



Azerbaijan

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1 Health Care

General information on health care

Healthcare in Azerbaijan is provided by public and private healthcare institutions and regulated through the Ministry of Healthcare. The State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established on 27 December 2007 and implements mandatory health insurance through accumulating revenues to finance medical services within the benefit package and acting as the purchaser of these services.

Mandatory Health Insurance

Staged implementation of mandatory health insurance (MHI) was introduced on 1 January, 2022. Since 1 April, 2021 mandatory health insurance has been applicable throughout the country. A benefit package is a set of health services provided to insured person accordingly to the type, volume and conditions of health services provision and paid for from the mandatory health insurance fund. The benefit package covers the following medical services as part of the pilot project of MHI:

- First aid and emergency medical care;
- Primary healthcare;
- Outpatient services;
- Inpatient services;
- Instrumental diagnostics and laboratory services;
- Physiotherapy;
- Surgeries (lifesaving and expensive medical services)

The full list of medical services covered under mandatory health insurance can be found here:

<https://its.gov.az> (page:benefits, available in Azerbaijan, English, and Russian languages). The Benefit Package does not include medical services provided as part of state programs, as well as cosmetic procedures, plastic surgeries, dental services, organ transplantation, artificial insemination, and other medical services. The medical services not included in the Benefit Package must be paid at the beneficiary's expense.

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Public hospitals in Azerbaijan are state-run and offer free medical care for Azerbaijani residents. Public facilities include policlinics, which offer outpatient services, and hospitals, dispensaries, and specialized clinics, which offer both outpatient and inpatient services. The private healthcare sector has undergone expansion in recent years and offers high standards of care, modern equipment, and well-qualified staff.

Admission to medical facilities

Presenting an identity card at the front desk of the healthcare facility is required to receive medical services covered by mandatory health insurance. Except for emergency and urgent medical care, the insured should first consult a family physician regarding health problems. A family physician is a specialist who specializes in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of adults and children's diseases. Family physicians may provide treatment or, based on medical prescriptions, send the patient for instrumental or laboratory testing and, if necessary, refer him to medical specialists for treatment.

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Availability and costs of medication

The Tariff Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan defines the costs of state-registered medications. Some predefined (by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan) drugs should be provided by healthcare institutions free of charge / only in public hospitals/clinics. List of medicines provided based on the free medicines recipes: <http://sehiyye.gov.az/imtiyazli-derman-preparatlar.html>

General information on COVID-19

Information about Coronavirus may be obtained by calling 1542 - Call Center of the Agency. The hotline on Coronavirus operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If a person experiences respiratory symptoms (fever, weakness, cough, nausea, shortness of breath), s/he may call the emergency telephone numbers at 103 (within Baku) or 113 (outside of Baku) and undergo a medical examination. Hotline numbers are of Operative Headquarters available to inform the public and prevent disinformation: +994 12 492 41 61, +994 12 492 75 54, +994 12 505 03 30, + 994 12 505 13 33. A special website <https://koronavirusinfo.az/az> has been created to provide the most updated COVID-19-related information and instructions for citizens and health workers. In accordance with international experience, special state healthcare facilities have been defined in the country for laboratory diagnostics of Coronavirus infection. The laboratories in specially designated medical facilities are fully compliant with all the biosafety and other quality standards set by WHO. An operative Task Force consisting of the top officials from the relevant state bodies and agencies has been established under the

Cabinet of Ministers for the prevention of Coronavirus risk in Azerbaijan and expeditious implementation of preventive and urgent measures.

Vaccination

In accordance with the «Vaccination Strategy against COVID-19 in the Republic of Azerbaijan for the years 2021 and 2022», based on the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 16 January 2021, the process of vaccination started on 18 January 2021. Individuals aged 18 and above are being vaccinated. Sinovac, Sputnik V, and Pfizer vaccines are used for vaccination. Vaccination certificates are issued to persons who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 with both doses. To get vaccinated, it is necessary to make an online appointment for Coronavirus vaccination using the electronic service «COVID-19 vaccine appointment». The person visits the selected health facility on the appointed date and time and receives the first dose of the vaccine. There is no need to re-register for the second dose of the vaccine 28 days after the first dose. During the first application, an online appointment is made for the second dose at the correct time interval and same place. Here you can find answers to the most frequently asked questions about vaccinations. Source:

<https://its.gov.az/>

<https://covid19.isim.az/>

1 Health Care

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: According to the law of the Azerbaijan Republic of 26 June, 1997, No. 360-IQ on Public Health Care (or code on the Protection of Public Health), medical services should be free of charge at state-owned hospitals and care units. If a national holds a valid ID, there is no restriction to getting treatment at state-owned healthcare institutions.

Everyone except persons working under a contract of employment, physical persons implementing works (services) under civil-law contracts, and physical persons registered as taxpayers are exempted from payment of mandatory health insurance premiums. Their insurance premiums will be paid from the state budget.

The mandatory health insurance does not apply to military servicemen on fixed-term military service, arrested persons, persons deprived of their liberty for certain terms and persons serving life imprisonment (except persons in detention facilities), foreigners or stateless persons temporarily visiting, temporarily or permanently living in the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the Migration Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (except foreigners or stateless persons who were granted refugee status in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as foreigners and stateless persons who are under the protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Republic of Azerbaijan).

Registration procedure

The registration procedure for MHI takes place as following:

- The insured should approach the nearest state medical institution (polyclinic / Family Health Center / rural doctor's office) providing the primary health care in the area where the insured lives
- An application form for choosing a family doctor should be filled out
- Along with the application form, the insured must submit an identity card and a document on registration at the address of residence
- If the Insured does not choose a family doctor, he/she will be assigned to a family doctor based on the «Rules of admission of the Insured to the state medical institution for primary health care.»

Required documents: Valid ID

1 Health Care



Photo: IOM Azerbaijan

2 Labour market

General information on the labour market

One of the main trends of the social-economic policy realized in the Republic of Azerbaijan during the last years is the development of the labour market and the effective use of the labor force. Reforms implemented in the country are caused by changes in fundamental quality in the country's economy, and dynamic economic development has been provided. Relevant measures were taken in the direction of regional economic development, increasing social welfare and the life level of the population in the regions and economy of the country, and carrying out the development of the non-oil sector. New job places, enterprises, and infrastructure objects are created to provide employment for the population. In 2023, the number of economically active population increased by 662.23 thousand persons, coming to a total of 5,249,700 thousand persons compared to 2010, of which 4,963,300

persons are engaged in the fields of economic activity, 286,400 persons are unemployed. The realization of reforms in the economy, especially the privatization of enterprises and organizations in the state property, were the reasons for significant changes in employment distribution by state and non-state sectors. So, in 2010 if the share of persons employed in the state sector made 26,4% of total number of persons engaged in economy, that in 2023 this indicator was decreased up to 21.4% and the number of persons employed in non-state sector was increased for 1,2 times during this period. In 2023, 2,554,400 persons or 51.5% of the total number of the employed population in the economy were engaged in production fields (agriculture and fishing, industry, construction) and the number of persons employed in the field of service was 2,408,900 persons and that made 48.5% of the employed population. 1,745,500 persons or 35.2% from the total number of the employed



Photo: IOM Azerbaijan

2 Labour market

population in the economy in 2023 was the share of employees workers. The majority of employees were aggregated in large and medium enterprises. During the 2010-2023 years, average monthly nominal wages and salaries of employees were increased for 2.8 times, made 933,9 manat. (Source: <https://www.stat.gov.az/source/labour/?lang=en>)

Finding employment

The State Employment Agency conducts activities related to the organization of active employment measures, management of unemployment insurance funds, measures for social protection of job seekers and the unemployed, control over compliance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan «On Employment,» as well as labor market analysis and - is a public legal entity operating in the field of implementation of control measures related to the detection and prevention of formal employment, organization of enlightenment, information, propaganda work in this regard. The Agency operates under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan and provides employment assistance through regional and city Employment Centers.

Unemployment assistance

The State Employment Agency under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan assists with unemployment. If unemployed citizens had paid work for at least 26 calendar weeks in the 12 months preceding the beginning of unemployment (from the date of registration as a job seeker in the city or district employment center), their unemployment benefit is 70% of the average monthly salary

calculated for the last 12 months. It should also be noted that if an unemployed person has a child under 18, the amount of unemployment benefits is increased by 10 percent of the benefits for each child, but not more than 50 percent. If both parents in the family are entitled to unemployment benefits, a 10 percent increase for each child applies to one parent. The benefit is provided for 26 calendar weeks over 12 months. If a person is still not provided with a suitable job 12 months after receiving the status of unemployed, he/she is entitled to re-benefits. In this case, the person is entitled to a minimum amount of benefits.

A one-time allowance (600 AZN) is available to support the initial financial conditions of specialists living and working in the liberated territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. According to the Labor Code, specialists working in the liberated territories based on an employment contract should have graduated from vocational, secondary, and higher education institutions and have at least 2 years of work experience in the last 5 years. If the worker becomes eligible to receive the allowance, depending on the place of residence the worker can apply to the structural unit of the State Social Protection Fund, the "DOST" center, or the "Centers of unified coordination for applications who members of the families of martyrs, military personnel injured in war and disabled persons" to receive the benefit. Currently, this allowance is determined proactively without applying to any government agency or submitting any documents.

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Further education and training

Vocational training of job seekers and unemployed people registered in the employment centers shall be provided by the employment center in the following cases:

- when job seekers and unemployed persons are not able to choose suitable employment for them, because they do not have the necessary profession or specialty
- if the employer or unemployed loses the ability to work in the previous occupation

The employment centers organize professional training for unemployed persons for free. Job seekers are involved in vocational training on a paid basis. In the organization of vocational training, persons, who have not worked for more than 3 years or have no profession, have a priority right.

An unemployed person is paid a grant in the amount of a minimum monthly salary at the time of his / her professional training by the employment center.

When an unemployed person receiving unemployment insurance is involved in vocational training, he/she does not receive a grant at the time of receiving unemployment insurance.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: The following persons are not allowed to be registered as unemployed:

- Those under the age of 15.
- Full-time students in higher and secondary special education institutions.
- Persons who have been granted an old-age pension or old-age allowance in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, «On Labor Pensions» or «On Social Benefits.»
- Except for the cases specified in the Labor Code of the Azerbaijan Republic, persons terminating the employment contract concluded based on a referral on their own initiative before the period specified in this contract within 6 (six) months.

Registration procedure: Procedures for unemployed people and jobseekers to register with the employment centers:

- Individuals can register as unemployed persons or job seekers in the employment centers.
- Individuals are registered as job seekers after completing the electronic application in the electronic information system.
- Once a person is registered as a job seeker, an individual employment statement is drawn up based on the information entered into the electronic information system.
- If the person is not offered a job within 5 (five) working days from the date of registration as a job seeker or is refused to be accepted by the employer(s), the employment center shall decide on the person's

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status as an unemployed person and make a respective record on the personal employment statement.

- Unemployed persons and job seekers have the right to receive their own employment information from the electronic information system in real-time.
- Those who are registered as an unemployed person and job seekers should update their information in the electronic information system if information about their specialty, occupation, health care, or residence address is changed.

Required documents

- Valid Identity document;
- Employment record book (or a document substituting it);
- Document confirming the profession or specialty (if necessary).

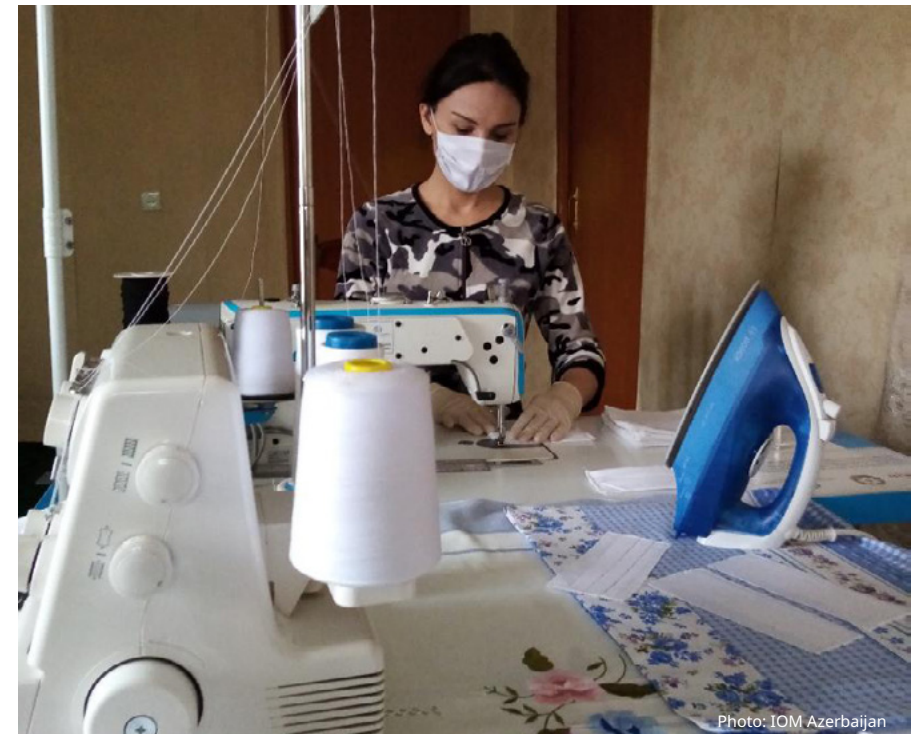


Photo: IOM Azerbaijan

3 Housing

General information on housing

Two types of residence are predominant in Azerbaijan: single-family detached homes and multi-family residential. Additional kinds of housing include dormitories, communal apartments, and summerhouses. Property in Azerbaijan is classified as primary or secondary. Primary housing was constructed after 2001, while secondary housing was built during the Soviet period. Prices for primary housing are higher than those in the secondary housing market, except for secondary housing apartments that are centrally located and in walking distance from popular and historical places.

Average apartment prices (rent):

- 1 bedroom in city centre of Baku 300-350 €/Ganja 100-150 €
- 1 bedroom outside of centre Baku 150-200 €/Ganja 50-100 €
- 3 bedrooms in city centre Baku 600-650 €/Ganja 200-250 €
- 3 bedrooms outside of centre Baku 300-350 €/Ganja 150-200 €

Apartment prices (per m²)

- city centre Baku 1200-1400 €/Ganja 400-500 €
- outside of centre Baku 600-800 €/Ganja 200-300 €

Prices for the utilities are as following:

Water: 1 m³ = 0.7 AZN (Baku, Sumgayit, Khirdalan cities, and Absheron districts) and 0.6 AZN (other regions) Gas: 1 m³ = 0.12 AZN (for the annual consumption volume up to 1200 m³), 0.2 AZN (for the annual consumption volume of 1200 - 2500 m³), 0.25 AZN (for the part of the annual consumption volume exceeding 2500 m³).

Electricity: 1 kilowatt/hour = 0.08 AZN (for the monthly consumption up to 200

kWh), 0.09 AZN (for the monthly consumption up to 300 kWh), 0.13 (for the monthly consumption exceeding 300 kWh).

Finding accommodation

Several private companies provide services for finding accommodation, and service fees vary. Besides, there are several property search websites available in Azerbaijan and Russian languages:

<https://bina.az/>

<https://yeniemlak.az/>

<https://vipemlak.az/>

Social grants for housing

Under the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No.1125, «On some measures to improve the public administration,» dated 24 November 2016, the State Housing Development Agency Legal Entity was established based on the State Housing Development Agency. The main purpose of the Agency is to organize the construction of residential buildings and other construction facilities that meet the ecological and energy efficiency requirements in the modern architectural style in the land plots allocated to it to facilitate access to affordable housing (housing at a reasonable price) for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to participate in the implementation of policy in the field of territorial planning, design and architecture in those land plots, and to coordinate activities

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Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: For members of the young family:

- family members of victims of the January 1990 events (husband/wife, children),
- benefactors (himself husband/wife, children),
- forced migrants or equivalent person,
- someone who has served at least 3 years of civil service, as well as a person serving a special type of civil service,
- a teacher working at government school for at least 5 years,
- a person with a Ph.D. degree,
- a person who has special services in the field of sports (Honorary Physical Education and Sports Officer, winner of country-wide races (I place), winner of international competitions (I, II or III))
- person who has worked as a journalist for at least 5 years and is included in the Media Register system.

For other people regardless of family situation and age:

- a person who has a scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences,

- a person serving as a civil servant at least for 15 years or serving a particular type of civil service,
- military servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan who have at least 3 years of military service, including reserve and resignation (except military servicemen who are currently in the actual military service), as well as servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan who was reserved and resigned Military servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan («Military duty and military service») a person with special rank, who employed by internal affairs authorities for at least 3 years,
- scientific workers who have worked for at least 3 years in the scientific position
- a person with special rank who has been employed by internal affairs authorities for at least 3 years,
- a person working as a teacher at a state general education establishment for at least 15 years,
- person who has worked as a journalist for at least 5 years and is included in the Media Register system.

Registration procedure:

These people will be able to choose an apartment after applying and registering through the «Discounted housing» system. The «discounted housing» electronic system is two-tier. First of all, based on the information provided by the applicant, it will be checked whether it belongs to the approved category. The application will be considered within 5 working days and a decision on registration will be made.

Required documents:

<https://mida.gov.az/elektron-xidmetler/gms>

4 Social welfare

Social welfare system

Social allowances are defined and paid as monthly or one-time payments to provide social assistance to certain categories of persons. Unless otherwise provided by international treaties to which Azerbaijan is a party, stateless persons and foreigners permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall have the right to receive monthly and one-time benefits on the terms and in the manner prescribed by this law for citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Available allowances:

- Pregnancy and birth allowance
- One-time allowance for the birth of a child
- Allowance for low-income families with children up to 1 year
- Childcare benefits up to the age of 3 years
- Benefits for women with more than five children
- Age allowance
- Disability allowance
- Social benefits to children under the age of 18 with disabilities
- Allowance for the loss of a family head (breadwinner)
- Monthly allowance for martyrs' children under the age of 16 (for students enrolled in public schools under the age of 18)
- Monthly allowance for children of military servants under the age of 16 (for students enrolled in public schools under the age of 18)
- Monthly allowance for children

- of persons disabled in the war and during 20 January events under the age of 16 (for students enrolled in public schools under the age of 18)
- Allowance for guardians of children who have lost their parents or lost their parental care
- One-time treatment allowance for victims of radiation accident
- One-time funeral allowance
- One-time allowance for persons released from punishment and in need of social adaptation
- Lifelong allowance for civil servants
- Allowance for utilities, transportation, and other services for children who have lost their parents or lost parental care
- Allowance for utilities, transportation, and other services to members of the martyr's family

Pension system

Pensions of the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as for foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, shall be appointed and paid according to the Law on Labor Pensions on equal terms with the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

According to the requirements of the Law «On Amendments to the Law «On Labor Pensions» of the Republic of Azerbaijan,» dated 3 February 2025, the minimum labor pension is set as 320 AZN.

Labor pensions are defined into three

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types:

- retirement age labor pension
- disability labor pension
- labor pension for the loss of a family head (breadwinner).

A labor pensioner has a right to move from one type of labor pension to another, except for the transition from a retirement-age pension to a disability labor pension. Retirement age and disability labor pensions comprise insurance and savings portions. The insurance portion of the labor pension is the amount calculated as the ratio of the pension capital recorded in the insurance section of the individual account to the number of months of the expected retirement period. The accumulation (savings) portion of labor pension is the amount calculated as the ratio of the pension capital accumulated in the savings account to the number of months of the expected retirement period. Labor pensions for the loss of a family head comprise only insurance portions. From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the age limit for retirement is 65 for males and 64 for females. By 1 July 2026, the age limit for both gender groups will be 65.

Vulnerable groups

Targeted social assistance (TSA) is the state's monthly subsidy to low-income families. Social assistance is financed from the state budget. TSA is provided for a period of 2 years starting from the month when the application is received. Low-income families have the right to apply for social assistance several times. Low-income families whose waverage

monthly income is below the basic poverty threshold for each family member (285 AZN is currently eligible) for reasons beyond their control are eligible for the TSA.

Low-income families receive TSA in the amount of the difference between the aggregate of the poverty line and the average monthly income.

Self-employment A special emphasis is placed on self-employment measures in the field of social policy to enhance the welfare of low-income families. Under the Self-employment program, low-income families are granted in-kind assistance from public funds in the form of goods, materials, and other property to set up or develop their own individual households. The family is provided with production or service equipment in accordance with their business plan.

The self-employment program also has significant advantages compared to alternative social protection measures. Thus, the program allows the achievement of several macro goals simultaneously. In general, the advantages of the self-employment program can be grouped as following:

- Formation of the family budget through sustainable sources of income
- Development of micro and small entrepreneurship
- Creating new jobs and reducing unemployment
- Increase efficiency of public funds spending
- Poverty reduction
- Strengthening inclusivity in the economy

4 Social welfare

Rules of participation in the program:

Participation in the self-employment program involves several stages. First, it is necessary to register at the local authorities (city, district employment centers) of the State Employment Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Ministry identifies persons who are registered as unemployed and job seekers in employment agencies and who have potential opportunities for self-employment and involves them in a monthly business training course.

At the training courses conducted with the participation of the International Labor Organization's Senior Trainer, participants will gain the necessary knowledge and skills related to the organization of business activities. Unemployed persons and job seekers who have completed their courses and are considered successful in their business plans will be provided with assets to organize their self-employment activities. These assets are provided in-kind on the base of 1-year contract.

After the delivery of assets, program participants will be provided with relevant business management and development advice and self-employment activities will be monitored for 1 year. If, at the end of the contract, the activities of that person correspond to the business plan submitted, the provided assets shall be transferred to the property of the self-employed person. Source: <http://social.gov.az/>

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Low-income families whose average monthly income is below the basic poverty threshold for each family member (285 AZN is currently eligible) for reasons beyond their control are eligible for Targeted Social Assistance (TSA).

The reasons beyond low-income families' control include: person's disability

- person is a labor pensioner
- care of an individual with a first-group disability, a child under the age of 8, or a child under the age of 18 with disabilities
- persons under the age of 23 receiving education in person
- registration of a person as unemployed in the local body of the State Employment Service in connection with the liquidation of a state body or a legal entity or the reduction of staff
- imprisonment of a person.

Registration procedure: Using a computer or mobile phone, a representative appeals electronically to the Unified Electronic Appointment and Assignment Subsystem (VEMTAS) through the VEMTAS window posted on the official website of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (www.social.gov.az) or through the «Referral of targeted social assistance» section in the list of services of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection on the e-government portal (www.e-gov.az). Once the application has been registered, VEMTAS will send the information on the computer screen. The shown date is a family application day for social assistance.

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Required documents:

An adult and able-bodied representative of the family can apply for TSA. The following documents must be obtained for this purpose:

- Certificate regarding family composition from administrative and territorial representations of the head of the district (city) executive power
- A notarized statement of representation based on that certificate.



Photo: Unsplash 2016/ Danie Franco

5 Education

General information on education

The number of general education institutions in the country in the academic year 2022/2023 is 4431. These include 3,364 schools in the regions, 318 under the Baku city Education Department, 212 in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, 37 boarding-type education institutions, 28 private general education institutions, 28 under the Ministry of Education, and 12 schools under other governmental agencies. 83% of general education institutions are in regions. 1,538,811 pupils get an education in the Azerbaijani sector, 158,754 pupils in the Russian sector, 1,119 pupils in the Georgian language sector, 9,170 pupils in the English language sector, 142 pupils in the French language sector, and 461 pupils in the Turkish language sector.

179 out-of-school education institutions operated over the Republic in 2023. 131807 pupils in 10202 groups took part in these educational institutions. Also, 6867 pedagogical staff over the personnel, study groups leaders, art directors, and accompanists were engaged in labour activity. 67 out of 179 out-of-school education institutions operating in the Republic (36 of them operate in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic) are Child Development centers. However, 76 of them are sports schools of chess (Ministry of Science and Education. Annual Report 2022).

The following states and levels of education exist in the Azerbaijan Republic:

I. Pre-school Education

Preschool education groups organized in schools accept children who live in

the area where the school is located and have reached the age of 5 in the same year. If a school in the residential area does not have a preschool group, children may be admitted to the preschool group of another school.

Admission to preschool groups is based on the territorial principle only in several general education institutions in Baku. The territorial principle is not applicable in other districts and cities. Registration via the electronic system "mektebeqebul.edu.az". children from IDP families are admitted to preschool groups in IDP schools.

II. General Education

General education provides students with the basics of science, inculcation of the necessary knowledge, skills, and habits, and prepares them for life and work. Students graduating from general secondary and completing secondary education are issued a certificate of general secondary education and a certificate of complete secondary education. Graduates who complete general education with special achievements are awarded a certificate of distinction or a special sample certificate. The certificate is a state document on general education and is the basis for continuing education at the next level or starting a job.

General education in the Azerbaijan Republic is comprised of the following stages: primary, general secondary, and complete secondary education.

- Primary education, which starts from the age of 6
- General secondary education, which is compulsory (9 years)

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- Complete secondary education (11 years)

III. Primary Vocational-professional education

Primary vocational-professional education is carried out to train the professional labour force in various vocations and popular professions based on the basis of general secondary education in compliance with the labour market demands.

IV. Secondary Vocational-professional education

Secondary vocational-professional education is mainly implemented at colleges, and corresponding units established within the higher educational institutions and concludes with the issuance of a sub-bachelor vocational-professional degree.

The normative period of full-time secondary special education programs is 3-4 years for those admitted from the general secondary education base, 2-3 years for those admitted from the full secondary education base (120-180 ECTS), and an extra one year for part-time education. This period is determined by the educational programs of different specialties.

Citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan have the right to receive paid and free education in state and non-state secondary special education institutions. The amount of tuition fees in non-state educational institutions is agreed upon by the Board of the educational institution each academic year. The admission of students to secondary special education institutions fully ensures the right of citizens to education. It is carried out through a competition based on a

program and a free choice of an educational institution for talented and trained applicants who have mastered educational programs better, corresponding to the relevant level of education.

V. Higher education

The training of specialists and scientific-pedagogic staff is carried out at three levels at the higher educational institutions of the Azerbaijan Republic:

- Baccalaureate (except for medical education)
- Master's degree (except for medical education)
- Post-graduate (doctoral) education

Anyone who has completed secondary education may receive higher education in the Republic of Azerbaijan. With the accession of Azerbaijan to the Bologna Process in 2005 and the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan «On Education» in 2009, the content of the Azerbaijani higher education system has been significantly updated, the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) was introduced and training of staff on three levels of higher education (bachelor, master and doctoral) has started.

The study period at the bachelor's level of higher education is 4-5 years and consists of 240-300 ECTS credits (300-360 credits in medical education). The study duration at the master's level is 1.5-2 years and consists of 90-120 ECTS credits. In doctoral studies, which is the third level of higher education, education is carried out under Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science programs. The study duration for the Doctor of Philosophy program is 3-4 years, and the Doctor of Science program is 4-5 years.

5 Education

Cost, loans, and stipends

The state secures the right to compulsory general secondary education for each citizen. Every student enrolled in public educational institutions enjoys the right to free-of-charge general education. The state sets forth the right to receive a one-time free-of-charge education at secondary vocational-professional education and each level of higher education in accordance with the legislation. According to the result of the admission examination from the State Examination Center of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SEC), top students receive free-of-charge education in state-owned higher education institutions, depending on the number of seats available. Education loans are provided by many banks functioning in the country, with a payment period of up to 48 months and incentive rates varying between 15-20%.

The Education Student Loan Fund was established on June 17, 2021, by the decree of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The rules for granting education student loans were approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' decision No. 226 dated July 24, 2021. Education student loans are provided to students who are citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and are enrolled in paid and full-time education at educational institutions operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan during the normative education period.

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Foreign diplomas are verified by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. As a rule, documents on higher education submitted for recognition (diplomas and accompanying

transcripts) must be legalized accordingly. Educational documents submitted for nostrification by the relevant official bodies of foreign countries with an «apostille» stamp/certificate by the competent authority of the issuing country should be legalized. The apostille stamp/certificate must be affixed to the original documents.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: n/a

Registration procedure: The returnees should approach the local public school with valid national ID and educational records for preliminary registration and further information.

Required documents: A list of required documents for approval of a foreign diploma is available for Bachelor and Master: <https://apply.enic.edu.az/uploads/Instructions/Documents.pdf> Source: <https://edu.gov.az/>



5 Education

According to the social Student Education Loan (SEL):

A student earns the right to receive social SEL when one of the following conditions is met:

- The student is a member of a family receiving targeted state social assistance;
- The student has a disability due to 31-60 percent impairment of bodily functions (Group 3);
- Those receiving a pension due to the loss of the head of the family;
- Those receiving social benefits due to the loss of the head of the family;
- If both parents (or the single parent if applicable) or other legal representatives belong to any of the following categories:
 - Persons with disabilities due to 61-100 percent impairment of bodily functions (Group 1 or 2);
 - Those registered as unemployed;
 - Pensioners due to age;
 - Those receiving social benefits due to age;
 - Those receiving a pension due to the loss of the head of the family;
- Individuals whose one parent has been officially recognized as having a disability due to 81-100 percent impairment of bodily functions, and whose other parent receives a scholarship from the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for caring for individuals with 81-100 percent impairment of bodily functions or those identified as disabled before the age of 18.;
- Individuals whose one parent has been sentenced to a fixed-term

imprisonment, life imprisonment, or restriction of liberty.

According to the standard Student Education Loan (SEL), when a student is not suitable for the social SEL, compliance with the standard SEL is checked. The student earns the right to receive the standard SEL when the following conditions are met:

- For students studying in the first semester of the first academic year:
- If the total score collected in the student admission exam is above the minimum threshold determined by the Fund's Supervisory Board:
- For bachelor's level: 250-700; (for students entering programs requiring special abilities – 100 points);
- For master's level: 50-100; (for students entering programs requiring special abilities – 30 points);
- For sub-bachelor level: between 110-300 points;
- For the level of higher technical and vocational education: the average of the final grades written for the relevant subjects is 3;
- If at least 20 percent of the annual tuition fee is paid.
- For other semesters:
- If the student's overall GPA is 71 points and above;
- If at least 20 percent of the annual tuition fee is paid.

5 Education

When the application is by a candidate for the social SEL, it proceeds to the loan formalization section. When the application is a candidate for the standard SEL, the student must confirm their agreement with the standard SEL or submit a request for a «re-evaluation» of their social status. When «re-evaluation» is selected, the conditions for social SEL

When the application is a candidate for the social SEL, it proceeds to the loan formalization section. When the application is a candidate for the standard SEL, the student must confirm their agreement with the standard SEL or submit a request for a «re-evaluation» of their social status.

When «re-evaluation» is selected, the conditions for social SEL are re-checked by the system, and the results of the verification are reflected in the

application tracking section, as well as an SMS is sent to the student regarding the status change. After confirming the students' applications, the system determines the amount of SEL to be granted to the student. The amount of the loan for the semester is determined at half the annual tuition fee approved by the relevant decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan for different education levels, different educational institutions, and different specialties for each academic year. The list of students entitled to receive SEL and information about the amount of the loan to be formalized are placed in the system, and a notification is sent to the student regarding the application to the relevant authorized bank.. Source: <https://ttkf.edu.az/>



Photo: IOM Azerbaijan 2023

6 Children

General situation of children and infants

The situation of children in Azerbaijan has improved considerably in recent years. One of the reasons for this progress has been the country's economic growth which contributed to a sharp drop in poverty rates. While in 2001 almost half of the population (49.6%) lived below the poverty line, only one in twenty people (5%) and even fewer children lived in poverty in 2013. As a result, more children have better opportunities to realize their rights today. Some good examples of important improvements regarding the situation of children and child rights in Azerbaijan are the fact that more children and mothers survive after birth and fewer children are deprived of family care and placed in institutions. In addition, more children are receiving financial benefits that help them to escape poverty and access services. Source: <https://www.unicef.org/azerbaijan/reports/rights-children-and-why-they-matter>

(Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

Azerbaijan has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues is a central executive power body implementing and regulating the state policy on family, women, and children's issues. UNICEF works to strengthen national child protection systems, particularly in the areas of integrated social services, access to justice, and monitoring of children's rights. National child protection systems include organizations vital to social welfare, education, and health care, as well as law enforcement agencies and organizations responding to children at risk.



Photo: IOM Azerbaijan 2022

6 Children

A strong child protection system addresses the many inter-connected challenges that can often confront children and their families. UNICEF supports the generation of data, knowledge, and analysis of child-focused information in Azerbaijan to support more equitable policy formulation and programming and budgeting, supporting the development of a national knowledge database for measuring and monitoring multidimensional child deprivations. This work includes both strengthening the technical capacity for data collection and analysis and producing research and studies on specific children's issues on the government's behalf. UNICEF is currently phasing out its in-country presence, with the Baku office expected to close soon. However, its work on behalf of children will continue remotely through its regional office and global headquarters.

SOS Children's Villages has been present in Azerbaijan since 2000. At present, the organization supports children, young people, and families in two locations in Azerbaijan; in 2006, SOS Children's Villages started working in Ganja, about 400 kilometers west of Baku and in 2010, in Sumgait to the north of Baku. The Program combines a variety of services and projects to target children and families at risk of deprivation of parental care.

The main purpose of the program:

- Ensuring that children deprived of parental care and orphans grow up in a family environment and help them build their own future
- To build lasting relationships with children within the family, to create conditions for them to live in accordance with their cultural and

religious traditions, and to help them develop their interests, abilities, and skills.

- To ensure that children acquire the education and training skills they need to become worthy members of society in the future

SOS Children's Villages Azerbaijan Association Public Union implements the Family-based care program in Baku and Ganja (SOS Children's Villages), Youth House projects, Education programs in Baku, Ganja, and Sumgait, Day Care Center projects in Baku and Ganja and Short-term care project in Ganja.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Criteria for admission of children to SOS Children's Villages:

- Children who have lost their parents.
- Children under the age of 8 whose parents have died.
- Children are deprived of parental care.
- Children whose parents are unknown.
- Children whose parents are deprived of parental rights.
- Children whose both parents have been declared missing or dead.
- Children whose parents are disabled.
- Children whose parents are ill.
- Children whose parents have denied their right to raise their children and to protect those rights.

Required documents: Children whose one parent has died, been arrested or missing, and whose other parent is mentally ill, or group I or II disabled, are admitted on the basis of an official letter from the District Executive Power.

7 Contacts

Azerbaijan Children's Union
Children's rights and protection
(+994 12) 513 24 63
az.children.union@gmail.com

SOS Children Village
Child protection
National Office: Baku, Nizami street 137, house 22
(+99412) 498 82 98, (+99455) 227 47 12; (+99455) 227 47 33,
Ganja Children Village: Ahmad Jamil street 189, (+994) 253 04 99, <https://soschildrens.az/>

Clean World Aid to Women Public Union
Woman and children aid
Ms. Mehriban Zeynalova
Baku, Mammadyarov street 18, apt. 5, (+994 12) 497 10 58, (+994 12) 511 34 15
(+994 55) 314 35 15
tamizdunyasu@gmail.com

Education Public Support Association of Youth of Azerbaijan (EPSAYA)
Education and youth support
Lankaran city, Javanshir street, Home 4q
(+ 994 51) 814 44 42
info@epsaya.az,
<http://epsaya.az/>

Protection of Rights of Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Azerbaijan, Protection of migrants rights. Baku, S. Mirgasimov street 4, flat 42,
(+994 12) 441 20 91
office@azerbaijanfoundation.az

Citizens' Labor Rights Protection League
Education work on labor rights Baku, A. Huseynov str. 7, Quarter 1061, apt. 7, flat 347
(+994 12) 530 86 25
<http://labourrights-az.org>

International Organization for Migration
UN agency for migration
31, Ibrahimpasha Dadashov Street, AZ1069 Baku, Azerbaijan
(+994 12) 563 44 27/28/29
iomazerbaijan@iom.int

International Monetary Fund Finance
Ministry of Finance, Samed Vurgun Street 83
AZ 1022, Baku
(+994 12) 497 01 88/ 89, agadirli@imf.org , <http://www.imf.org/external/country/AZE/rr/>

Consular Section of the Embassy
Tel: +49 (0)30 206 480 63 , +49 (0)30 219 161 51,
Email: berlin_consul@mfa.gov.az

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Federal Republic of Germany
Hubertusallee 43
14193 Berlin
+49 (0)30 219 161 3
+49 (0)30 219 161 52
berlin@mission.mfa.gov.az
<http://berlin.mfa.gov.az/>

Office of the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Stuttgart
Heilbronner Straße 154
70191 Stuttgart
+49 (0)711 263 7712 0
+49 (0)711 263 7712 9
info@honorarkonsulat-aserbaidtschan.de

International Islamic Relief Organization
Relief, Welfare and Development
(+994 12) 438 84 97/ 497 04 02

Council of Europe Human rights
Marine Plaza, 62 Uzeyir Hajibeyli Street, AZ1010, Baku
(+994 12) 599 11 62/ -63/ -64/ -65
fieldbaku@coe.int
<http://www.coe.int/>

Delegation of the European Union to Azerbaijan, 11th floor, 90A Nizami Street, Landmark III, Baku
(+994 12) 497 20 63
Delegation-Azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu, http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan/index_en.htm

World Bank Finance
90A Nizami Street, Landmark III, 5th Floor, AZ1010, Baku
(+994 12) 492 19 41
azerbaijan@worldbank.org
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/azerbaijan>

7 Contacts

Asian Development Bank Finance

45 A. Khagani Street, Landmark II Building, 4th Floor, AZ1010, Baku
(+994 12) 437 34 77
adbazrm@abd.org
<https://www.adb.org/countries/azerbaijan/main>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Finance

90A Nizami Street, Landmark III, 3rd Floor
AZ1010, Baku
(+994 12) 497 10 14
AliyevaE@ebrd.com, <https://www.ebrd.com/azerbaijan.html>

International Labour Org. Labour

24 Neftchiler Avenue, Dalgha Plaza, office 1008, AZ1095, Baku, (+994 12) 497 13 00, hamzayev@ilo.org, https://www.ilo.org/europe/about-us/WCMS_358255/lang--en/index.htm#8

TRACECA Transport and economy

68 Lermontov str. AZ1066, Baku
(+994 12) 492 93 21
mircea.ciopruga@ps.traceca-org.org
<http://www.traceca-org.org/en/countries/azerbaijan/>

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society

Humanitarian Aid
112, S. Vurgun Str., Baku, Azerbaijan
(+99412) 493 84 81
redcrescent@redcrescent.az
<https://eng.redcrescent.az/>

Food and Agriculture Organization, Nutrition

Food Safety Institute of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Binagadi District, 8th Residential Area, Quarter3123, Baku
(+994 12) 563 56 28
FAO-AZ@fao.org

World Health Organization

Health
3, UN 50th Anniversary Street
AZ1001, Baku
(+994 12) 498 98 88
whoaze@euro.who.int; <http://www.who.int/countries/aze/en/>

7 Contacts

Public universities

Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University, ADA University, Azerbaijan Medical University, Academy of Public Administration (Azerbaijan), Azerbaijan Technical University, Azerbaijan State Agrarian University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, Azerbaijan State Marine Academy, Azerbaijan State Oil Academy, Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku Academy of Music, Baku Slavic University, Baku State University, Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, Ganja State University, Lankaran State University, Mingachevir Polytechnic Institute, Nakhchivan State University, Sumgayit State University

Private Universities

Azerbaijan University, Baku Eurasian University, Khazar University, Odlar Yurdu University, Baku Engineering University, Western University, Nakhchivan Private University

Schools and Colleges

Azerbaijan Art College under the Academy of Arts; Technical College of Baku; Baku Oil-Energy College; Baku College of Management and Technology; Azerbaijan Finance-Economic College; Baku Technical School of Food Industry; Baku State College of Social Economy; Baku Computer College; Music College under Azerbaijan National Conservatory; Baku Industry Pedagogical Technical School; Aghdam Music Technical School; Shamakhy Cultural and Educational Technical School; Shusha Cultural and Educational Technical School; Shusha Music Technical School; Astara Pedagogical Technical School; Aghdam State College of Social Economy; Goychay State College of Management and

Technology; Zagatala State College of Management and Technology; Barda State College of Management and Technology; Kazakh State College of Social Economy; Tovuz State College of Social Economy; Nakhchivan State Technical College; Sabirabad State College of Social Economy; Shamakhy State Industry and Economy College; Guba State College of Social Economy; 3).

Baku College of Communication and Transport; Azerbaijan Sea Technical School of Fish Industry; Aghjabadi Pedagogical Technical School; Construction College under Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction.

Contacts of Ministries and Services

- Ministry of Internal Affairs: (+994 12) 102; (+994 12) 590 20 86; info@mia.gov.az
- State Migration Service: (+994 12) 919; (+994 12) 565 61 18/19/20/21/22; info@migration.gov.az
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources: (+994 12) 168; (+994 12) 538 85 08; info@eco.gov.az
- Ministry of Energy: (+994 12) 598 16 53/54/55; minenergy@minenergy.gov.az
- Ministry of Justice: (+994 12) 539 76 75; (+994 12) 510 10 01 / 537 05 54; contact@justice.gov.az
- international@justice.gov.az
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection: (+994 12) 142; (+994 12) 596 50 34; info@sosial.gov.az

7 Contacts

- Ministry of Youth and Sports: (+994 12) 465 84 21; mys@mys.gov.az
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: (+994 12) 596 90 00; katiblik@mfa.gov.az
- Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: (+994 12) 590-90-28
- Ministry of Economy: (+994 12) 1952; office@economy.gov.az
- Ministry of Agriculture: (+994 12) 1652; (+994 12) 498-08-44 / 498-89-14 / 498-66-18; web@agro.gov.az
- Ministry of Emergency Situations: (+994 12) 512 00 28 / 512 00 46 / 512 00 61; info@fhn.gov.az
- Ministry of Finance: (+994 12) 526 13 02
- Ministry of Culture: (+994 12) 147; (+994 12) 493 43 98 / 493 30 02 / 493 56 05; mct@mct.gov.az
- Ministry of Defence: (+994 12) 912; (+994 12) 538 61 31; pressmd@mod.gov.az
- Ministry of Digital Development and Transport: (+994 12) 1655; (+994 12) 498 58 38; mincom@mincom.gov.az
- Ministry of Health: (+994 12) 9103; (+994 12) 493 06 95
- Ministry of Science and Education: (+994 12) 146; (+994 12) 496 06 47; office@edu.gov.az
- Ministry of Defense Industry: (+994 12) 539 24 53; info@mdi.gov.az

8 At a glance

Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Documents:** bring diplomas/ certificates and other relevant official documents obtained from schools in Germany.
- **Birth certificates:** obtain apostille (legalization) from the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the birth certificate/s of newborn children.
- **Transfer:** receive information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey. Aeroexpress buses run from Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 to the Baku Railway Station (m/s "28th May"). Buses run from 06:00 AM till 11:15 PM every 20 minutes, and from 11:15 PM till 06:00 AM next day every 45 minutes. While traveling from the Airport to the Baku Railway Station, the bus makes a stops at the Surakhani bridge and Koroglu m/s. Travel time from the airport to the station is 30 minutes. Please note that travel time may vary due to weather and traffic conditions. Fare is 1.30 AZN and is paid by Multipass "BAKU KART". (<https://airport.az/az/transport/aero-express/from-airport/>)The service terminates at Samed Vurgun Park on the 28th May Street. The journey from the city center to the airport takes approximately 30-40 min. Taxis in Baku are the purple London cabs. To use the service of "London" taxis, it is enough to call Baku Taxi Company short code *9000. Other convenient twenty-four-hour taxi services are provided by "Motor Service" Company (99412) 189, "Salamtaksi" *9933 which receives the orders by calls 24/7.

- **Vaccination:** take vaccinations certificate/s from clinics/ hospitals that will be necessary when returning to the country of origin for the (re-)registration in public hospitals, especially for children.

Measures to be undertaken upon arrival

- **Documents:** apply for documents at the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ASAN) (<http://www.asan.gov.az/>),
- **Passport:** if you travel with a re-entry certificate (i.e. laissez-passer) and your national ID or passport is expired. Otherwise, there is no mandatory registration upon arrival.
- **Hospital registration:** re-check the registration in a public hospital near to the residing area.
- **Social support:** targeted social assistance is provided by the government to low-income families, if applicable.
- **Labour:** approach the State Employment Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population for the possible vocational training and employment purpose.
- **Housing:** contact the services assisting with the search for jobs and housing.
- **Education:** apply for childcare, schools, or other educational institutions.

8 At a glance

Temporary and permanent residence of foreigners and stateless persons in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Temporary residence

Foreigners and stateless persons intending to reside temporarily in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan should get a relevant permit for it. Permit (a permission card) for temporary residence in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan is issued to foreigners and stateless persons by the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Applications of foreigners and stateless persons for issuance of permit for temporary residence are processed within the period provided by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On State Fee" in accordance with the amount of state fee paid under this Law. The permit is issued for the period indicated in the applicant's application, but no longer than 1 year, and if there is a relevant reason, it can be extended for a period of no more than 2 years upon application.

Permanent residence

Foreigners and stateless persons temporarily residing for at least 2 years without interruption in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the basis of a relevant permit can submit an application to obtain a permit for permanent residence in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The duration of temporary residence in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan is considered uninterrupted if the person does not stay outside of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan for more than 90 days within 180 days. A permit for permanent

residence in the Republic of Azerbaijan is issued for the period of 5 years. At least 3 months before the expiry date of this permit, the permit for permanent residence can be extended again for 5 years upon application of foreigners or stateless persons. The number of extensions is not limited. Source: <https://migration.gov.az/en/page/73#>.

9 Virtual Counselling

Migrant assistance in Azerbaijan

The Virtual Counselling project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Germany. Migrants living in Germany who are considering a return are offered return and reintegration counselling by IOM staff in Azerbaijan. Local IOM staff can be contacted in Azerbaijani and English through online messengers.

This service aims to empower migrants to return in dignity by informing them about various return and reintegration options and assistance programmes.



Contact Shukran, Aydan and/or Naila at IOM Azerbaijan

WhatsApp: +994 502 252 292, +994 512152775

(Thu and Fri 15:00-17:00 CET)