



The 10-Step Process for Setting Up a Business in Dubai

A detailed guide designed for any aspiring entrepreneur or established business owner looking to relocate to Dubai to familiarise them with the process and documentation required, as well as to help them prepare for the process before it begins.

Introduction

It's as easy as 1,2,3... said no one ever about starting a business in a foreign country. However, we believe that establishing a business in Dubai is as simple as "1 to 10." Yes, you read that correctly. At first glance, it may not appear simple, but this 10-step process is designed to make it possible for any aspiring entrepreneur or established business owner to make Dubai their business home.

In this guide, we explain everything you need to know and do to set up your company, get it registered, and get started in Dubai, a cosmopolitan city known for its enabling tech-infused infrastructure, visionary and innovation-loving government, and a strong economic landscape.

10 Steps to Starting a Business in Dubai

- 1 Team up with a local partner
- 2 Choose your zone
- 3 Pick your license type
- 4 Select the category
- 5 Choose a trade name
- 6 Make a minimum investment
- 7 Secure initial approvals and agreements
- 8 Select your address/premises
- 9 Submit your documents
- 10 Get a license

1. Team up with a local partner

They say all is well that ends well. We believe in the opposite. All is well, and only so, that starts well.

To make sure you are making all the right moves from the very beginning, it is advisable to select and stick to a local partner. Being an established player of the market, the local partner will guide you through the journey like no other.



2. Choose your zone

Before setting up, decide upon the zone that works best for you.

Whether you would like to go for a Free Zone or Offshore or establish a Franchise or a Mainland company—assess your requirements and make a decision before you do anything else.

3. Pick your license type

Choose out of commercial, industrial, or professional license, depending upon the kind of business you are into.

The Dubai Department of Economic Development (DED) is responsible for issuing licenses and you can choose as per your business activity.



4. Select the category

After selecting the license, define your business further by choosing a specific category your business belongs to.

You can look for your business type in the official lists of the business activities as per the Dubai Department of Economic Development.



5. Choose a trade name

This is a part that you have probably already done. Choosing the right name for your business and registering it is one of the most important steps in getting your business established.

Choose a name that reflects your brand and conveys your ideology as you want it. However, you might also have to check about copyrights and trademarks for registration of the final name.



6. Make a minimum investment

Almost all businesses require some amount of initial funding to start with.

Look at your plans for initial investment well in advance and decide on all the financials, the fees required, the infrastructure and logistics costs and this little planning will come in handy during the later stages of business establishment.



7. Secure initial approvals and agreements

Apply for initial approval to ensure that your business does not violate general Emirate laws and regulations. This process is typically completed online, but you may submit the documents in person, including your business registration and licensing form, a copy of your passport or government-issued photo ID, a copy of your residence permit/visa, and any documents related to the feasibility of your business project. This is also the stage at which you sign all of the necessary contracts and prepare to open an office.



8. Select your address/premises

Now, it is time to get real.

In Dubai, it is compulsory for all businesses to have a physical address so your Free Zone partner or your local partner will help you profusely in this step.

Once you know where you are based, you are closer to opening your dream office.

9. Submit your documents

After preparing all your documents laced with location, license type, zone type, and legal information, submit your documents for final approval. Go ready with initial approval receipt, all the earlier submitted documents, any documents you have from the Real Estate Regulatory Agency (RERA) or Dubai Land Department (DLD), service agent contract, and approval from related government entities to kick-start the final process.



10. Get a license

And then it is time to reap the benefit and be called a Dubai-based business.

Right after final approvals, you will be required to pay for the license through approved payment channels.

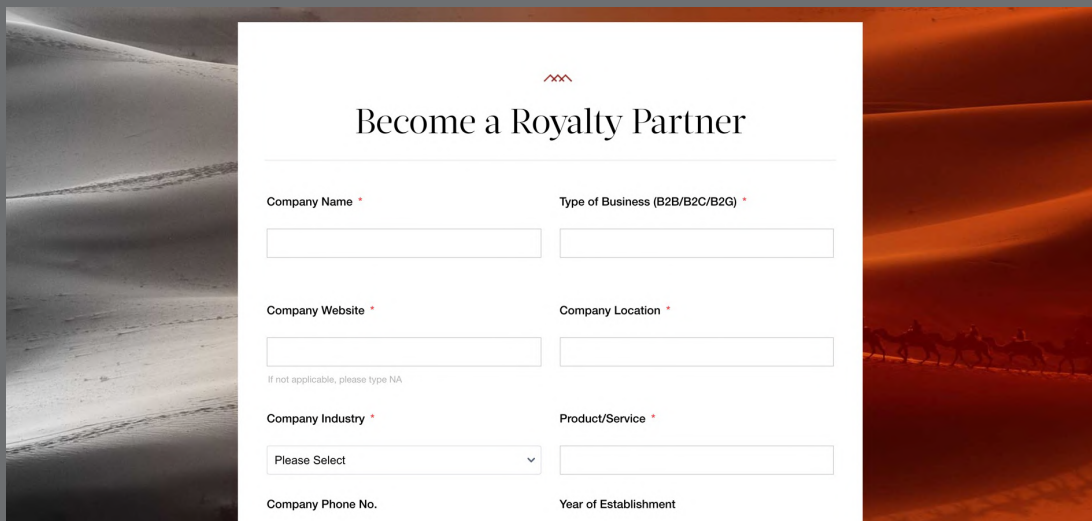
On the payment, you are immediately pronounced as the owner of a running business in Dubai.



Become a Royalty Partner

Having a local partner like the Seed Group allows you to gain access to key stakeholders in the public and private sectors, as well as experience accelerated business development through strategic alliances. Working with the royal family office fosters strategic relationships at the highest level, providing our partners with access to otherwise inaccessible right decision-makers.

A background image of sand dunes with camels, split into two panels: a grayscale image on the left and a red-tinted image on the right.



Become a Royalty Partner

Company Name *

Type of Business (B2B/B2C/B2G) *

Company Website *

Company Location *

If not applicable, please type NA

Company Industry *

Please Select ▼

Product/Service *

Company Phone No.

Year of Establishment

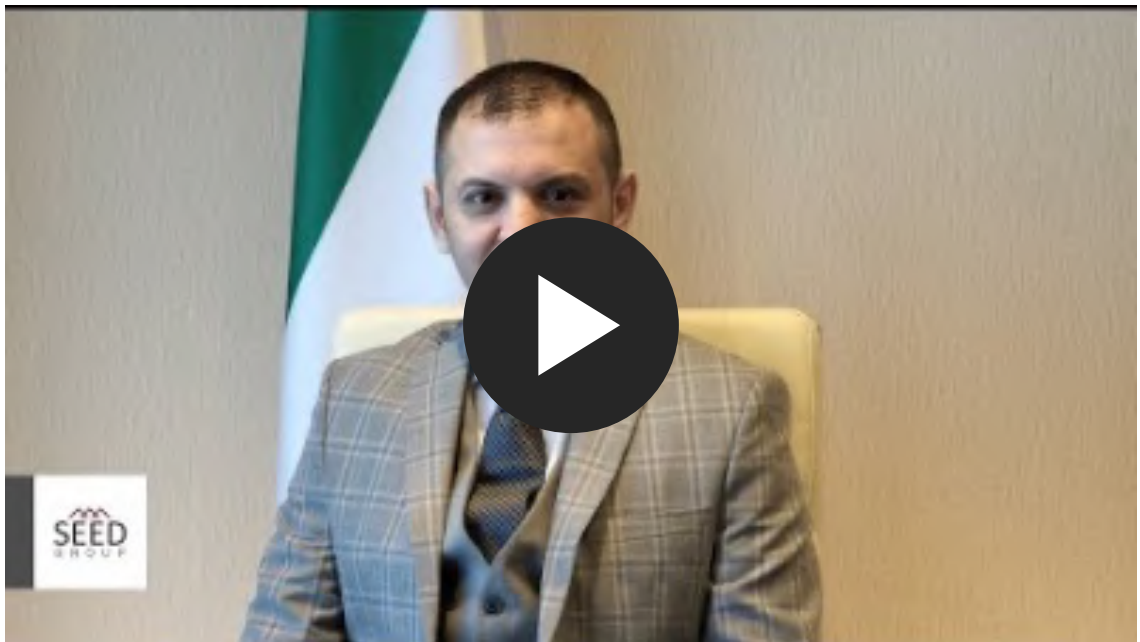
Become a partner

FAQs

Setting Up a Company in Dubai with Seed Group

While setting up a company in Dubai is more straightforward than it may seem, there are still some common pitfalls that you should be aware of. This is why choosing a partner needs a very detailed assessment to avoid future partnership disputes. Your company may not succeed without doing your due diligence because you may end up choosing the wrong one.

Watch our Director of Compliance and Government Relations, Suheil Rabeh, as he expounds more briefly on this by answering some frequently asked questions.



Follow these ten steps and
you can **start your business**
in Dubai with much ease
and harmony.



Visit our entire library
of **online resources**.



Over the past 16 years, Seed Group has formed strategic alliances with leading global companies representing diverse regions and industries. These companies have propelled their business interests and goals in the Middle East and North Africa region through the support and strong base of regional connections of the Seed Group. The Group's goal is to create mutually beneficial partnerships with multinational organisations and to accelerate their sustainable market entry and presence within the MENA region.

We would welcome your feedback on this material – please email marketing@seedgroup.com.

You can also access our entire library of online resources by clicking [here](#).

Seed Group Contact Information

T +971 4 325 2444

E info@seedgroup.com

W www.seedgroup.com

Find us on social media

in /seed-group

yt /seedgroupme

tw @seedgroupme

ig @seedgroupme

f SeedGroupDXB



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