

1. Who are eligible under Balikbayan¹ Program?

- a. A Balikbayan, who may be either one of the following:
- A Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for a period of at least one (1) year;
 - A Filipino overseas worker;
 - A former Filipino citizen and his family who had been naturalized in a foreign country and comes or returns to the Philippines.
- b. Immediate family members (spouse and children) of the Balikbayan, who are nationals of countries falling under EO 408², travelling together with the Balikbayan.

2. Who are not entitled to the Balikbayan privilege?

Former Filipinos and their immediate family members (spouse and children) who are visa-required nationals (nationals of countries NOT listed under EO 408). *They must secure entry visas prior to their travel to the Philippines.*

3. What are the privileges of a Balikbayan?

Those who are admitted as Balikbayans are given an initial stay of one (1) year. They may extend their stay for another one (1), two (2) or six (6) months provided that they present their valid passport and filled out the visa extension form and submit it to the Visa Extension Section in the Bureau of Immigration (BI) Main Office or any BI Offices nationwide. An additional requirement will be ask for Balikbayans who have stayed in the Philippines after thirty six (36) months.

4. Can a foreigner spouse or child of a Balikbayan avail this privilege when traveling to the Philippines alone?

A foreign national spouse and/or child of a Balikbayan may only be given the said privilege if he/she is traveling with his/her Balikbayan spouse or parent.

¹<http://immigration.gov.ph/faqs/visa-inquiry/balikbayan-privilege>

²<https://abudhabipe.dfa.gov.ph/sample-sites/visa-services>