

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	670
Land:	Tyrkiet
Kilde:	Nationalt ID-Center
Titel:	Türkiye: Turkish special passports
Udgivet:	3. november 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	4. april 2024



3 November 2023

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Türkiye: Turkish special passports

People, who are entitled to a special passport

The special passport of Türkiye is issued on an individual basis to government officials having reached what is called level one, two or three. A Turkish government official starts his/her career at level 15. For an employee to reach the higher levels he/she must pass certain exams. Reaching level two or three does not happen automatically, but note that level three can only be reached after gaining at least 12 years of experience.¹

The holder of a special passport is entitled to hold a special passport for the rest of his/her life. Turkish citizens with a special passport can also have an ordinary passport issued if necessary, for example in cases where the special passport has been submitted in connection with a visa application. A person with a special passport, on the other hand, will never be able to have a service passport or a diplomatic passport. Special passports can be used on both official and private trips, and the special passport gives visa freedom in the Schengen area.²

Spouses and children under the age of 18 are also entitled to a special passport. Any children of the holder of a special passport under the age of 25 years, who are unmarried, under education or not employed, are entitled to a special passport as well.³ Spouses are entitled to keep their special passport the rest of their life, but lose the passport in case of divorce from the person awarded the special passport.⁴

Issuance of the Turkish special passport

Since 4 April 2018, all passports in Türkiye are issued by Nüfus ve Vatandaşlık İşleri, Genel Müdürlüğü, (NVI). The NVI is the national authority responsible for civil registration and citizenship and is also the passport issuing authority in Türkiye. Passports issued before this date were issued by the police and the governor in each

¹ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 9.

² Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 9.

³ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 9.

⁴ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 9.

district.⁵ The only exception is the diplomatic passport, which is issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁶

Applications for special passports to the holder and relevant family members are submitted by the employer. When applying for a special passport to a spouse a marriage certificate must be provided.⁷

According to Landinfo, Turkish citizens must book an appointment online, before going to the local Nüfus department. Here, the applicant must provide fingerprints of all ten fingers. The applicant must bring two passport photos (pictures cannot be taken on site), furthermore the applicant must bring a national ID card (*Kimlik*) containing a picture and a receipt of the passport fee having been paid as well as his/her last issued passport, if possible. People applying for a special passport must furthermore provide an application form that have been stamped and signed by the organisation of employment.⁸

In case the applicant is a minor, he/she must submit a letter including a power of attorney from both parents. The aforementioned letter must be issued and approved by a notary public. The parents of the underage applicant must be present when submitting the application at the local Nüfus department.⁹

Issued special passports are sent by post to a registered address in Türkiye, and can also be collected from the Nüfus office, where the passport application was submitted.¹⁰

Validity and renewal

The special passport is valid for a maximum of five years. It is also possible to get a special passport with shorter validity period (from six months up to five years). This depends on what is determined in the stamped letter/application form from the employer.¹¹ However, it is not possible to extend the validity period. When the validity period of the special passport expires, a new passport must be issued.¹²

When renewing the special passport the applicant must follow the same procedures when applying for the first special passport. The passport applicant must take new fingerprints and must submit two new passport photos.¹³

⁵ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 6.

⁶ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 8.

⁷ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 9.

⁸ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 6.

⁹ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 6.

¹⁰ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 7.

¹¹ Pegasus (year of issue n/a).

¹² Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 9.

¹³ Landinfo, 21 January 2019, page 7.

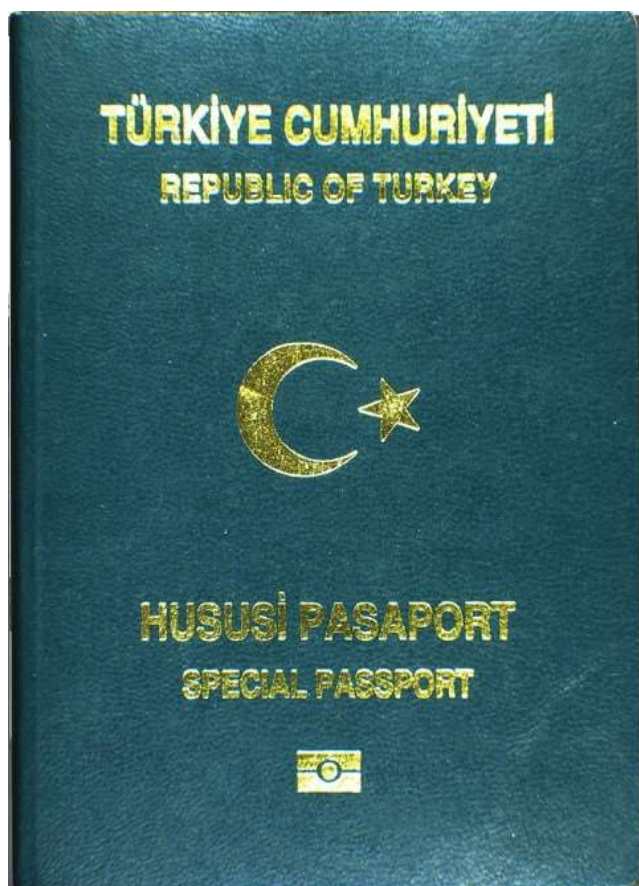


Image 1: Example of a Turkish special passport (NIDC reference material).

References

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