



Foreign &
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Office

UK in UAE

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CONSULAR NEWSLETTER : JULY

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3 month amnesty for visa rule violators to commence on 1st August 2018 ([Gulf News](#))

Expats who have overstayed their visas will be given 3 months in which to either rectify their legal status by paying nominal fees, or leave the UAE voluntarily without prosecution and without a 'no-entry' passport stamp.

Brigadier Saeed Rakan Al Rashedi, Acting Director General of Foreigners Affairs and Ports Department at the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship said that a toll free number is to be set up soon to answer public inquires and warned that missing this opportunity would expose any violation of the laws of residency in the country to legal consequences including prosecution and fines.

In other changes there will be a new 6-month visa for job seekers who have overstayed their visa but who wish to work in the country; there will also be special 1 year visas for widows, divorcees and people from war torn countries; and individuals wanting to adjust or renew their visa will be able to do this for free without having to leave and re-enter the country.

UAE's new visa regulations – what we know so far ([The National](#))

Under new regulations the UAE will soon offer visas of up to 10-years for specialists (and their families) working in medicine, science, research and technical fields, as well as foreign investors establishing a business here. Foreign companies will also be able to own 100% of their business and students would be able to secure 5-year visas (with 'exceptional' graduates potentially being able to stay in the country for 10 years).

Businesses, government officials and the UAE's workforce are awaiting further details of the plans which should be ready by the end of 2018.

Have you checked your (and your children's) passport validity recently?

Family holiday booked? Remember to check the expiry date on children's passports as they are only valid for 5 years. To renew your passport please apply online to <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports>.

Remember to also check Travel Advice (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>) for the country you are visiting to ensure you have sufficient validity remaining on your passport to gain entry (many countries require at least 6 months).

If your friends/relatives are visiting the UAE their passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into the UAE. If you hold a residence permit, your passport must be valid for at least 3 months in order to travel into and out of the country.



British Museum renames gallery after Sheikh Zayed ([The National](#))

The British Museum has renamed Gallery 51, which exhibits how the arrival of farming transformed life in Europe, as Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Gallery for Europe and the Middle East. An agreement has also been made to see objects from the UK exhibited at the Zayed National Museum when it opens on Saadiyat Island.

Vehicle need registering soon? Don't delay! ([Gulf News](#))

A smart system in Abu Dhabi that detects unregistered vehicles was activated in April this year and caught over 18,000 cars in its's first two weeks! Violators are fined Dh500, given four black points and have a vehicles impounded for 7 days.

Abu Dhabi Airport opens a new sleeping facility for transit passengers ([Gulf News](#))

Next time you hear of someone transiting the UAE with hours to spare let them know about Aerotel's new facility. It is open 24 hours a day and offers two-hour day packages and four-hour night packages to weary travellers.

New 'Infinity bridge' to cross Dubai Creek ([What's On](#))

Sheikh Mohammed has revealed plans for the construction of a new bridge that crosses the Dubai Creek and features an iconic design based on the mathematical symbol for infinity.

Good news for Oman lovers ([Times of Oman](#))

A new short stay visa has been announced by Omani authorities. According to a decree by the Royal Oman Police, the visa will allow tourists to enter the Sultanate for 10 days for OMR5 (roughly 50aed).

Contact Numbers:

British Embassy - Abu Dhabi Tel: 02 610 1100; Dubai Tel: 04 309 4444

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