

ENHANCED DE RANTAU NOMAD PASS FRAMEWORK

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A. General Information

1. What is the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework?

The Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework allows eligible DE Rantau Nomad Pass holders to apply for renewals of up to twelve (12) months each upon the expiry of their current pass.

Under the enhanced framework, eligible pass holders may be granted a maximum stay of up to four (4) years under the DE Rantau Nomad Pass programme, comprising the initial twelve (12)-month pass and up to three (3) renewals, subject to continued compliance with programme requirements and approval by the relevant authorities.

Applicants who have already utilised the current **24-month pass validity (Initial Pass + First Renewal)** arrangement may also apply under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework. Such applicants may be considered for up to **two additional renewals (Second Renewal and Third Renewal)**, allowing an additional stay of up to twenty-four (24) months, subject to meeting all applicable programme requirements and approval by the relevant authorities.

2. What is the maximum duration I can stay under the DE Rantau Nomad Pass?

The maximum stay period is up to four (4) years, comprising the initial pass validity period of twelve (12) months and up to three (3) approved renewals, subject to continued eligibility and approval.

3. Why was the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework introduced?

The enhancement supports Malaysia's aspiration to remain a competitive destination for global digital talent, provides greater certainty for long-term remote professionals, and encourages greater economic contribution to local communities and the digital ecosystem.

4. When will the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework take effect?

The Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework shall take effect from 1 December 2026 and will apply to all renewal applications submitted on or after that date.

5. Does the DE Rantau Nomad Pass provide a pathway to Permanent Residency (PR)?

No. The DE Rantau Nomad Pass remains a temporary immigration pass and does not provide a pathway to Permanent Residency or Malaysian citizenship.

B. Eligibility & Renewal

6. Who is eligible to apply for the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass renewal?

Previous and current DE Rantau Nomad Pass holders who continue to meet all applicable programme requirements, including the relevant income threshold, remote work requirements, and supporting documentation requirements.

7. Is renewal automatic?

No. All renewal applications are subject to assessment and approval.

8. How long is each renewal valid for?

Each approved renewal is valid for up to twelve (12) months.

9. Why is the renewal period granted for only 12 months?

The DE Rantau Nomad Pass is issued under the Professional Visit Pass (Pas Lawatan Ikhtisas - PLIK) framework, which allows a maximum validity period of up to twelve (12) months per approval. Renewals are granted in 12-month periods to allow periodic assessment of continued eligibility and compliance with programme requirements.

10. Do applicants need to remain employed by the same company upon renewal?

No. Applicants may change employers, provided they continue to meet all applicable programme eligibility requirements.

11. What happens if I change employer during the validity period of my pass?

Applicants may remain eligible for renewal, provided they continue to meet programme requirements and submit updated supporting documentation reflecting the change.

12. Can Tech Talent and Non-Tech Talent apply for renewal?

Yes. Eligible Tech Talent and Non-Tech Talent applicants may apply for renewal, provided they continue to meet all DE Rantau Nomad Pass eligibility requirements and can demonstrate ongoing remote work for clients or employers located outside Malaysia.

13. Can I work for multiple overseas clients or employers?

Yes. Applicants may work for multiple overseas clients or employers, provided they continue to meet all DE Rantau Nomad Pass programme requirements. A pass holder may engage with up to three (3) overseas clients and/or employers at any one time, provided all other programme requirements continue to be met.

14. Can my dependants also be renewed?

Yes. Approved dependants may be renewed together with the principal applicant, subject to compliance with programme requirements.

C. Income Requirements

15. Will the minimum income requirement change?

Yes. For Tech Talent applicants, the minimum annual income threshold will increase from USD24,000 to USD36,000. For non-Tech Talent applicants, the minimum annual income requirement will remain unchanged at USD60,000.

The revised income threshold will apply to new and renewal applications submitted from 1 December 2026 onwards.

16. Why is the income threshold being increased?

The revised threshold aligns the programme with current market standards, attracts higher-value global talent, and reflects the enhanced value proposition of the programme.

17. Will current DE Rantau Nomad Pass holders need to meet the new income requirement?

Current pass holders may continue to remain in Malaysia under their current approved pass until its expiry date, subject to compliance with existing pass conditions. However, any renewal application submitted from 1 December 2026 onwards will be assessed based on the prevailing eligibility requirements. This includes meeting the revised minimum annual income threshold and any other applicable programme requirements in effect at the time of renewal.

Example:

A pass holder whose current pass remains valid after 1 December 2026 may continue to remain in Malaysia until the approved expiry date under the existing pass conditions.

If the pass holder applies for renewal from 1 December 2026 onwards, the renewal application must comply with the prevailing eligibility requirements, including the revised income threshold where applicable.

18. My income fluctuates monthly. Can I still qualify?

Yes. Applicants may submit supporting documentation demonstrating that their annual income meets the applicable minimum income threshold, subject to assessment and approval.

19. My annual income is below USD36,000 when I apply for renewal. Can I still renew?

Applicants must satisfy the prevailing minimum income requirement applicable at the time of renewal in order to be eligible for renewal. Applications that do not meet the required income threshold may not be approved.

D. Application Fees

20. Will the renewal fee increase?

There are currently no changes to the renewal fee. However, MDEC reserves the right to review and revise the renewal fee from time to time in accordance with programme requirements, operational considerations, and applicable approvals. Any future revision will be announced through official channels prior to its effective date.

21. Are application fees refundable if my renewal application is unsuccessful?

No. Application fees paid in connection with a renewal application are strictly non-refundable upon submission and commencement of processing, irrespective of whether the application is approved, rejected, withdrawn, or otherwise unsuccessful.

E. Transition Arrangements for the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Renewal Framework

22. Why are NEW applications temporarily unavailable during the transition period?

New applications are temporarily unavailable during the transition period to allow for system enhancements, policy updates, and the implementation of the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework. This transition period helps ensure a smooth rollout of the enhanced programme and an improved application experience for future applicants.

23. Will my renewal application be affected during the transition period?

No. First renewal applications will continue to be accepted and processed during the transition period.

This applies only to existing DE Rantau Nomad Pass holders whose initial 12-month pass expires on or before **31 January 2027**. Eligible pass holders may submit a renewal application within the prescribed renewal timeline, provided they submit a complete application, including all mandatory supporting documents and required information. Incomplete submissions will not be considered valid renewal applications.

Any renewal application submitted on or after **1 December 2026** will be assessed based on the prevailing programme requirements, including the revised minimum annual income threshold of **USD36,000** for Tech Talent applicants, where applicable.

Applications for a **second renewal (third year)** and **third renewal (fourth year)** will open from **1 December 2026** under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework. Existing pass holders who have already utilised the current **24-month pass validity (Initial Pass + First Renewal)** may only submit their renewal applications from 1 December 2026 and will be assessed under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework requirements.

Scenarios

Pass Status	Eligibility During Transition Period
Initial 12-month pass expires on or before 31 January 2027	Eligible to apply for first renewal during the transition period, subject to complete submission requirements.
Initial 12-month pass expires after 31 January 2027	Renewal application should be submitted in accordance with the applicable renewal timeline and prevailing programme requirements.
Currently on first renewal (second year pass)	Eligible to apply for second renewal from 1 December 2026 under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass framework.
Has already utilised the 24-month pass validity (Initial Pass + First Renewal)	May only submit a renewal application from 1 December 2026 and will be assessed under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass requirements.

F. Current and Former Pass Holder Scenarios

24. I am a previously approved DE Rantau Nomad Pass holder who has utilised the maximum 24-month pass validity (Initial Pass + First Renewal). Can I renew under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework?

Yes. Individuals previously approved under the DE Rantau Nomad Pass programme who have fully utilised the current 24-month pass validity (Initial Pass + First Renewal) may be eligible to apply for a further renewal under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework.

Under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework, eligible applicants may be granted up to an additional 24 months of stay through two further renewals of up to 12 months each, subject to approval and continued compliance with programme requirements.

Applications for the next renewal cycle will open from 1 December 2026 and will be assessed against the prevailing programme requirements, including the applicable income threshold, remote work requirements, and supporting documentation requirements. Applicants must submit a complete renewal application together with all mandatory supporting documents. Approval is subject to meeting all eligibility criteria under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework.

25. I currently hold a DE Rantau Nomad Pass. Can I renew under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework?

Yes. Current DE Rantau Nomad Pass holders may apply for renewal under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework, provided they continue to meet the applicable eligibility requirements and submit all required supporting documents.

Renewal applications may be submitted **within three (3) months prior to the expiry date of the current pass**. Applications submitted from **1 December 2026** onwards will be assessed based on the applicable eligibility criteria in effect at the time of application, including the relevant income threshold, remote work requirements, and supporting documentation requirements. Approval remains subject to meeting all applicable programme requirements.

26. I was approved under the previous USD24,000 income requirement. Do I need to meet USD36,000 when applying for renewal?

Yes. Any renewal application submitted from 1 December 2026 onwards will be assessed against the prevailing programme requirements, including the revised minimum annual income threshold of USD36,000 for Tech Talent applicants, where applicable.

27. Does the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Renewal Framework automatically allow me to stay in Malaysia for four years?

No. Renewal is not automatic. Each renewal application is assessed separately and, if approved, is granted for up to twelve (12) months at a time.

28. My DE Rantau Nomad Pass has already expired and I have exited Malaysia. Can I still apply under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework?

Yes. Individuals whose DE Rantau Nomad Pass has expired and who have exited Malaysia may submit a new application under the prevailing DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework, subject to meeting all applicable programme requirements at the time of application.

Where applicable, individuals who were previously approved under the DE Rantau Nomad Pass programme and have fully utilised the maximum pass validity described in Question 24 may be eligible to apply for further renewals under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework from **1 December 2026**, subject to meeting all prevailing eligibility requirements.

All previously held DE Rantau Nomad Passes must be declared, and applicants must comply with all applicable immigration requirements, programme conditions, and application procedures. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.

29. Do I need to leave Malaysia before renewing my pass?

No. You are not required to leave Malaysia in order to apply for a renewal of your DE Rantau Nomad Pass, provided that your renewal application is submitted within the prescribed renewal timeline and all applicable programme requirements are met.

Applicants are advised to submit their renewal application within the permitted renewal window and ensure that the **pass endorsement process is successfully completed before the expiry of their current ePASS**. Failure to maintain valid immigration status may affect your ability to remain in Malaysia lawfully.

For further information on the endorsement process and related requirements, please refer to the relevant FAQ and guidelines published on the DE Rantau website.

30. Can I renew if I have changed from being a remote employee to a freelancer?

Yes. Freelancers and independent contractors remain eligible, provided they continue to satisfy all prevailing programme requirements.

31. Can I renew from outside Malaysia?

Yes. Renewal applications may be submitted from outside Malaysia, subject to prevailing programme requirements and procedures. Applicants must ensure that all applicable renewal and pass endorsement requirements are completed within the prescribed timelines.

G. Dependants

32. Can I add my spouse or child during renewal?

Yes. Eligible dependants may be added during the renewal process, subject to the submission of the required supporting documentation.

33. My spouse was not included in my original application. Can I add them later?

Yes. Eligible dependants may be added during the renewal process, subject to the prevailing programme requirements.

34. My child turns 18 during the validity period. What happens?

Dependent eligibility under the programme includes biological children, legally adopted children, and stepchildren. Eligibility is limited to children up to 18 years of age, except for children with special needs.

If a dependent child turns 18 during the validity period of the pass, the child may continue to remain as a dependant until the pass expires. However, biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren who are above 18 years of age at the time of renewal will not be eligible for renewal under the dependant category, unless they are children with special needs. Eligibility will be assessed based on the prevailing programme requirements at the time of renewal.

35. Can I add a newborn child after approval?

Yes. Eligible dependants may be added, subject to the submission of the required supporting documentation.

H. Application Process for the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework

36. When should I apply for renewal?

The renewal application process remains unchanged under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework. Applicants are encouraged to submit their renewal application at least three (3) months before the expiry date of their current pass. Early submission is recommended to allow sufficient time for application processing and pass endorsement before the current pass expires.

37. How long does the renewal process take?

Renewal applications are generally processed within **six (6) to eight (8) weeks** from the date a complete application and all required supporting documents are received.

The processing timeframe remains unchanged under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework. However, processing may take longer if additional information, clarification, or supporting documentation is required as part of the assessment, verification, or due diligence process.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their renewal applications well in advance of their pass expiry date to allow sufficient time for processing and endorsement.

38. What happens if my application is incomplete?

Incomplete applications may result in processing delays and may require applicants to provide additional information or supporting documents before assessment can proceed. To avoid delays, applicants should ensure that all required documents and information are submitted accurately and completely at the time of application. Failure to provide the requested information within the stipulated timeframe may affect the processing or outcome of the application.

39. Can I remain in Malaysia while my renewal application is being processed?

Applicants must comply with all applicable immigration requirements and maintain a valid immigration status at all times while their renewal application is being processed.

Renewal applications should be submitted well before the pass expiry date to allow sufficient time for assessment, approval, and endorsement.

Approval of a renewal application does not automatically extend an applicant's existing immigration status. Applicants remain responsible for ensuring continued compliance with all immigration requirements throughout the renewal process.

40. My passport expires soon. Can I still renew?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure that their passport has sufficient validity before submitting a renewal application. A passport with a validity of at least **fourteen (14) months** is recommended to facilitate the full renewal and endorsement process.

Please note that, upon approval and endorsement, the validity of the renewed DE Rantau Nomad Pass cannot exceed the validity period of the applicant's passport. While a renewal may be approved for up to **twelve (12) months**, the actual duration granted will be limited to the passport's expiry date if the passport has less than twelve (12) months of remaining validity.

For example, if an applicant's passport has only **eight (8) months** of validity remaining at the time of endorsement, the pass validity may be restricted to those **eight (8) months**, notwithstanding the approved renewal period.

Applicants are therefore strongly encouraged to renew their passport before submitting a renewal application to maximise the validity period that may be granted and to avoid potential delays during processing or endorsement.

41. What additional documents are required under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework?

Under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework, applicants seeking a **second renewal (third year)** are required to submit a **Renewal Eligibility Report (RER)** as a mandatory renewal requirement.

The RER must cover the applicant's activities, employment status, and professional engagements throughout the validity period of the **initial DE Rantau Nomad Pass** and the **first renewal period**. The report must be submitted in the prescribed format and supported by relevant documentary evidence.

The RER must include, where applicable:

- Employment, freelance, business, or professional engagement history;
- Income records and sources of earnings;
- Tax compliance status, including confirmation of no outstanding tax liabilities and proof of tax filing and payment, where applicable; and
- Any other information or supporting documents as may be required by MDEC or the relevant authorities.

Submission of a complete and accurate RER is mandatory for the assessment of a second renewal application. Failure to submit the RER or any supporting documents required by MDEC may result in the application being considered incomplete and may affect the outcome of the renewal assessment.

42. Why do I need to submit a Renewal Eligibility Report (RER) for my second renewal application?

The Renewal Eligibility Report (RER) enables MDEC to assess whether applicants continue to meet the eligibility and compliance requirements under the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework.

The report must provide information on employment or professional activities, income sources, tax compliance, and other relevant matters covering the applicant's initial pass and first renewal period.

Submission of a completed RER and supporting documents is mandatory for all second renewal applications. Failure to do so may result in the application being considered incomplete and may affect the outcome of the assessment.

Note: A standard RER template will be available under the **Mandatory Documents** section of the DE Rantau website at www.mdec.my/derantau.

43. Where can I obtain further information regarding the Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework?

For the latest programme requirements, application guidelines, document templates, and announcements, applicants are advised to refer to the official DE Rantau website. In the event of any inconsistency between this FAQ and any applicable policies, guidelines or requirements issued by MDEC or the relevant authorities, the latest official requirements shall prevail.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Enhanced DE Rantau Nomad Pass Framework is subject to applicable immigration laws, policies, programme requirements and approvals issued by the relevant authorities from time to time. MDEC reserves the right to review, amend, or update programme requirements from time to time where necessary. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they comply with the prevailing requirements at the time of application submission.