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Company and residence in Serbia: the 2026 guide

What it costs in total, how long each step really takes, which documents you need and where files usually get stuck. Written by our lawyer, who has been doing this work in Belgrade for 14 years.

Updated October 2026. General information, not advice on your specific case. Fees as of October 2026.
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1. The short version

Most people who write to us want the same thing: their own company in Serbia, a bank account, and the right to live here with their family. The usual route looks like this:

1. **Company (d.o.o.)** registered by power of attorney. You don't travel. About 5 working days after the original power of attorney reaches Belgrade.
2. **Registered address** in Belgrade, with the white card (police registration of address) the bank asks for.
3. **Visa D** at the Serbian embassy where you live, based on the company. Usually 30 to 45 days.
4. **Temporary residence** after you arrive. Usually 30 to 45 days. Permits now run for up to three years.
5. **Bank account** for the company, and later a personal account.
6. **Permanent residence** after three years of continuous temporary residence.

> The three years toward permanent residence start only from your first approved temporary residence. Everything before that, including the time it takes to decide, does not count.

2. What it costs in total

Step	Usual time	Our fee
Company registration (d.o.o.), one founder	about 5 working days after the original arrives	€370
Registered address in Belgrade with white card, 12 months	same week	€480
Visa D	30 to 45 days	€550 per person
Temporary residence	30 to 45 days	€850 per person
Bookkeeping by a licensed accountant	monthly	about €100 per month
Business bank account	depends on the bank	on request

On top of our fees you pay the state and third parties directly, with receipts: court translation of the power of attorney (€40 each), notary in Belgrade (€80), the Business Registers Agency fee (8,000 dinars, about €70 in 2026), and the apostille and courier in your own country. For a company with one founder this is usually around €180 to €190.

Example: one entrepreneur, alone

Company €370 + address €480 + Visa D €550 + residence €850 = **€2,250** in fees, plus around €190 in state and translation costs, plus Serbian administrative fees for the visa and the permit.

Example: entrepreneur with spouse and two children

Company and address €850 once, then Visa D and residence for four people: 4 × (€550 + €850) = €5,600. Total **€6,450** in fees, plus state costs. Family members apply on the basis of family reunification once your file is in.

3. Documents

For the company

- Passport copy of each founder and the director
- A power of attorney signed at a notary where you live, with an apostille (or legalisation where the apostille does not apply). We send you the text ready to sign
- If the founder is a company: a recent register excerpt, apostilled
- Company name (give us two or three options), activity and share capital

For Visa D and residence

- Valid passport
- Proof of the basis: your Serbian company and your role in it
- Proof of accommodation in Serbia
- Proof of means and health insurance
- Photos and fee receipts

Embassies differ. Some ask for a bank statement for the last months, some for a police certificate, some for documents translated in advance. We give you the exact list for your embassy after we know your passport and where you live.

4. The bank account: what really happens

This is the part where most people get surprised, so here it is plainly.

- The bank decides. Not us, not the law. Every bank runs its own checks on you, the company and where the money comes from.
- The director usually has to come to the bank once, in person. We book the appointment and come with you.
- The bank asks for the white card, the police registration of your address in Serbia. It is included in our registered address.
- Some passports and some business models get extra questions. A clear description of who your clients are, what you sell and how much will go through the account makes the biggest difference.
- If one bank refuses, we apply to another one without an extra fee.

5. Taxes in one paragraph

A Serbian company pays 15% tax on profit. Salaries are generally taxed at 10%, plus social contributions. Dividends and capital gains are generally taxed at 15%. VAT is 20%, and registration for VAT becomes mandatory once turnover passes 8 million dinars in 12 months, so many small companies stay outside VAT for a long time. You become a Serbian tax resident if your life is centred here or you spend 183 days or more in Serbia within 12 months. That does not automatically end your tax residency at home. Check that before you move.

6. Where files get stuck

From the cases we see every week:

1. **The power of attorney.** Signed without an apostille, or the apostille is on the wrong document, or the name is spelled differently than in the passport. It costs two to three weeks. Send us a photo before you courier the original.
2. **The company exists only on paper.** For residence the company has to actually work: a real activity, a director, an account, books. The police can check it.
3. **Waiting for the "right moment".** The company takes a week. People lose months deciding, and the residence clock doesn't start until the first permit.
4. **The bank is treated as automatic.** It isn't. Prepare the business description honestly and early.
5. **Using someone's flat as the address without consent.** The owner has to agree in writing. Our registered address avoids that problem.

7. What we don't do

So that nobody wastes time:

- We don't find jobs and we don't arrange work permits through employers.
- We don't promise residence, a bank account or citizenship. The police, the embassy and the bank decide. We prepare files that pass.
- We don't do fictitious lease agreements or "paper" companies for residence.
- We work in writing only, by WhatsApp and email. You get every answer in a form you can keep.

8. How to start

1. Write to us with your nationality, where you live now, what the company will do, and whether family is coming with you.
2. We reply in writing with the route, the documents and the fees for your case. The first written reply is free.
3. When you decide, you send your passport copy and email. You get an engagement agreement and an invoice. After payment we send the power of attorney.

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Useful tools on the site: residence stay calculator (serbiagate.com/serbia-stay-calculator/), company cost calculator, document checklists, and which route fits you (serbiagate.com/which-route/).

This guide is general information as of October 2026 and not legal or tax advice on your specific case. Laws, fees and bank practice change. We confirm everything in writing before you pay.