



ARMENIAN MOBILITY GUIDE





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The information provided in the guide regarding the administrative procedures in the Republic of Armenia and other information is of informative nature and cannot be considered as professional or legal advice, thus it gives no right for claims or legitimate expectations of any kind.

Updated information can be found on the [EURAXESS Portal of Armenia.](#)



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PREFACE



Herewith, I would like to congratulate involved Armenian organizations for joining the Pan-European EURAXESS initiative which has its main objective to support researchers' mobility and better career development, enhancing scientific collaboration. I believe these are objectives towards internationalization of science and closer integration of Armenian research community into European Research Area which is a priority stated in policy documents. In particular, this is well in line with adopted in 2019 Roadmap and Action Plan on integration of Armenian Research and Development to European Research Area which was based on the "Strategy of development of Research and Innovation in Armenia 2017-2020" and, also inspired by 20 Deliverables for 2020 outlined by the European Commission for Eastern Partnership Countries.

I would like to note that association of Armenia to Horizon 2020 in 2016, and political decision on association to the next European Programme Horizon Europe starting in 2021, were also in line with this logic and have been important steps in this direction.

Armenia joined the EURAXESS network in September 2019, after which the Armenian EURAXESS portal was put into operation and a network of EURAXESS Contact Points was established. Network development was funded by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 EURAXESS-AM project coordinated by the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia.

One of deliverables of this project is the Armenian Mobility Guide for incoming researchers which, together with the Armenian EURAXESS portal (<https://www.euraxess.am>), are aimed to serve as a single source of information for all researchers who want to come to Armenia.

Welcome to Armenia!



Dr. Sargis HAYOTSYAN

Chairman

Science Committee

Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia



COMMON FACT ABOUT ARMENIA

STATE SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia



National flag of the republic of Armenia



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ARMENIA

Official name	Republic of Armenia
Population	2,956,900
Geographic location	Armenia is situated at a cultural, historical, and religious intersection, at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, in the southern Transcaucasia. Armenia is bordered by Georgia from the north, Iran from the south, Azerbaijan from the north-east and the south-west and Turkey from the west.
Area	29,743 square kilometers
Climate	Armenia has a dry tropical climate. Clear sunny days are mostly dominant in a year. The summers are hot here, the temperature fluctuates between +22C to +36C. The winters are mainly cold; the average temperature is between -15C to -1C. The mountain peaks are covered with eternal snow, while their slopes are lined by alpine meadows.
Capital	Yerevan. The history of Yerevan dates back to the 8th century BC. 1,083,600 citizens.
Official language	Armenian. It is an Indo-European language, belonging to an independent branch of which it is the only member. Russian is widely used.

Religion	The state religion in Armenia is Christianity. Armenians were the first to adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD. The majority of the Armenians living in Armenia belong to the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox church.
Money	The national currency of Armenia is called "Dram" (the code is AMD). The current exchange rate of AMD can be found here .
Credit cards	The majority of the shops, hotels and restaurants are accepting domestic or international credit cards.
Banks	There are local and international Banks in Armenia. The banks are open from 10:00 am to 16:45 on week-days and from 10:00 am to 13:00 on Saturdays, without lunch breaks. The ATMs can be found in all the cities and operate 24 hours a day. Foreign currency can be converted to Drams at the banks and at exchange offices.
Health Facilities	Medical care services are available 24-hour a day in hospitals and clinics. Most of the pharmacies are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., there are some that are open until a later time and open for 24-hour a day. Some of the pharmacies have an online system. Yerevan has some excellent medical facilities where you can apply for medical assistance. Among them Nairi Medical Center and Astghik Medical Center provide multidisciplinary medical care.
Time Zone	GMT+4. Starting from 2012 Armenia has abolished daylight saving time.
Electricity	230V, 50Hz. Plug types C and F.
Dialing Codes	For Yerevan +374 1, for other cities please visit here . For international calls from Armenia: 00 + area code + city code.
Emergency Phone Numbers	Just as in the United States, Armenia uses 911 to handle all types of emergency situations. For Ambulance the number to call is 103.
Mobile operators	VivaCell MTS Ucom Beeline
Hotels	There are around 600 hotel-business entities operating in Armenia – hotels, guest homes, hostels etc. available on famous platforms.
Water	Water from the public water system can be used for Drinking.

HOLIDAYS IN ARMENIA

1-3 January	New Year
5 January	Christmas Eve
6 January	Armenian Orthodox Christmas
7 January	Memorial Day (Armenian - Merelots)
28 January	National Army Day
8 March	International Women's Day
7 April	Motherhood & Beauty Day (working holiday)
Easter according to the Gregorian calendar	From Good Friday to the second day of Easter (between March 22 and April 25 inclusive)
24 April	Genocide Remembrance Day
1 May	Labor Day
9 May	Victory and Peace Day
28 May	First Republic Day
5 July	Constitution Day
21 September	Independence Day
31 December	New Year's Eve



GEOGRAPHY

Armenia is situated at a cultural, historical, and religious intersection and located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, in the southern Transcaucasia. The country spans 29,743 square kilometers of mountainous terrain centered on the Ararat Valley, the heart of the Armenian nation since biblical times. Ancient geographers called the Armenian Highlands the "Island of Mountains" or the "Rooftop of Asia Minor." Located in the South Caucasus, Armenia is bordered by Georgia from the north, Iran from the south, Azerbaijan from the north-east and the south-west and Turkey from the west.

The capital of Armenia is Yerevan. The Republic of Armenia consists of 10 administrative regions (Marzes): Aragatsotn region, Ararat region, Armavir region, Gegharkunik region, Kotayk region, Lori region, Shirak region, Syunik region, Vayots Dzor region, Tavush region. Yerevan is a separate administrative region. The biggest cities of Armenia are Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Kapan, Armavir, Gavar, Ejmiatsin, Ijevann and Hrazdan.

HISTORY

Armenia has been populated since prehistoric times, and has been proposed as the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden. Armenia lies in the highlands surrounding the Biblical mountains of Ararat, upon which Noah's Ark came to rest after the flood. Because Armenia is strategically located between Europe and Asia, it has been part of many of the great empires throughout the history of the world. These include the Greeks, Romans, Assyrians, Arabs, Persians, the Ottoman Empire, and the Turkish Empire. In 800 BC the area that is now Armenia became part of the Kingdom of Urartu, which flourished until 600 BC. At this time the Kingdom of Armenia was established under the Orontid Dynasty. Between 95 and 66 BC Tigran the Great ruled the Kingdom of Armenia. During this time Armenia reached the peak of its power becoming a great and powerful nation. Modern Armenia comprises only a small portion of ancient Armenia, one of the world's oldest centres of civilization. At its height, Armenia extended from the south-central Black Sea coast to the Caspian Sea and from the Mediterranean Sea to Lake Urmia in present-day Iran.

After being ruled by many different empires and nations, Armenia became an independent state between 1918 and 1920. However, in late 1920, the Soviet Union invaded. In 1922 Armenia was made part of Soviet Socialist Republic. With the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia was once again able to declare its independence becoming an independent country on September 21, 1991.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

The political system of Armenia is based on multiparty parliamentary democracy. Armenia has the President, National Assembly and the Government. The president is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of Government. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President of Armenia upon the vote of the National Assembly. Executive power is exercised by the President and the Government. Legislative power is vested in both the Government and Parliament.

Independent of three traditional branches are the following independent agencies, each with separate powers and responsibilities: The Constitutional Court of Armenia, the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia, the Human Rights Defender of Armenia, the Central Bank of Armenia, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Audit Chamber of Armenia.

The official website of the [National Assembly of Armenia](#)

The official website of the [Government of Armenia](#)

POPULATION, LANGUAGE, AND RELIGION

Armenia is small country with population a bit less than 3 mil. 98.1% of the population are Armenians, whereas ethnic minorities from less than 3% of the population (Russians, Yezidis, Kurds, Assyrians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Molokans, Jews and others).

The official language of the Republic of Armenia is Armenian. Historically being spoken throughout the Armenian Highlands, today, Armenian is widely spoken throughout the Armenian Diaspora. Armenian is written in its writing system, the Armenian alphabet, introduced in 405 AD by Mesrop Mashtots. Besides Armenian, Russian is also widely used, and many can communicate in English, too.

In 301 AD, Armenia became the first country to adopt Christianity as an official state religion. The church it established still exists and is not part of either the Roman Catholic or the Eastern Orthodox churches. The Armenian Apostolic Church is the national church of the Armenian people. Part of Oriental Orthodoxy, it is one of the most ancient Christian institutions.

It is sometimes referred to as the Armenian Orthodox Church or the Armenian Gregorian Church. The term Gregorian Church is not preferred by the church itself, as it views the Apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus as its founders, and St. Gregory the Illuminator as merely the first official governor of the church. It is also known simply as the Armenian Church.

The majority of the Armenians living in Armenia belong to the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox church. The head of the church is the Catholicos (Patriarch) of all Armenians, who resides in Holy Ejmiatsin.

CLIMATE

Armenia has a dry tropical climate. Clear sunny days are mostly dominant in a year. The summers are hot here, the temperature fluctuates between +22C to +36C. The winters are mainly cold; the average temperature is between -15C to -1C. The mountain peaks are covered with eternal snow, while their slopes are lined by alpine meadows. The best time to visit Armenia for tourism is spring or autumn.





**FIND YOUR WAY TO
AND THROUGH
ARMENIA**

ENTRY CONDITIONS

Armenia allows citizens of specific countries and territories to visit Armenia for tourism or business purposes without having to obtain a visa or allows them to obtain a visa on arrival or online. For some countries, the visa requirement waiver is practiced on an ad hoc basis and is not formalized by a bilateral agreement. Citizens of the Commonwealth of the Independent States and citizens of all Eurasian Union and European Union member states may enter Armenia without a visa. Citizens of certain countries will need to apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia (MFA) to get the visa. The application should be filed by the host organization.

For a detailed view of the list of the visa-free countries, assistance in visa processes and accurate visa and consular fees information please visit the [MFA](#).

For the E-Visa application system please visit [here](#).

In case of the necessity of a concrete consultation, you can ask for assistance or free advice from a lawyer. For more information please visit:

- [Vardanyan&Partners](#)
- [Ilex Law firm](#)

TRAVEL TO ARMENIA BY PLANE

Currently Armenia has two airports that provide services for commercial airlines.

- Zvartnots International Airport, Yerevan (EVN)
- Shirak International Airport, Gyumri, Shirak Province (LWN)

There are 3 airports currently under construction in Armenia, these include:

- Syunik Airport. Kapan, Syunik Province
- Goris Airport, Goris, Syunik Province
- Stepanavan Airport, Stepanavan, Lori Province

ZVARTNOTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

“Zvartnots” International Airport is the main air gate of the Republic of Armenia, which has been operating since 1961. At that time the airport envisioned handling of flights operated solely on the territory of the former USSR.

After the independence of Armenia, the airport underwent renovation and expansion works.

On January 30, 2013, during the 2nd Annual Emerging Airports Conference and Exhibition held in Dubai the results of votes for over 20 nominations were announced. “Zvartnots” International Airport was chosen as the “Best Emerging Airport of Russia, CIS and the Baltic States.”

“Zvartnots” International Airport renders high-quality airport and commercial services, operating on highest levels of security, service and quality. In order to meet customer demands, it offers an infrastructure relevant to its facilities. Based on the latest technology and specialized staff, the airport promotes national development with profound commitment and responsibility.

There are a few airlines connecting Armenia with EU member countries through direct flights: Air France, Austrian Airlines, Aegean Airlines (temporarily suspended due to COVID-19), Brussels Airlines (temporarily suspended due to COVID-19) and LOT Polish Airlines. There are other airlines that have direct flights to Yerevan: Aeroflot Russian Airlines, Ukrainian International Airlines, Belavia, FlyDubai, Qatar Airways, FlyEgypt, AirArabia (temporarily suspended due to COVID-19), S7 Airlines, RedWings Airlines and others.

Information: <http://www.zvartnots.aero/EN/index>



Zvartnots Cathedral (7th c.)

FROM ZVARTNOTS AIRPORT TO THE CITY

Zvartnots airport is located within 10-12 Km from the center of Yerevan and the travel to the city center will take around 20-30 minutes. You can get to the city center from Zvartnots International Airport by taxi or by bus.

By Taxi

At the airport you can find various taxi companies/services but the most popular is the Yandex Taxi. All the trips ordered inside the kiosks of the Yandex Taxi located at the airport are being implemented with the “Airport” Tariff by brand-new Toyota Corolla cars determined with a special logo. The minimal rate for the ride is 3.000 AMD for the first 15 km, and then 100 AMD/km inside and 150 AMD/km outside the city will be charged accordingly.

By Bus

Elitebus Company arranges the express service from the Airport to Yerevan city and vice versa with the airport shuttle bus.

The price for the ride Yerevan – Zvartnots Airport or from the airport to Yerevan is 300 AMD per person per ride.

Usually the Express service is working 24/7, but due to the COVID-19 situation some limitations apply to the schedule for an indefinite period of time:

From 07:00 to 22:00 – each 30 minutes

From 22:00 to 07:00 – each 1 hour.

The payment can be made in cash or via credit card on spot.

For more information and schedule please visit: <http://elitebusarmenia.com/>

By Car

At the Arrival Hall of the “Zvartnots” International Airport you can find “rent a car” services offered by various companies, some of them are working 24/7.





ACCOMMODATION

ARRANGED BY THE HOST

Many Armenian host organizations can arrange housing for their Ph.D. students and guest researchers. The institutions cooperate with local agencies to find a temporary residence for their guests. You may contact your host organization for more detailed opportunities beforehand.

Staying at the hotel

This option may be suitable for a short stay in Armenia as if you are planning a longer stay it may be considerably costly. Nevertheless, there is a variety of hotels to choose from. For a more detailed view about the prices and mapping of the hotels please visit:

www.booking.com

<http://www.hotels.am>

<https://www.agoda.com/country/armenia.html?cid=1844104>

PRIVATE MARKET

Private rentals are usually the first choice for staying in Armenia as they can easily be rented both for short/long -term stays by foreigners temporarily living in Armenia. For finding the most suitable apartment for your stay please visit:

- www.list.am
- www.estate.am
- www.hyurservice.com
- www.myrealty.am
- www.akcern.am
- www.bnakaran.com

ASSISTED BY A RELOCATION COMPANY

Another option is to contact a Relocation company. Relocation companies specialize in assisting expats moving house and all the issues connected with it. They guide you through the entire relocation process, ensuring that your needs are met through a multitude of assistance services such as cost of living analysis, temporary housing, home marketing, and home-finding assistance, quality household goods mover selection, changing your mailing address, scheduling utility connections, getting your driver's license and registering your automobile, finding daycare, and more. Many of them offer a free consultation so you can see if their services are right for you. For more details please visit:

<https://gosselin-moving.com/en/armenia>

<https://www.internations.org/go/moving-to-yerevan>



TRANSPORT

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Busses and Minibuses

One of the most convenient ways to Travel in Armenia is by medium and high capacity buses. Buses and minibuses are a convenient and cheap way to travel around the city, with plenty of sightseeing opportunities along your way. Yerevan bus and minibus fare is only 100 AMD (less than 0.35 cents). Although most people in Armenia speak Russian, and fewer speak English or other languages, it won't make an issue for travelers around Armenia.

For scheduling a bus trip and access to price list please visit: t-armenia.com

Taxi

Taxi service in Armenia isn't very expensive, and sometimes it is the better choice when you are in a hurry. The price per 1 km is 100 AMD, but there is a minimum payment of 600 AMD (from 1 to 4 km). The average price for a taxi ride within Yerevan's center is 600-700 AMD. You can find taxis everywhere. Always choose the ones with meters.

Besides, there are several taxi mobile applications available to enable you to order taxis by a tap or two once you have downloaded the application. You can easily attach your credit card and do not worry about paying in cash. The most popular taxi applications are [GG](#) and [Yandex Taxi](#) – Book a car.

Trolleybus

The Yerevan trolleybus system has been operating since 1949 and forms part of the public transport network in the capital of Armenia. If you have plenty of time and you want to save some money you can travel by trolleybus. The trolleybus fare is only 50 AMD, yet it travels slower than other public transportations.

Train

Due to persistent conflict with some of the neighbor countries, there is only 1 year-round train connection: the night train to Tbilisi, Georgia. It runs to Tbilisi on even days of the month and to Yerevan on odd days. The journey takes 10 hours; just enough time to catch a good sleep. In summer (roughly from mid-June until the end of September), the train runs daily and continues all the way to Batumi (Georgian seaside recreation city).

If you want to travel around Armenia by local train which connects Yerevan to various cities, please see everyday [train schedule](#).

DRIVING A CAR

For visiting major sightseeing places in Yerevan you do not need any transportation, since the capital is not huge and all the museums, monuments are based in the center. But as soon as you go beyond Yerevan this is when you really need a car.

Driving License

The citizens of those countries that have acceded to the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic dated 1968, can drive with their national driver's licenses.

Click [here](#) to see the list of countries.

For the procedure of obtaining Driving License for the nationals of other countries please visit [here](#).

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Speed limit

The standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles are as follows:

- 60 km/h inside villages and cities
- 90 km/h on the open road
- 110 km/h on highways in Armenia

Traffic Laws

- Drive on the right-hand side of the road.
- The passing beam should be turned on at night and in the conditions of the poor visibility caused by bad weather.
- Children under 12 years old are not allowed to sit in the front passenger seat.
- It is compulsory for front seat occupants to wear seat belts.
- It's illegal to use your phone when driving unless you have a hands-free set-up.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited. The legal blood alcohol level is 0.0 %.

Parking & Fines

In the capital city of Armenia, Yerevan, red dotted lines indicate paid parking. When parking, please make sure your car is between the red dotted lines, if you're outside the red lines, you can get a ticket. The first 5 minutes of parking are free and after that, you'll be fined. You can pay for parking a number of different ways and for different lengths of time. If you're going to drive around a lot, consider purchasing the monthly or yearly plan to avoid purchasing parking every time you need it.

Rates

- Up to 1 hour: 100 AMD
- All-day: 500 AMD
- Weekly: 1000 AMD
- Monthly: 2000 AMD
- Yearly: 12000 AMD



How to pay

- Cash payment terminal (Telcell, MegaPay) (charges 200 AMD)
- Internet Payment System (iDRAM, Mobidram)
- Banks on account (900015211593 by mentioning your vehicle's license plate number in the field "Aim")
- Online (ArCA, Virtual ArCA, MasterCard, IDRAM)
- Via SMS by following these steps
- For 1 hour - Text "00xx000" (license plate number) to 1045
- For 1 day - Text "00xx000" (license plate number) to 5045

Payment terms

If paying with your phone, your time starts when you receive a message. You will get cautionary message during five minutes before the deadline passes.

Payment for one day is in force from the payment time until the next day at the same time (i.e. 24 hours).

If you pay for one year, your parking payment will be in effect until December 31 of the payment year.

If you don't pay for parking and are cited by parking enforcement, you can be liable for a penalty of up to 5000 AMD.

Parking is free in Yerevan from midnight to 9AM.

Procedure in case of a traffic accident

The procedure for actions at the scene of an accident is established by the rules of the Bureau of Auto Insurers of Armenia, because according to the law, all car owners must have a [CMTPL policy](#).

The standard procedure is as follows:

Set the emergency breakdown triangle or turn on the alarm.

Call the round-the-clock call-center number (012) 88 88 88 and follow given instructions. If necessary, wait for the arrival of the Road Police officer and/or insurance company representative.

Do not move the car and do not touch anything at the scene of the accident if waiting for the Road Police officer or the insurance company representative arrival. If it is necessary to take any victims to the hospital, take pictures of the scene of the incident - the relative position of the cars, the damage and traces and other items related to the incident.

You must comply with the insurance company representative's recommendations.

Important! Do not repair the car without the approval from the insurance company. According to the CMTPL law, within three months after the incident, you must submit claim application and provide the required documents.

Renting a Car

There are many rental car companies available in Yerevan, with many car models to choose from. You must present your passport and driver's license to rent a car.

For more details please visit [here](#).





EDUCATION IN ARMENIA

EDUCATION

Education in Armenia has its roots back to medieval times. The first universities were founded in Ani, Tatev, and Gladzor, thereby becoming important centers of enlightenment and development of science and arts. Today, Armenia is recognized as the world's next tech hub, not only for the growing tech sector and the rapidly evolving startup industry, but also for the country's efforts to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education. To train the minds of youth, Armenia became the first country in the world to make [chess](#) a required subject in all secondary schools.

The Republic of Armenia declares universal inclusive education as a guarantee of the right to education for every child. The inclusive education policy is aimed at ensuring the accessibility, opportunity equal of participation in, and quality of education of every child.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

The main objectives of preschool education are:

- Maintenance and strengthening of the physical, moral and spiritual health of the child,
- Harmonious development and upbringing of preschool children,
- Preparation for school education.

Pre-school education is the first level of the continuing education system in the Republic of Armenia. Pre-school education is a comprehensive process which is aimed at:

- a) Ensuring the comprehensive development of the preschool child in accordance with his or her disposition, skills, abilities, individual, mental and physical peculiarities;
- b) Formation of elementary norms of behavior in preschool children. The State grants the family the key role in the implementation of preschool education programs and undertakes to create conditions for the comprehensive development and care of children in the family.

In support of the family, the State establishes preschool institutions: nurseries (for children from 2-3 years old), kindergartens (for 3-6 years old), nursery-kindergartens (joint).

KINDERGARTENS

There are various kindergartens in Armenia where you can easily take your children if you have a residency permit. For viewing the list please visit [here](#).

Unfortunately, the kindergarten online registration system is available only in the Armenian language, but you can easily contact for more information about the registration and availability.

Address: 1 Argishti str., Yerevan

E-mail: mankapartez@yerevan.am

Information Support Telephone: +374 11 514249

International preschool in Armenia:

The Smart Start International Preschool in Armenia

Contact: +374 11 333301/ +374 99 949994

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Public schooling is free and compulsory until the age of sixteen, essentially through the senior level. According to State General Education Curriculum, it is envisaged to implement the 12-year general secondary education in a three-tier secondary school in the following successive levels:

- Elementary school - 4 years (grades 1-4)
- Middle school - 5 years (grades 5-9)
- High school - 3 years (grades 10-12)

Primary (Craftsmanship) and Secondary Vocational Education

The primary vocational (handicraft) education is aimed at preparing specialists with primary vocational (handicraft) qualification.

The secondary vocational education is aimed at preparing specialists with a secondary vocational qualification at least on the basis of basic general education.

According to the RA “Law on Primary Vocational (Handicraft) and Secondary Vocational Education” primary and secondary vocational education is provided through the following educational programs:

1. basic primary education program providing qualification of a craftsman;
2. the basic program of secondary vocational education providing qualification of a specialist;
3. supplementary education programs of primary and secondary vocational education providing training, raising the qualification of and re-qualification of specialists.

To receive a qualification degree of a craftsman of primary education, the duration of instruction of basic education program ranges from 6 months to 3 years.

To receive a qualification degree of a specialist in secondary vocational education, the duration of instruction of basic education programs ranges from 2 to 5 years.

Basic education programs of primary and secondary vocational education may be implemented by different forms of instruction, namely on-site education, offsite education, distance-learning or external studies, individual vocational instruction (apprenticeship).

The primary vocational (handicraft) education is provided in vocational schools, other vocational education institutions, educational centers and penitentiary institutions.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The goal of higher professional education is the preparation and re-qualification of highly qualified specialists; meeting the needs of education development of a person based on secondary general and secondary vocational education.

The following types of higher education institutions are established within higher and postgraduate professional education system of the Republic of Armenia:

- University
- Institute
- Academy
- Conservatory

Since 2005 Armenia is a full member of the Bologna Process / European Higher Education Area. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) as an important element of Bologna Process was introduced in Higher Education Institutions of Armenia for Bachelor and Master levels in 2007-2008.

HE in Armenia has a three-tier degree system with the following qualifications issued:

- the Bachelor's degree – at the first level (four-year undergraduate degrees)
- the Master's degree – at the second level (two-year Master's degrees)
- Candidate of Sciences – at the third level (three-year Postgraduate/Doctoral).

Main branches of higher education studies in Armenia are:

- Education, Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences;
- Journalism and Information Sciences;
- Entrepreneurship, Administration and Law;
- Natural Sciences;
- Mathematics and Statistics, Information and Communication Technologies;
- Engineering, Industry and Construction;
- Agriculture and Veterinary;
- Health and Social Work;
- Art, music and sport
- Service

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor's degree: Many higher education institutions in Armenia offer bachelor degree in a wide range of courses, such as natural sciences, law, humanities, social economics, philosophy, and many other professional fields. This degree lasts for at least 4 years, while for specialisation in medicine field it is 5 years. To gain admittance into the bachelor degree programme, students must hold a secondary general education graduation certificate. This programmes ends with a summative evaluation and final paper defense. Upon successful completion of a 4-year programme, a Bachelor's degree is awarded.

- ECTS credits: 240 for 4-year programme; and 180 for 3-year programme (police or military professions)
- Credential offered by: University and Institute
- Credential for entry into bachelor's degree programme: Certificate of Secondary Education

Diploma Specialist: This qualification provides professional and specialized skills. It also provides theoretical and practical study programmes that prepare students for the workforce. The standard duration of this qualification is 5 years, while the physical education and arts field lasts for 4 years. This qualification requires a submission and defense of a diploma thesis at the end of the programme. The qualification of Diploma Specialist is awarded upon successful completion of the course.

Master's degree: This degree requires at least 1 year of study and admittance is based on bachelor's degree or diploma specialist. At least 5 years is required for medical professions under uninterrupted and integrated educational programs, the educational degree granted as a result whereof is equivalent to a Master's degree. This qualification provides the skills and knowledge required for management and independent professional development, and for scientific research activity. Upon successful completion of the programme, a Master's degree is awarded.

- ECTS credits: 120 for 2-year programme; and 60 for 1-year programme
- Credential offered by: University and Institute
- Credential for entry: Bachelor's

Candidate of Sciences or Doctor's Degree (PhD) is granted to those who hold a Master's Degree or a Specialist's Diploma upon completion and attestation of three years' postgraduate studies. A Clinical Ordinate and Pharmacist's Degree are granted to those having studied Medicine and completed at least one year's postgraduate study. At this degree programme, students must carry out a scientific research and prepare a scientific dissertation. This degree requires at least 3 years full-time (4 years part-time) education and research. At the end of the programme, a defense of a dissertation is required. Upon successful completion of the programme, a Candidate of Science (In Armenian: Gitutiunneri Teknatsu) is awarded or title of Doctor of Science is given.

Credential for entry: Master's degree in related field.

HIGHER EDUCATION CREDENTIALS

Following are the higher education credentials awarded by different types of higher education institutions in Armenia:

- Diploma
- Junior Specialist II
- Junior Specialist III
- Diploma of Bachelor's Degree
- Diploma of Higher Education in Dentistry
- Diploma of Higher Education in Medicine
- Diploma of Higher Education in Veterinary Medicine
- Specialist Diploma
- Diploma of Higher Education
- Master's Degree Diploma
- Candidate of Science
- Certificate of Completion of Graduate Coursework
- Doctor of Science



SCIENCE IN ARMENIA

In Armenia RTD was one of the core sectors of economy before the collapse of the USSR. The independent Armenia inherited quite ramified and developed network of research and education institutions distributed among Academic, university and branch/enterprise sectors. Armenia was specialized in several fields of sciences and technology, including physics and astrophysics, computer sciences and information technologies, biotechnology, chemistry and others.

Integration into international scientific and technological networks is one of the priorities of Armenia stated in the Law on Scientific and Technological Activity. The Strategy on Development of Science 2011-2020 also sets ambitious targets for international scientific cooperation – including the objective of developing a knowledge-based economy by 2020, be competitive within European Research Area in terms of fundamental and applied research, and be a prime location for scientific specialization within ERA. It also sets objectives for the general development of international RTD cooperation, setting up joint cooperation programmes, establishing joint laboratories and research centres, and attracting foreign researchers to collaborate with Armenian colleagues.

New prospects for closer EU-Armenia cooperation were opened after inclusion of Armenia in the European New Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Initiative and further development of the ENP Action Plan aiming at contributing to sustainable economic development of the country. The ENP Action Plan includes the article on measures in the field of S&T incorporating points towards assisting in development of adequate S&T and Innovation policy system reformation activities and creation of independent peer-review structure for competitive selection of RTD projects in Armenia. It also contains an article stating the need for closer integration of Armenia into European Research Area through more active promotion of participation of Armenian research organizations in EU's Framework Programmes.

Inclusion of Armenia in the EU's Eastern Partnership added a new multilateral framework for EU-Armenia relations in various fields of science and technology. Logical development towards addressing S&T internationalization objectives was also association of Armenia to EU's Horizon 2020 programme in 2016, and political decision to be associated to the next seven-year European Programme Horizon Europe starting in 2021.

[Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport RA](#) (SC MESA) is responsible for development and implementation of S&T policies and management of RTD programmes. SC MESA is the main state organization providing R&D funding through international and state calls for proposals.

SC MESA maintains researchers' exchange and joint research projects programmes with CNRS (France), BMBF (Germany), National Research Council (Italy), Russian Foundation for Basic Research, State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus which provides a framework for short-term exchange of researchers.

PRIVATE R&D FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

Besides SC MESA, there are a number of non-state organizations providing funds for research, technological and entrepreneurial activities.

FAST Foundation

[FAST](#) is building an ecosystem of innovation to lead scientists, technologists, and innovators in Armenia and beyond to success on the global stage.



With a focus on entrepreneurial endeavors, FAST empowers innovators to bring cutting-edge, commercially viable and globally competitive solutions to life. We partner with academic, governmental and non-governmental organizations alongside global players to explore and create what's next.

Enterprise Incubator Foundation (EIF)

[EIF](#) is one of the largest technology business incubators and IT development agencies in the region, operating in Yerevan, Armenia.



Established in 2002 it is called to support the development of information and communication technology sector in Armenia through creating a productive environment for innovation, technological advancement and company growth. Foundation provides variety of services ranging from business support and advisory to workforce development and facility services as well as business development & innovation grants for technology oriented startups.

[MSRF](#) is functioning and in cooperation with American University of Armenia and the Armenian Government and has grants both for students and researchers.



This funding opportunity is aimed at building research capacity in Armenia to advance economic growth and development issues in the country. The topics for applied research, which are related to Armenia's development needs across a wide range of topic areas, are aligned with Government priorities.

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

[National Academy of Sciences of RA](#) (NAS RA) with its 35 research institutes distributed within its [5 scientific divisions](#) is the main research performing organization. By the Law on the national Academy of Sciences of Armenia it is entitled to serve as advisor to the government on RTD related issues and to coordinate basic and applied research throughout the country. NAS RA also hosts most of the EU H2020 NCPs with International S&T Department being the [National Information Point for EU H2020](#).

[International Scientific Educational Center](#) (ISEC) is one of the structural units of the NAS RA. Its mission is to prepare scientific staff through PhD, Doctoral and Low residency PhD studies, the Center also has Master study programs aimed at speeding up the process of transition from education to science.

[Scientific and Production Centre "Armbiotechnology" of NAS RA](#) involving the "Institute of Biotechnology", "Institute of Microbiology" and "Center of Microbial Depository", is one of the leading centres in the field. The Centre successfully collaborates with a number of scientific-research and industrial organizations from USA, EU, CIS, China and implements joint research projects. During last years, the Government has been supporting several regional scientific-technological projects with main objective of attaining scientific excellence, strengthening international networks and regionalization of scientific-technological activities focusing on innovation-related aspects.

One of such projects is the [CANDLE - Center for the Advancement of Natural Discoveries using Light Emission](#), seeking to establish a third generation synchrotron light source for basic, industrial and applied research in biology, physics, chemistry, medicine, material and environmental sciences.

IT SECTOR

IT sector is one of the leading sectors in Armenian economy to promote technology innovation and productivity growth.

Important initiatives to promote innovation in the regions were creation of Technology Centers in [Gyumri](#) and [Vanadzor](#), the second and the third largest cities of the country. The centers were created by the [Enterprise Incubator Foundation](#), one of the largest technology business incubators and IT development agencies in the region, with main objectives of creating



a dynamic environment of opportunities and services that will contribute to job creation, support talented youth and organizations in implementing innovative business ideas, ultimately contributing to the sustainable development of the regions.

Since 2004 the world's 15th largest software company, Synopsys Inc., the Silicon to Software partner for innovative companies developing the electronic products and software applications we rely on every day, established a presence in Armenia. [Synopsys Armenia](#) is closed joint stock company which provides R&D and product support in Electronic Design Automation, design for manufacturing and the development of semiconductor intellectual property.





STUDYING AND WORKING IN ARMENIA

RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS

Academic recognition is mainly sought with the purpose of continuing the education. However, it is proved that some applicants prefer to get academic recognition document before seeking a job in case of the professions not requiring official recognition (non-regulated professions). Such recognition, for professional purpose, helps contractor to understand the compatibility of the given foreign qualification with the local similar qualification.

For receiving academic recognition you may apply to the National Information Centre for Academic Recognition and Mobility and submit obtained official document to the higher educational institution where you prefer to continue your education. The final recognition is conducted by the HEI where the applicant wants to continue his/her education. The HEI, in adopting the decision, should take into account the advice of NICARM which is the Armenian representative of the international ENIC/NARIC net. NICARM evaluates the foreign qualification and prepares a document which serves as a letter of guarantee for HEI as well as it may be presented to the future contractor in case non-regulated professions.

If you are abroad, you should apply to the HEI which you have chosen for your further education for the academic recognition of your qualification. If you need some information or assistance, you may apply to the National Information Centers for Academic Recognition – ENIC/NARIC network member organization.

In the majority of the countries, just like in Armenia, the final decision on the foreign recognition is adopted by a HEI where the applicant should continue the education.

Requested Documents

- Scan of Passport or ID card
- Education credential (original and/or translation validated by notary)
- Diploma supplement, transcript of records or other similar documents which include information on learning outcomes, credits, grades, graduation requirements, etc.(original and/or translation validated by notary)
- Other evidence including all the degrees obtained, professional license, documents certifying the work experience, etc.
- Payment receipt

The costs of recognition of foreign higher education documents are:

	For citizens of RA	For foreign citizens
Advisory statement	7000 AMD	15000 AMD
Evaluation statement (recognition of qualification)	12000 AMD	25000 AMD
Evaluation statement (appeal)	20000 AMD	35000 AMD
Additional statement in other language	3000 AMD	5000 AMD
Other type of statements	1000 AMD	3000 AMD

To apply to the National Information Centre for Academic Recognition and Mobility for receiving academic recognition please visit [here](#).

UNIVERSITIES

There are 19 universities and research institutes under the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport which are involved in state R&D programmes. Among these Institutions the most important players in R&D sector are [Yerevan State University](#), [State Polytechnic University of Armenia](#), [Yerevan State Medical University](#), [Armenian National Agrarian University](#), and [Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory at Yerevan Physics Institute](#).

Foreign students represent around 3% of the total, which shows still low level of internationalization of the Armenian higher education system. Internationalization as strategic orientation is present to much extent only in medical education which receives around 500-600 students annually from abroad.

Admission of foreign students at universities in Armenia

To study in Armenia, you need to know how to apply to the Armenian Universities and what kind of documents to present.

In case of transnational and international universities foreign applicant applies directly through the admission office of the University while the path of foreign applicants applying to the public universities begins with the International Department of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports where the [application form](#) is filled in (scroll down for English).

The following documents are submitted:

1. Filled-in application;
2. Filled-in application-questionnaire;
3. Medical reference about general health status (can be provided by the medical institutions of the Republic of Armenia);
4. Copy of the passport;
5. For Diaspora Armenians, a copy of birth certificate or a copy of baptism certificate verified by a notary;
6. Copy of the graduation certificate with the grades, translated and verified by the Notary. In case of specific countries, international validation (Apostille) may be needed.
7. 1 photo (size 3x4)
8. CV in Armenian, Russian, or English
9. For post graduate education program, an essay on the chosen major topic in Armenian, Russian, or English (approx. 20 pages).

The above-mentioned documents (paragraphs 1-9) must be submitted online to the email address of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia: secretariat@escs.am

A temporary Residence Card is required after admission to a relevant university. The Residence Card is obtained by University where the student has been submitted.

FIND YOUR UNIVERSITY

State Higher Education Institutions

1. [Yerevan State University \(YSU\)](#).

1 Alex Manoogyan Str., Yerevan 0025

Tel.: (+374 10) 550612, email: international@ysu.am ; amarkarov@ysu.am

2. [National Polytechnic University of Armenia \(NPUA\)](#).

105 Teryan Str., Yerevan 0009

Tel.: (+374 10) 567968, email: grantsoffice@polytechnic.am; intof@seua.am

3. [Armenian State University of Economics \(ASUE\)](#).

128 Nalbandyan Str., Yerevan 0025

Tel.: (+374 10) 593484, email: int@asue.am

4. National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia Foundation (NUACA)

105 Teryan Str., Yerevan 0009

Tel.: (+374 10) 580177, email: info@nuaca.am ; edoyan@nuaca.am

5. Armenian National Agrarian University Foundation (ANAU)

74 Teryan Str., Yerevan 0009

Tel.: (+374 10) 585808, email: inter@anau.am

6. Kh. Abovyan Armenian State Pedagogical University (ASPU)

17 Tigran Mets Str., Yerevan 0010

Tel.: (+374 10) 597053, email: interdep@aspu.am

7. Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences (YSULS)

42 Tumanyan Str., Yerevan 0002

Tel. (+374 10) 530272, email: intrel@brusov.am

8. Yerevan State Medical University after M. Heratsi (YSMU)

2 Koryun Str., Yerevan 0025

Tel.: (+374 10) 582532, email: international@ysmu.am

9. Public Administration Academy of RA (PAARA)

8 Kievyan Str., Yerevan

Tel.: (+374 10) 228942, email: tereza.khechoyan@paara.am

10. International Scientific Education Center of National Academy of Sciences (ISEC)

M. Baghramyan 24d, Yerevan

Tel: (374 10) 524812, email: arusyakharutunyan@yahoo.com

11. State Academy of Fine Arts (SAFA)

36 Isahakyan Str., Yerevan 0009

Tel.: (+374 10) 542706, email: info@yafa.am; m.patvakanyan@yafa.am

12. Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory

1a Sayat-Nova Str., Yerevan 0001

Tel.: (+374 10) 581164, email: yksc@conservatory.am

13. [Yerevan State Institute of Theater and Cinematography \(YSITC\).](#)

26 Amiryan Str., Yerevan 0002

Tel.: (+374 10) 536287, email: info@ysitc.am

14. [Armenian State Institute of Physical Culture \(ASIPC\).](#)

11 Alex Manoogyan Str., Yerevan 0070

Tel.: (+374 10) 556281, email: info@asipc.am

15. [Shirak State University.](#)

4 Paruir Sevak Str., Gyumri 3126

Tel.: (+374 312) 69494, email: shsu.international@gmail.com

16. [Vanadzor State University after H. Tumanyan \(VSU\).](#)

36 Tigran Mets Str., Vanadzor 2021

Tel.: (+374 322) 46387, email: info@vsu.am

17. [Goris State University \(GorSU\).](#)

Avangard 4 Bld., Goris 3204

Tel.: (+374 284) 22767, (+374 98) 196720

email: gorissu@mail.ru; info@gorsu.am

18. [Gavar State University \(GSU\).](#)

1 Hrant Hakobyan Str., Gavar 1201

Tel.: (+374 60) 461299, email: info@gsu.am

Transnational Higher Education Institutions

1. [American University of Armenia \(AUA\).](#)

40 Marshal Bagramyan Str., Yerevan 0019

Tel.: (+374 60) 612530, email: info@aua.am; gmakaryan@aua.am

2. [Russian- Armenian University \(RAU\).](#)

123 Hovsep Emin Str., Yerevan 0051

Tel.: (+374 10) 277052, email: international@rau.am

3. [French University in Armenia Foundation \(UFAR\).](#)

10 David Anhakht, Yerevan 0037

Tel.: (+374 10) 249648, email: vice_recteur@ufar.am

4. [European Educational Academy \(ERA\).](#)

10 David Anhakht, Yerevan 0037

Tel.: (+374 10) 246391, email: v.soghomonyan@eua.am

Private HEIs

1. [Eurasia International University \(EIU\)](#)

24/2 Azatutyan Ave., Yerevan 0014

Tel.: (+374 10) 249438, email: info@eiu.am

2. [Yerevan “Northern” University \(NU\)](#)

15 a Alek Manougyan Str., Yerevan 0070

Tel.: (+374 10) 559776, email: interndep@northern.am

3. [Yerevan “Gladzor” Management University](#)

7/1 Grigor Lusavorich Str., Yerevan 0015

Tel.: (+374 10) 545980, email: gladzor@gladzor.am

4. [Yerevan “Anania Shirakatsi” University of International Relations](#)

65a Tigran Mets Str., Yerevan 0005

Tel.: (+374 10) 583037, email: education.inform@gmail.com

5. [Armenian-Russian International University “Mkhitar Gosh”](#)

Yerevan, Sebastia 3/7 str

Tel.: (+37410) 74-70-40, email: ariu.international@gmail.com

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS

Citizens of foreign countries need a resident permit to stay in Armenia for more than 180 days. Issues of foreign citizens' residence card are regulated by the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police.

Types of Armenian Residency and Resident Cards

№	Type of residency	Type of the document	Terms of residency
1	Temporary	Temporary resident card	Up to one year
2	Permanent	Permanent resident card	Five years
3	Special	Special passport	Ten years

Application for temporary residence

Eligibility for a Temporary Resident Card

Temporary Resident Card is issued to foreign citizens, who:

- study in Armenia,
- have work permit in Armenia,
- is wife/husband, parent or child of a foreign citizen who is a holder of a Temporary Resident Card of Armenia,
- is wife/husband, parent, child or relative (brother, sister, grandparent, grandchildren) of an Armenian citizen or of a foreign citizen holding a Special Passport of Armenia,
- runs business activity in Armenia,
- is an Armenian national,
- in other cases, prescribed by law.

Temporary Resident Card is issued with one-year validity period with the possibility of one-year extension.

The applicant must apply for the extension at least 30 days before the expiration of the Temporary Resident Card.

Where to apply

Application documents should be submitted to The Passport and Visa Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia.

Address: 17/10 Building, 4th District, Davtashen, Yerevan 0054

Working hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 09:00-17:00, break 14:00-15:00

Fri 10:00-17:00, break 14:00-15:00

Required documents

- 1.application,
- 2.3 color photos - 35 x 45 mm,
- 3.passport, copy of the passport, the notarized Armenian translation of the passport,
- 4.documents supporting the conditions of applying for the residence permit (extension of the permit) in Armenia,
- 5.medical certificate,
- 6.receipt of payment of the fee.

Fees

Nº	Service	Fee
1	Temporary resident card (up to one year)	105,000 AMD
2	Extension of the temporary resident card (up to one year)	105,000 AMD
3	Permanent resident card (5 years)	140,000 AMD
4	Special passport (10 years)	150,000 AMD

According to the principle of reciprocity, the following fees are applied for the citizens of the United States of America

Nº	Service	Fee
1	Temporary resident card (up to one year)	85,000 AMD
2	Extension of the temporary resident card (up to one year)	1,000 AMD
3	Permanent resident card (5 years)	90,000 AMD

You can pay the fee for the resident card by the E-payments state electronic system, in a bank or on spot with the payment terminals.

[Pay for Temporary Resident Card](#) (up to one year)

For the information about Temporary and Permanent Residency in Armenia please visit the dedicated webpage of [MFA](#).

CITIZENSHIP

Any person 18 years or older can apply for Armenian citizenship. Terms of acquiring or terminating Armenian citizenship are settled upon the Law of the Republic of Armenia on "Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia" and Governmental Decision N 1390-N (23 November, 2007).

General requirements are: legal residence in Armenia for the last 3 years, good knowledge of Armenian, acquaintance with the Constitution of Armenia.

Procedure of acquiring Armenian citizenship is simplified for ethnic Armenians, for spouses of Armenian citizens, for children of former Armenian citizens (must apply within 3 years after reaching adulthood – 18 years) and for persons who have terminated Armenian citizenship after the year of 1995. In these cases the requirements of legal residence and knowledge of Armenian do not apply.

Armenian citizenship can be awarded without any requirement to persons who have provided exceptional service to the Republic of Armenia.

Citizenship of Armenia is granted upon a decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia.

- For detailed information about the citizenship process please visit [here](#).
- [The Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia](#)

Applying for Armenian citizenship If your spouse (wife/husband) has Armenian citizenship you can apply for Armenian citizenship when:

after two years of being in a registered marriage. Besides, you will have to satisfy one of the following criteria:

- You have a common child with your spouse and your child is an Armenian citizen, or
- You have resided in Armenia for at least 365 days over the last two years.
- If your marriage was registered in a foreign country the marriage certificate will have to be legalized (Apostille or consular legalization) and translated into the Armenian language.

Please note that police and national security officers may check if you live with your spouse or the marriage is merely a sham.

MARRIAGE REGISTRATION IN ARMENIA

The marriage of the foreign citizens, stateless persons in the Republic of Armenia, the citizens of the Republic of Armenia permanently residing in a foreign state with each other or with the citizens of the Republic of Armenia is registered in the territorial body of the civil status acts registration upon permission from the Head of the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.

For more information please visit the website of the [Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia](#).

EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN CITIZENS IN ARMENIA

As a general rule, a holder of an Armenian visa is not entitled to work in Armenia unless he/she also holds a work permit. Highly skilled foreign specialists, business owners, executives and certain other categories of workers are exempt from work permit requirements.

Work Permit

The transfer of staff (skilled or non-qualified) is subject to obtaining a work permit and, where necessary, a [temporary residence permit](#). In Armenia, for work permit requirements, no distinction is made between intra-company transfers, local hires or subcontracting employment. The work permit has to be applied for on behalf of the legal employer and is issued for the duration of the employment contract. The law requires the employer to search for Armenian citizens to do the job.

Employees that are employed by a foreign company (remain on the payroll of the foreign entity) are generally exempt from work permit requirements.

Unless a foreign individual is exempted from work permit requirements, the employer must first obtain a work permit by applying to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA). The migrant will normally then apply for a temporary residence permit in order to be granted the permission to live and work in Armenia.

Exemptions

Work permit requirements do not apply to the following categories of foreigners:

- Holders of [permanent](#) or [special](#) residency permits;
- Holders of [temporary residency permits](#) if such permit is issued on the basis of being a family member of another holder of permanent (special, temporary) residency permit;
- Founders, directors and representatives of commercial organizations with foreign investment;
- Foreigners employed in representative offices of foreign companies;
- Foreign specialists employed to install or repair machinery and other equipment purchased from foreign companies or to train local staff to operate such machinery or equipment;

- Highly qualified foreign specialists in areas of natural sciences, information technologies (1. technician, operation and technical maintenance of computing equipment and computer systems; 2. technician, operation of computing machines, complexes, systems and networks; 3. web designer), agriculture (1. agriculture specialist; 2. farmer; 3. technician-cultivator), as well as foreigners with higher education in 1. information and communication technologies; 2. management and administration; 3. food technology; 4. finances;
- Family members of diplomatic staff;
- Foreigners working in border areas;
- Short-term workers in areas of sports and culture;
- Lecturers invited to lecture in Armenian educational institutions;
- Accredited representatives of foreign media organizations;
- Refugees and foreigners granted asylum;
- Students working during vacations within exchange programs;
- Foreigners arriving to Armenia on the basis of international agreements;
- Foreigners exempted from work permit requirements by virtue of international agreements.

A business visitor cannot undertake work activities while in Armenia, unless these activities [are exempted from work permit requirements](#). Permitted activities during a business trip include meetings, interviews, discussions, negotiations, exploring business opportunities, attending conferences, conducting site visits, taking orders or purchasing goods or services. Payment by an Armenian entity of salary or other remuneration would be evidence of work.

Employers which already employed foreign labour at the time the work permit regulations came into effect do not have to apply for work permits until the current employment agreements expire. However, they must present copies of such employment agreements to the MLSA within 60 days. Any new hiring will require a work permit.

[More information.](#)

Taxation

The tax system in Armenia is generally favorable for business. Unlike the tax systems in several other CIS countries, Armenia's system is structured such that most of the taxes are federal and are paid directly to the budget.

Armenia has seven main taxes:

State taxes

- a. value added tax ("VAT");
- b. excise tax;
- c. profit tax;
- d. income tax;
- e. environmental tax;
- f. road tax;
- g. turnover tax;

Municipal taxes:

- a. Property Tax;
- b. Land Tax.

Taxes defined in the Armenian laws shall be paid by:
domestic taxpayers - residents and foreign taxpayers - non-residents.

1. Income Tax

The income tax is a direct tax paid to the RA state budget by taxpayers, which is levied from the taxable income of reporting period of natural persons.

In the Republic of Armenia natural persons, i.e. RA citizens, foreign citizens and stateless persons, including individual entrepreneurs and notaries, pay income tax, if:

- They are a RA resident, i.e. they resided in the Republic of Armenia for a total of 183 or more days at any stage of the 12-month period which starts and ends during the fiscal year, or they have the center of vital interests located in the Republic of Armenia, or if they are a state servant of the Republic of Armenia, work temporarily away from the territory of the Republic of Armenia and received taxable income in the RA territory or outside its borders.
- They are non-resident and received taxable income from Armenian sources.

2. VAT

Any person (individual entrepreneur, legal entity etc.), who carries out economic activity and whose taxable turnover of the last calendar year realized transactions is more than 58.35 million AMD (VAT threshold) is considered as a VAT payer.

The following transactions are subject to the VAT taxation:

- goods supply
- service provisions
- goods importation

There are two VAT rates:

20% (If the tax is included in the goods and services cost, the VAT shall be determined by the rate 16.67 percent of the total price of the goods and services).

0%, that is zero rate (this rate is usually used for the exportation of goods and services, as well as for the goods and the services which are bought in Armenia for the official use of diplomatic representations and equalized institutions).

VAT exemption

Scientific and research works are in the list of the VAT exemption cases.

Also any EU funded project implemented by Armenian beneficiary will be exempt from VAT following a special procedure with the [Ministry of Economy of RA](#).

More detailed info can be found at [Tax service of RA](#).

Salaries

Employee's contributions:

Pension fund - 2,5% (persons that are born before 1974 do not make this contribution)

Income tax rates:

- From January 1, 2020 – 23%
- From January 1, 2021 -22%
- From January 1, 2022 -21%
- From January 1, 2023 -20%

Social Package

The state organizations provide Social Package to their employees. The social package is a program aimed at ensuring the health, education, recreation and other issues of employees and / or their immediate family members. Unfortunately foreign workers cannot benefit from this program, but many of the non-state organization provide health insurance and other benefits to their employees. Please check out this information with your future employer.

Health Insurance

Health insurance plays a vital role in every person's life by offering many benefits when adopting the right insurance policy. Many people have international insurance which may be used overseas. Before visiting Armenia, it is necessary to have travel insurance, which will cover the main medical expenses during your stay in Armenia. In case of emergency, you can be assisted in any medical centers in Armenia and then be remunerated by your insurance company. Expatriates living in Yerevan will need to have medical insurance, as it is mandatory for all residents. It is also recommended for expats to add or find Medical Evacuation Coverage (MEDEVAC), because whilst most hospitals provide adequate care, it may be necessary to take you out of the country for treatment and the cost of this can be high. The healthcare system in Yerevan provides national care hospitals, regional hospitals, and primary healthcare providers. In the city, there are numerous hospitals and medical centers, including the internationally recognized ones. For more details about the law on insurance in Armenia please visit [here](#).

If you plan a long-stay in Armenia and you need Health insurance, you can arrange it during your stay in Armenia. You can find all insurance companies which can arrange your insured and safe stay in Armenia [here](#).

Types of Insurance Available

The only Compulsory insurance:

Car insurance (Some companies have women-only insurance as well)

Useful links: [Armenian Motor Insurers Bureau](#)

There are a handful of insurance companies that also offer health insurance both for citizens and foreigners in Armenia. Most of the companies offer online operating systems and online application forms which can be easily found on the official websites and lead to time-saving. The only note for you is to be attentive and read all the points of terms and conditions for avoiding any misunderstandings in the future. By choosing any of the below-listed companies you can easily access the list of their partner medical centers in their websites.

The full list includes:

- [Rosgosstrakh Armenia](#)
- [Armenia Insurance](#) (only Armenian and Russian language available)
- [RESO](#) (only Armenian and Russian language available)
- [SIL Insurance](#)
- [INGO Armenia](#)
- [Nairi Insurance](#)

For more information on health insurance, please contact the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia.

Address: Government Building 3, Republic Square, Yerevan 0010

Tel.: +374 60 808 003 (1112) Hotline: +374 10 528 872

URL: <http://www.moh.am>

E-mail: info@moh.am

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The national currency of Armenia is called "Dram" (the code is AMD). It was put into circulation in 1993. There are banknotes of 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000, 20000, 50000, 100000 Dram denomination. There are also coins of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 Dram denomination.

In the Republic of Armenia, the payments (including payments of interest on financial operations) for sales of goods/property, rendering services and labor remuneration, use of property, the right or privilege to be given in exchange for compensations, insurance payments and insurance indemnities between residents are made in the Armenian currency.

Importing and exporting local and foreign currency

Importing to and exporting from the Republic of Armenia of cash currency, other currency values (except from coins made from precious metals), treasury notes and traveler's checks up to the equivalent of \$10 thousand are allowed without restriction. Imports of currency values exceeding that amount from non-members of Eurasian economic union and exports to non-members of Eurasian economic union must be declared to the customs.

Currency Exchange

Both, the residents and non-residents can make foreign exchange purchase and sale operations in the domestic currency market, without any restrictions, with preferred and agreed rates, through the parties licensed by the Central Bank, i.e. banks, credit organizations, currency dealers, exchange offices and foreign banks' branches offices operating in the Republic of Armenia, as well as through the Central Bank.

For the currency exchange rate please visit [Central Bank of Armenia](#).

Banks

The Armenian banking system consists of 21 commercial banks, the activity of which is controlled by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia. The banks in Yerevan are open from 10:00 am to 16:45 on week-days and from 10:00 am to 13:00 on Saturdays, without lunch breaks. The ATMs can be found in all the main streets of Yerevan.

There are local and international Banks in Armenia. Most Banks have an online customer service system and you can be easily assisted online and ask any questions. After choosing a certain bank, mobile banking will also be available and money transfers and payment processes will be greatly facilitated. Most of the banks implement SWIFT transfers and some of them for Non-Account Holders. Note: Armenia is not a member of the IBAN standard, so Armenian banks do not use IBAN.

For more information on the banking system and news on the financial/economic status of Armenia, check the [Central Bank of Armenia](#), as well as www.banks.am.





USEFUL LINKS

CULTURE

Armenian culture is a rich mixture of flavors, colors, plus outside influences and things that are uniquely Armenian. From the architecture to applied arts, performing arts to literature, culture in Armenia represents the history, lifestyle, aspirations, and beauty of this unique country. The culture of Armenia encompasses many elements that are based on the geography, literature, architecture, dance, foods and music of the people.



For more information about the history and culture you can visit:

[OST Armenia](#)

[Armenian Travel Bureau](#)

Top facts about Armenian culture you must know

[Armenia Discovery](#)

What can you do and visit while staying in Yerevan

If you are planning a long stay never miss a chance to travel around Armenia and visit the most interesting and beautiful places which are enriched in history and cultural peculiarities:

[Culture Trip Yerevan](#)

For a more comfortable stay and easy access to the city please click [here](#).

Here you can also use the online operating system to ask for assistance and you can also download the application and use it throughout your whole stay. Besides, there is all the needed information about the museums, art galleries and places of entertainment.

You can also fully integrate into the cultural life of Armenians and look for concerts, cinema, theatre performances, opera/ballet and other entertaining events by visiting [Tomasrkgh](#).

You can easily order online tickets for various events by visiting the website or by downloading the application or simply you can call for assistance: +374 60 276 000

For tours, sightseeing and recreation please visit: [Armenia Discovery](#)

FOODS

Food is a large part of Armenian culture, a time for socializing with friends and relatives.

Armenian cuisine reveals the geography and history of the ancient country. The cuisine is rich in vegetables, meat, and fish; however, eggplant, lamb, and lavash (flatbread) make up its primary components. Besides, cracked wheat, or bulgur, is often used instead of rice and maize in Armenian cuisine. For more information about Armenian cuisine and traditional food please visit [here](#).

Yerevan is rich in a variety of restaurants and cafes which offer a wide range of food. Nearly all restaurants have online ordering and delivery systems. Besides, there are food delivering companies which manage fast online food delivery system to facilitate your everyday life:

- [MENU](#)
- [Sovats](#)

EXPLORE ARMENIA

[10 practical Mobile applications](#) while visiting Armenia

[Electronic Armenia](#) – Great opportunity to easily access all the needed information about every realm which interests you. Detailed information on every sector in Armenia starting from everyday life and ending with manufacturing and mining

[Armenia Discovery](#) - plan your trip to Armenia beforehand

[Explore Armenia](#) - very functional and interesting website for gaining a lot of information about sights, culture and traditions, cuisine, travel tips, and various activities in Armenia by visiting this website which is an interesting blog for knowing Armenia better

[Repeat Armenia](#) - For those who are considering a move to Armenia, they offer one-on-one consultations, networking opportunities during informal monthly events. They also assist you with introducing you to professional services providers that can help you with employment, setting up a business, or other aspects of integration

[Absolute Armenia](#) - All you need to know about Armenia.





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RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

**EURAXESS
ARMENIA**

EURAXESS ARMENIA PORTAL

EURAXESS Armenia portal is designed to provide information and assistance to mobile researchers with the support of our national EURAXESS Centres and Contact Points. If you are planning to relocate in Armenia or travel abroad or if you are interested in your career development here you can find a lot practical and useful information <https://www.euraxess.am/>

EURAXESS ARMENIA NETWORK

The mission of EURAXESS Armenia Network composed of EURAXESS Service Centre and Contact points is to provide free of charge and personalized assistance to researchers and their families when relocating to Armenia as well as to provide some resources to support their professional development.

EURAXESS SERVICE CENTER

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