Law and workers and employers involved in it are considered partners in crime, hence, may both be held liable as determined by the proper court of law.

For information and guidance.

  
**JOHN RIO A. BAUTISTA**  
Labor Attaché



31 January 2023

\* <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/visa-and-immigration-in-uae/freelance-visa-in-uae-explained-types-cost-eligibility>