



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**Advancing** Free Trade  
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

# **Compendium on Current Practices for Skilled Work Visa Programs in the APEC Region**

**APEC Human Resources Development Working Group**

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Prepared by: Francisco Urdinez, PhD (Lead Consultant), Beatriz Susana Urrutia (Junior Consultant), Swen Tellier (Research Assistant), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile.

For:

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat

35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace

Singapore 119616

Tel: (65) 68919 600

Fax: (65) 68919 690

Email: [info@apec.org](mailto:info@apec.org)

Website: [www.apec.org](http://www.apec.org)

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## INTRODUCTION

This *Compendium on current practices for skilled work visa programs in the APEC region* seeks to promote standards-sharing in APEC through providing a point of reference for specialized visa programs in the region and illustrate the need for more centralized information regarding these programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

APEC's Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) and Business Mobility Group (BMG) have detected a need for more accessible information on skilled mobility visa programs. In a context of increasing flows of skilled people among its economies, it is necessary to provide all APEC economies an easy system to share information.

In the preliminary study to this report we identified a gap: there was no systematized information on all qualified work visas among APEC economies. Yet, different data sources pointed out the importance of this information for the economies. Scarcity of skilled work is a problem for most economies to achieve long-term development goals. Information sharing on skilled work visas in this report will be useful for all member economies.

In the World Bank Group's Enterprise Surveys, 18 per cent of firms in APEC economies identified an inadequately educated workforce as a major constraint.

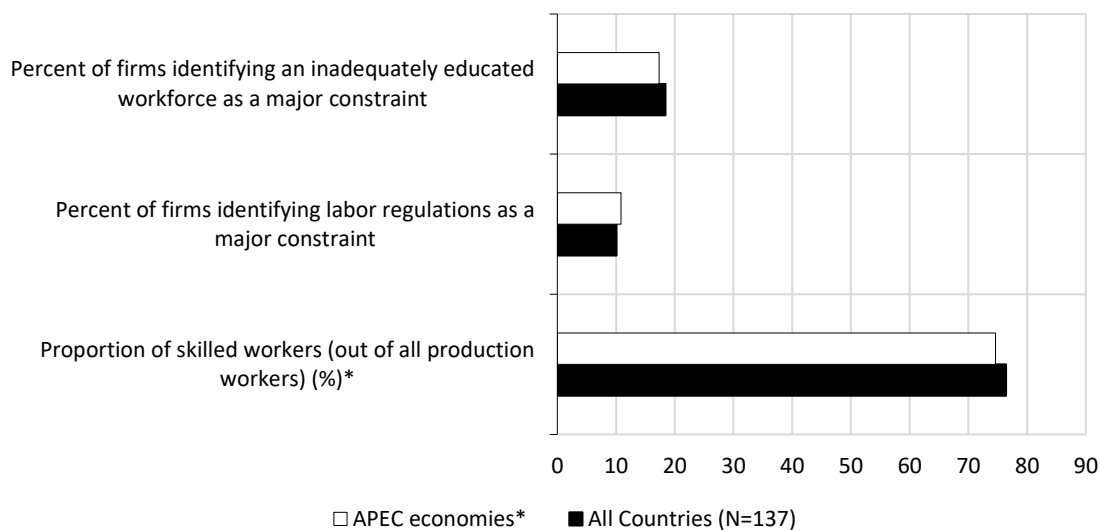


Figure 1: Three indicators of skilled workforce, expressed as averages. (\*) APEC economies included in the dataset are: Chile; China; Indonesia; Malaysia; Mexico; Korea; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Thailand; and Viet Nam. Source: Enterprise Surveys (2019).

For this compendium, the information for each member economy was collected from official government sources, such as websites and reports. The compilation process took place

throughout 2019, where preliminary versions of the Compendium were presented at the Second Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2) in Viña del Mar, Chile, and at the Third Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM3) in Puerto Varas, Chile. Additional drafts were circulated intersessionally during 2020 and early 2021, where some economies updated part of their respective information and requested minor adjustments. Even so, the study continues to contain information almost entirely corresponding to 2019.

It was necessary to systematize in detail the requirements, processing times, visa fees, existence of gender criteria, professional training criteria and legal details of each skilled work visa program. The official information was complemented, if needed, with the information provided by experts in migration policies from member economies. For the purpose of selecting the 152 visas, we had to agree upon a definition of a skilled work visa. For the purpose of this compendium, a skilled work visa is defined as a visa for individuals who have a certified qualification from a university or technical school or attested work experience, which has been identified as an asset in the host-economy's job market.

We identified the following number of skilled visas by each APEC member economy: Australia (46); Brunei Darussalam (1); Canada (3); Chile (9); People's Republic of China (3); Hong Kong, China (7); Indonesia (1); Japan (15); Republic of Korea (18); Malaysia (1); Mexico (1); New Zealand (11); Papua New Guinea (4); Peru (0); the Philippines (1); Russia (3); Singapore (5); Chinese Taipei (4); Thailand (6); the United States (13); and Viet Nam (0<sup>1</sup>).

The following is brief analysis of the findings of this compendium using descriptive statistics:

1. Of the 152 visas, 54% specifically define what skills are required, while the remaining 46% define them broadly.
2. 33% of visas require a university diploma (undergraduate or graduate).
3. Only 9% of visas are directed to high tech jobs.
4. 28% of visas have language requirements.
5. 76% of visas require that the citizen have a sponsor or an employment contract before applying.
6. 77% of visas are temporary, with stays between 2 months and three years. Only 23% are permanent visas.

In the following sections we detail each visa for all 21 APEC economies, and as a closing section we provide a brief section with policy recommendations for the future to further APEC goals of cooperation and development among others.

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<sup>1</sup> Viet Nam offers skilled work visas, however the information is only available in Vietnamese and hence is not accessible to other economies that do not know the language.

## AUSTRALIA

Australia offers **46 skilled work visas** and is also a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. Its visas are both permanent and provisional and vary in length of stay such as short, medium and long term. The visas include skilled work and business opportunities, and all of these belong to different subclasses and streams. The following visas are listed:

1) Business Talent (Permanent) Visa (subclass 132 - Significant Business History stream)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa that requires specific working skills.

**Target:** Experienced business owners, to operate a new or existing business in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD7,855. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 21 months and 90% of applications: 21 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Must be nominated by a state or territory government agency.
- Must be invited to apply for the visa.
- Must demonstrate business acumen and ambition
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Must have paid back your debt to the Australian government
- Must sign the Australian values statement.
- Must be younger than 55 years of age.

- Must meet the character requirement.
- Must meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Language:
  - Have functional English Language:
    - Must be a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland or your English has been assessed as functional by the Australian Adult Migrant English Program,
    - Or you completed a degree or a trade certificate in an institution that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English, or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or CAE exams.
- Financial:
  - Have total net assets (business and personal) worth AUD1.5 million or more, and
  - Have an annual business turnover of AUD3.0 million or more, and
  - Have total net assets (personal) worth AUD400,000 or more from the ownership interest in one or more qualifying businesses (further conditions apply).

## 2) Business Talent (Permanent) Visa (subclass 132 - Venture Capital Entrepreneur stream)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa that requires specific skills.

**Target:** People who have sourced venture capital funding from a member of the Australian Investment Council (AIC), formerly known as the Australian Venture Capital Association Limited (AVCAL).

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD7,855. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.

- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be nominated by an Australian state or territory.
- Be invited to apply for the visa.
- Must demonstrate business acumen and ambition.
- Meet the venture capital requirement.
- Must sign the Australian values statement.
- Must not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Must have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Must meet the character requirement.
- Must meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Language:
  - Have functional English Language:
    - Must be a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland or your English has been assessed as functional by the Australian Adult Migrant English Program,
    - Or you completed a degree or a trade certificate in an institution that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English, or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or CAE exams
- Financial:
  - Venture Capital Financial Requirement:
    - Have funding of at least AUD1 million from an Australian venture capital firm (further conditions apply).

3) Business owner visa (subclass 890)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa that requires specific skills.

**Target:** People who own and manage a business in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,450. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**



- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Must hold an eligible visa.
- Must meet the assets and employee's requirement.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Must have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Must sign the Australian values statement.
- Must meet the character requirement.
- Must meet health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the residence requirement, including having lived in Australia for at least 12 months in the 2 years immediately before the application is made.
- Must have owned and operated a business in Australia for at least 2 years immediately before the application is made (further conditions apply).
- Financial:
  - Assets and Employee Financial Requirement:
    - Have total net assets (business and personal) worth AUD250,000 or more, and
    - Have net business assets in the main business worth AUD100,000 or more, with an annual turnover of AUD300,000 or more (further conditions apply).

4) State or Territory Sponsored Business Owner visa (subclass 892)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** People who want to continue to own and operate a business in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,275. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Must hold an eligible visa.
- Must have a sponsor by the regional authority.
- Must not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Must have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Must sign the Australian values statement.
- Must meet the character requirement.
- Must meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the residence requirement, including having lived in Australia for at least 12 months in the 2 years immediately before the application is made.
- Must have owned and operated a business in Australia for at least 2 years immediately before the application is made (further conditions apply)
- Financial:
  - Assets and Employee Financial Requirement:
    - Have total net assets (business and personal) worth AUD250,000 or more, and
    - Have net business assets in the main business worth AUD75,000 or more, with an annual turnover of AUD200,000 or more (further conditions apply).

5) State or Territory Sponsored Investor visa (subclass 893)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** People who want to continue your business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,275. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Must hold the State/Territory Sponsored Investor (Provisional) visa (subclass 165).
- Must not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Must have paid back your debt to the Australian government
- Must sign the Australian values statement.
- Must meet the character requirement.
- Must meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the residence requirements.
- Meet business requirements.
- Have a sponsor.
- Financial:
  - Business Financial Requirement:
    - Have held continuously for four years your designated investment of AUD750,000 or more for the purpose of being granted the State/Territory Sponsored Investor (Provisional) visa (subclass 165) (further conditions apply).

#### 6) Investor visa (subclass 891)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** People who want to continue your business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,275. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Must hold the Investor (Provisional) visa (subclass 162).
- Must not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Must have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Must sign the Australian values statement.
- Must meet the character requirement.
- Must meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the residence requirement.
- Financial:
  - Business Financial Requirement:
    - Have held continuously for at least 4 years your designated investment of AUD1.5 million for the purpose of satisfying a requirement for the grant of the Investor (Provisional) visa (subclass 162) (further conditions apply).

#### 7) Temporary Skill Shortage visa (subclass 482) – Short term stream

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** Workers who wish to work in Australia on a temporary basis.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD1,265. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Up to 2 years or up to 4 if an International Trade Obligation (ITO) applies. Your employer could also sponsor you for permanent residence through another visa. If your visa is expiring and you want to maintain your sponsorship with your employer, your employer will need to submit a new nomination, or you must apply for a new visa. \*If you are a Thai citizen, you can stay for 3 years.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 32 days, 90% of applications: 48 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- If you are applying in Australia, you must hold a substantive visa or a [Bridging visa A](#), [Bridging visa B](#) or [Bridging visa C](#).
- Have complied with previous visa conditions.
- Be nominated by an approved sponsor.
- Work for your nominating employer.
- Have relevant skills, qualifications and employment background to perform occupation.
- Have worked in your nominated occupation or a related field for at least 2 years.
- Have a positive skills assessment.
- Have health insurance.
- Have not contravened 'paying for visa sponsorship' legislative provisions.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Meet the character requirement.
- Meet the health requirements (further charges may apply).
- Be a genuine applicant for entry and stay as a short term visa holder.
- Language:
  - You are exempt from needing to prove English language proficiency if one of the following apply:

- you are a passport holder from:
    - Canada
    - New Zealand
    - the Republic of Ireland
    - the United Kingdom
    - the United States of America
  - you have completed at least 5 years of full-time study in at least a secondary level institution and where most classes were in English. They need the following information:
    - name and location of the institution/s
    - level of qualification/s
    - official transcript from the secondary and/or tertiary institution
    - number of contact hours per week in English
    - number of years of study
  - your nominated occupation in Australia will be performed at:
    - diplomatic or consular mission of another economy
    - an Office of the Authorities of Chinese Taipei
  - your nominated occupation requires you:
    - to hold a licence, registration or membership
    - you were granted the licence, registration, or membership
    - you had to prove that you had equal or higher English language proficiency than that listed in the table below to be granted the licence, registration or membership
  - you are:
    - an employee of an overseas business
    - the business or its associated entity has nominated you to work in Australia
    - you will receive guaranteed annual earnings of at least AUD96,400
- If you do not fall within one of the above exemptions, you will need to prove your English language proficiency and you must:
    - Achieve the required test scores for IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or C1 advanced exams and complete the test within 3 years before the date of submitting a valid visa application.

## 8) Temporary Skill Shortage visa (subclass 482) – Medium-term stream

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** Those who want to live, work and study in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,645. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years. Your employer could also sponsor you for permanent residence through another visa. If your visa is expiring and you want to maintain your sponsorship with your employer, your employer will need to submit a new nomination, or you must apply for a new visa.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 22 days, 90% of applications: 43 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be the holder of an appropriate visa.
- Have complied with previous visa conditions.
- Be nominated by an approved sponsor.
- Work for your nominating employer.
- Have relevant skills, qualifications and employment background to perform occupation.
- Have worked in your nominated occupation or a related field for at least 2 years.
- Have a positive skills assessment.
- Have health insurance.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have not contravened 'paying for visa sponsorship' legislative provisions.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Language:

- You are exempt from needing to prove English language proficiency if one of the following apply:
  - you are a passport holder from:
    - Canada
    - New Zealand
    - the Republic of Ireland
    - the United Kingdom
    - the United States of America
  - you have completed at least 5 years of full-time study in at least a secondary level institution and where most classes were in English. They need the following information:
    - name and location of the institution/s
    - level of qualification/s
    - official transcript from the secondary and/or tertiary institution
    - number of contact hours per week in English
    - number of years of study
  - your nominated occupation in Australia will be performed at:
    - diplomatic or consular mission of another economy
    - an Office of the Authorities of Chinese Taipei
  - your nominated occupation requires you:
    - to hold a licence, registration or membership
    - you were granted the licence, registration, or membership
    - you had to prove that you had equal or higher English language proficiency than that listed in the table below to be granted the licence, registration or membership
  - you are:
    - an employee of an overseas business
    - the business or its associated entity has nominated you to work in Australia
    - you will receive guaranteed annual earnings of at least AUD96,400
  
- If you do not fall within one of the above exemptions, you will need to prove your English language proficiency and you must:
  - Achieve the required test scores for IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or C1 advanced exams and complete the test within 3 years before the date of submitting a valid visa application.

9) Temporary Skill Shortage visa (subclass 482) – Labour agreement stream



**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** For skilled workers nominated by an employer with a Labour Agreement.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,645. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Up to a maximum of 4 years, depending on the terms in the labour agreement. If your visa is expiring and you want to maintain your sponsorship with your employer: your employer will need to submit a new nomination, or you must apply for a new visa.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 20 days, 90% of applications: 43 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be working under a labour agreement.
- Have 2 years of work experience.
- Be nominated.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have adequate health insurance.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - You must have English language skills suitable to perform your nominated occupation. English requirements may be specified in the Labour agreement between your employer and the Commonwealth.

10) Temporary Skill Shortage visa (subclass 482) – Subsequent entrant

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa enables genuinely skilled workers brought in to address labour shortages to bring their family.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,645. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Can stay as long as visa is valid. If your visa is expiring and you want to maintain your sponsorship with your employer: your employer will need to submit a new nomination, or you must apply for a new visa.

**Processing time:** There are no processing times available for this visa.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have a partner or parent who holds a subclass 482 or TSS.
- Be nominated by the primary visa holder's sponsor.
- Have health insurance.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Be the holder of an appropriate visa.
- Have complied with previous visa conditions.
- Have not contravened 'paying for visa sponsorship' legislative provisions.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.

11) Skilled Regional visa (subclass 887)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** For people who have lived and worked in specified areas of regional Australia on a previous, eligible visa.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD415. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 16 days, 90% of applications: 17 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have an eligible visa and be in Australia.
- Meet the residence requirement.
- Meet the work requirement.
- Have complied with conditions of your eligible visa.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian Government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.

## 12) Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189) – Points-tested stream

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** For workers with skills that Australia needs to live and work permanently anywhere in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4045. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 7 months, 90% of applications: 8 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be invited to apply.
- Have a suitable skills assessment.
- You must be aged under 45 when invited to apply for the visa (further conditions apply).
- Be able to score 65 points or more.
- Meet the skills requirement.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Have competent English measured by:
    - Provide evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, with your application
    - Or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

**13) Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189) – (New Zealand stream)**

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa lets eligible New Zealand citizens who have demonstrated commitment and contribution to Australia, live and work in Australia permanently.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you. The visa application charge is paid in two instalments (20% at time of lodgement and 80% as a second instalment before Australia can grant the visa.)

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 17 months, 90% of applications: 21 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

\*Visa is only for citizens of New Zealand.

- You must hold a New Zealand Special Category (subclass 444) visa, for your visa application to be processed.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Lived in Australia for 5 years.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Financial:
  - Satisfy income requirement.
    - Your taxable income as shown on your Notice of Assessment, issued by the respective agency (<https://www.ato.gov.au/>), for each of the 4 completed financial years before you apply for this visa must be at, or above, the minimum income threshold listed in the relevant regulatory instrument for that income year. (The income thresholds and exemptions are specified by the [legislative instrument](#)).

14) Employer Nomination Scheme visa (Temporary Residence Transition stream)  
(subclass 186)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa lets skilled workers, who are nominated by their employer, live and work in Australia permanently.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 12 months, 90% of applications: 16 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- You must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.
- Have relevant work experience.
- Be nominated by the employer who sponsored your temporary work visa.
- Usually, you must be under 45 years of age when you apply (further conditions apply).
- You must currently be the primary visa holder of either:
  - a [subclass 457 visa](#) that was not granted under the Labour Agreement stream
  - a [subclass 482 \(TSS\) visa](#) granted for an occupation on the Medium to Long-term [Strategic Skills list](#)
  - a Bridging visa A, B or C
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.

- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Have competent English measured by:
    - Provide evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, with your application
    - Or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

15) Employer Nomination Scheme visa (Direct Entry stream) (subclass 186)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa lets skilled workers, who are nominated by their employer, live and work in Australia permanently.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 15 months, 90% of applications: 19 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have an eligible occupation.
- Have relevant work experience.
- You must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.
- Have a positive skills assessment.
- Be nominated.

- Usually, you must be under 45 years of age when you apply (further conditions apply).
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Have competent English measured by:
    - Provide evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, with your application
    - Or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

#### 16)Employer Nomination Scheme visa (Labour agreement stream) (subclass 186)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa lets skilled workers who are nominated by their employer live and work in Australia permanently. The Labour Agreement stream might be for you if you currently work, or will work, for an employer who is party to a labour agreement.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**



- Be working under a labour agreement.
- You must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.
- Be nominated.
- Unless the labour agreement provides otherwise, you must be aged under 45 years when you apply.
- If you are in Australia, you must hold a substantive 457 or TSS visa issued under a labour agreement.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.

17) Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (Direct entry stream) (subclass 187)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa lets skilled workers, who are nominated by an employer, live and work in Australia permanently.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 21 months, 90% of applications: 23 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have an eligible occupation.
- Have relevant work experience.

- Have a positive skills assessment.
- Must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.
- Be nominated.
- Usually, you must be under 45 years of age when you apply (further conditions apply).
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Have competent English measured by:
    - Provide evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, with your application
    - Or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

18) Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (Temporary Residence Transition stream) (subclass 187)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa lets skilled workers, who are nominated by an employer, live and work in Australia permanently.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. Extra charges will apply for each family member applying for a visa.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.

- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

### **Requirements:**

- Have the required skills.
- Must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.
- Be nominated by the employer who sponsored your temporary work visa.
- Be this age Usually, you must be under 45 years of age when you apply.
- Have this visa You must currently be the primary visa holder of either:
  - a [subclass 457 visa](#)
  - a [subclass 482 \(TSS\) visa](#)
  - a bridging visa A, B or C
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Have competent English measured by:
    - Provide evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, with your application
    - Or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

### **19) Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400)**

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** Lets you do short-term, highly specialised work in Australia. It might be suitable if you have specialised skills, knowledge or experience not generally available in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD310 (except in limited circumstances). There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 6 months (depending on the circumstances). Generally, for a stay period longer than 3 months, a strong business case must be provided with the application. You can't apply for this visa in Australia or stay longer by extending this visa.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 14 days, 90% of applications: 21 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have highly specialised skills, knowledge or experience.
- Have work, not in the Australian entertainment industry.
- Be able to support yourself and any dependants.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Be a genuine visitor.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Documents:
  - Gather documents to prove your identity and show you have your employer's support, financial support and health insurance.
  - Should provide a letter of invitation, job offer, employment contract or other document from an Australian organisation confirming they have employed you to work in Australia showing:
    - details of your position, duties, or project of work you will undertake.
    - the duration of your work.
    - the reason why you are required to work in Australia.
    - support for your visa application.
    - your employment conditions and wages.
    - the Australian workplace standards or Industry Award that applies to your position.
- Financial:
  - While you are in Australia, you and your family members must have adequate means to support yourselves. To prove that you can support yourself and any family you bring to Australia, provide: evidence of funds

(employment contract, bank statements), or a letter from your bank or financial institution stating your financial position. We can also consider allowances, accommodation and other help from your employer.

## 20) Temporary Activity Visa (Research Activities) (subclass 408)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa lets you observe or take part in a research project at a research or tertiary institution in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD310. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to two years and no renewal.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 28 days, 90% of applications: 60 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be invited.
- Have a supporter or sponsor.
- Be an established academic researcher, research student or recent graduate.
- Be able to support yourself and any dependants.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have adequate health insurance.
- Be a genuine temporary entrant.
- Have paid back debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Declare you have not paid for visa sponsorship.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.

- Documents:
  - You must provide evidence your supporter is a research or tertiary institution lawfully operating in Australia. Also provide your supporter's letter of invitation.
  - If you are being sponsored for the visa, provide evidence your sponsor: is, or has applied to be, an approved temporary activities sponsor, is a research or tertiary institution lawfully operating in Australia, and will meet their obligations to you and anyone who applies for the visa with you. Also provide your sponsor's letter of invitation.
  - Provide evidence of your background as a researcher, research student or recent graduate.
  - Provide evidence of your academic background such as: evidence of your current or previous employment as an academic at a research or tertiary institution, a statement from your home institution acknowledging your invitation to observe or participate in research in Australia, your curriculum vitae, a list of your published work.
- Financial:
  - Show you can support yourself and anyone who comes to Australia on the visa with you by providing: an employment contract or bank statements, or evidence of your financial position from your bank or financial institution.
  - We can also consider allowances, accommodation and other help from your employer.

21) Temporary Activity Visa (Staff Exchange Arrangements) (subclass 408)

**Visa category:** Temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** Take part in a staff exchange and work in an Australian organisation.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD310. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to two years. Cannot be renewed but can apply for a further subclass 408 Exchange Arrangements visa.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.

- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have a supporter or sponsor.
- Take part in a reciprocal staff exchange.
- Have the necessary skills and experience for the position.
- Benefit from the exchange.
- Be a genuine temporary entrant.
- Be able to support yourself and any dependants.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have adequate health insurance.
- Have paid back debt to the Australian Government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Declare you have not paid for visa sponsorship.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Documents:
  - You must provide evidence your supporter is: an Australian organisation lawfully established and operating in Australia, or an Australian Commonwealth, state or territory government agency, or a foreign government agency operating in Australia.
  - If you are being sponsored for the visa, provide evidence your sponsor: is, or has applied to be, an approved temporary activities sponsor and will meet their obligations to you and anyone who applies for the visa with you.
    - You must also provide evidence that your sponsor is: an Australian organisation lawfully established and operating in Australia, an Australian Commonwealth, state or territory government agency, or a foreign government agency operating in Australia.
  - Provide 2 letters of support from: the organisation in Australia and your own organization.
    - Each letter must state the purpose of the exchange and details about your visit, such as: your name, the duties you will undertake, how long the exchange will last, how the exchange will benefit you and the Australian citizen or permanent resident.

- The letter should also provide details of the Australian citizen or permanent resident who will be exchanging positions with you, including: their name, details of the skilled position, the duties they will undertake, how long they will work outside Australia on exchange, your organisation's name, confirmation they can return to the position they held before the exchange or an equivalent position.
- If you have a supporter, their letter of support is considered to be a letter of invitation.
- Financial:
  - Show us you can support yourself and anyone who comes to Australia on the visa with you by providing: an employment contract or bank statements, or evidence of your financial position from your bank or financial institution. We can also consider allowances, accommodation and other help from your employer.

## 22) Skilled—Recognised Graduate Visa (subclass 476)

**Visa category:** Temporary skilled work visa that requires a university degree.

**Target:** This visa allows recent engineering graduates to live, work or study in Australia for up to 18 months.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD405. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Usually up to 18 months.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 12 months, 90% of applications: 13 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have engineering qualifications from a specified educational institution.



- Must be under 31 years of age.
- Have not held this visa.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian Government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Best interests of the child.
- Documents:
  - You must prove that you have engineering qualifications from a specified educational institution. Provide: an academic transcript from your education provider and a letter of completion (including your course completion date) for your qualification.
- Language:
  - You must provide evidence of English proficiency unless you hold a valid passport from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland.
  - To do this show us evidence in the last 3 years you achieved a valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

### 23) Distinguished Talent Visa (subclass 124)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This is a permanent visa for people with a history of excellence in an eligible field.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,110. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.

- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

### **Requirements:**

- Be of benefit to the Australian community.
- Have the ability to establish yourself in Australia.
- Be internationally recognised with a record of achievement.
- Be nominated.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Documents:
  - Record of achievement documents.
  - You must prove your achievements in an eligible field.
    - Provide: relevant qualifications and awards, particularly from internationally recognised organisations, supporting statements from government, professional, scientific, cultural, sporting or other relevant bodies, documentary evidence which demonstrate an exceptional and outstanding record of achievement that positions you amongst the very best in your field.
  - The evidence supplied to support your record of achievement must also demonstrate prominence in the field within the 2 years immediately before applying.
    - It should include: a reference from a person or organisation qualified to assess your claims, profiles of your achievements in any media, such as magazines, newspapers or TV programs.
  - Provide a completed Form 1000 – Nomination for Distinguished Talent and relevant supporting documents and a statement by your nominator that supports your claims.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider

- Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
- Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - You must prove you are able to work or support yourself in your field of achievement. Provide: a statement detailing your knowledge of opportunities in Australia in your field, information provided by your nominator, letters from organisations or other relevant bodies in Australia that show future employment opportunities or possible business opportunities, qualifications or experience you have gained during previous residence in Australia, your employment or business background. You can't include income from work outside your field. Even if this is only part of your overall income.

#### 24) Distinguished Talent Visa (subclass 858)

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa is for people with a history of excellence in an eligible field. You can stay in Australia permanently.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,110. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.

- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

### **Requirements:**

- Be of benefit to the Australian community.
- Have the ability to establish yourself in Australia.
- Be internationally recognised with a record of achievement.
- Be nominated.
- You do not need to hold a specific visa to be able to apply for this visa; however; you cannot be granted this visa if you hold one of the following visas at the time you apply:
  - Business (Short Stay) visa (subclass 456)
  - Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)
  - eVisitor (subclass 651)
  - Maritime Crew Visa (subclass 988)
  - Special purpose visa
  - Superyacht Crew visa (subclass 488)
  - Temporary Work visa (subclass 400)
  - Tourist visa (subclass 676)
  - Visitor visa (subclass 600)
- Meet the health requirement further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Documents:
  - Record of achievement documents. You must prove your achievements in an eligible field.
    - Provide: relevant qualifications and awards, particularly from internationally recognised organisations, supporting statements from government, professional, scientific, cultural, sporting or other relevant bodies, documentary evidence which demonstrate an exceptional and outstanding record of achievement that positions you amongst the very best in your field.
    - The evidence supplied to support your record of achievement must also demonstrate prominence in the field within the 2 years immediately before applying.

- It should include: a reference from a person or organisation qualified to assess your claims, profiles of your achievements in any media, such as magazines, newspapers or TV programs.
- You must prove you are able to work or support yourself in your field of achievement.
  - Provide: a statement detailing your knowledge of opportunities in Australia in your field, information provided by your nominator, letters from organisations or other relevant bodies in Australia that show future employment opportunities or possible business opportunities, qualifications or experience you have gained during previous residence in Australia, your employment or business background.
  - You can't include income from work outside your field. Even if this is only part of your overall income.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland,
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider,
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
  - Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

## 25) Temporary Graduate Visa (Graduate Work stream) (subclass 485)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa that requires a university degree.

**Target:** This visa is for international students who have recently graduated with skills and qualifications that are relevant to specific occupations in Australia needs. It lets you live, study and work in Australia temporarily.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD1,650. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Usually up to 18 months and no renewal.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 4 months, 90% of applications: 5 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be of benefit to the Australian community.
- Have the ability to establish yourself in Australia.
- Be internationally recognised with a record of achievement.
- Be nominated.
- If you are under 18 years old or you are aged 55 years or older when you apply, you must be of exceptional benefit to the Australian community (further conditions apply).
- You do not need to hold a specific visa to be able to apply for this visa; however; you cannot be granted this visa if you hold one of the following visas at the time you apply:
  - Business (Short Stay) visa (subclass 456)
  - Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)
  - eVisitor (subclass 651)
  - Maritime Crew Visa (subclass 988)
  - Special purpose visa
  - Superyacht Crew visa (subclass 488)
  - Temporary Work visa (subclass 400)
  - Tourist visa (subclass 676)
  - Visitor visa (subclass 600)
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Documents:

- Skills assessment documents.
- Provide evidence that your skills have been assessed as suitable for your nominated occupation by the relevant assessment authority.
  - If you haven't got one yet, you can provide evidence that you have applied to the relevant assessment authority to have your skills assessed and send the completed assessment before we make a decision on your visa.
  - If you apply online attach the completed assessment as soon as you can in ImmiAccount. If you apply on paper send the completed assessment as soon as you can to the address you sent the application.
- Provide a completion letter from your education provider, stating: the date the course started, the date you completed the course, your education provider's code in accordance with this website (<https://cricos.education.gov.au/default.aspx>). You must also provide a certified copy of course transcripts.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland,
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider,
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
  - Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

## 26) Temporary Graduate Visa (Post-Study Work stream) (subclass 485)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa that requires a university degree.

**Target:** This visa is for international students who have recently graduated with a degree from an Australian institution. It lets you live, work and study in Australia, temporarily.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD1,650. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Usually between 2 and 4 years, depending on your qualification and cannot be renewed.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 4 months, 90% of applications: 4 months.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- You must be under 50 years of age (further conditions apply).
- This stream is only available if you applied for, and were granted, your first student visa to Australia on or after 5 November 2011.
  - If you held your first student visa prior to this date, even as a child on your parent's student visa, then you will not be eligible to apply for this stream.
  - Australia will process your visa application if:
    - you are the main holder of a current student visa, (but not one supported by the Defence or Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister)
    - you held a student visa within the past 6 months before your application and you now have a Bridging Visa A or Bridging Visa B, granted on the basis of a valid application for a visa
    - you held a student visa within the past 6 months before your application and you now hold a substantive visa
    - your student visa was cancelled, but in the past 28 days the Tribunal has notified you of a decision to set aside and substitute the Minister's decision not to revoke the cancellation
  - Australia can't grant you this visa if they have previously granted you a subclass 485 or a subclass 476 visa as a primary visa holder.
- Meet the Australian study requirement.
- Hold an eligible qualification at degree-level or above.
- Have studied with an Australian education provider.



- Have adequate health insurance.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian Government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - You must provide evidence of English proficiency unless you hold a valid passport from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland.
  - To do this show us evidence in the last 3 years you achieved a valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

27) Skilled Regional (Provisional) Visa (Invited pathway) (subclass 489)

**Visa category:** A Temporary Skilled work visa.

**Target:** This is a temporary visa. It is for skilled workers who want to live and work in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years and cannot be renewed.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this pathway.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be invited to apply.
- Be nominated or sponsored.
- Be this age: You must be aged under 45 to be invited to apply for the visa.

- Have a suitable skills assessment.
- Be able to score 65 points or more (The subclass 489 is a points-tested visa).
- Meet the skills requirement.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - You must have at least competent English.
  - Must provide evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, with your application,
  - Or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 advanced test.

28) Skilled Regional (Provisional) Visa (Extended stay pathway) (subclass 489)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** This is a temporary visa. It is for skilled workers who want to live and work in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD360. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years from the date current visa was granted. Cannot be renewed.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this pathway.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- At the time you apply for this visa you must hold 1 of the following provisional visas and have complied with all conditions of that visa for at least 2 years:
  - [Skilled Regional Sponsored visa \(subclass 475\)](#)
  - [Skilled Regional Sponsored visa \(subclass 487\)](#)
  - [Skilled Independent Regional visa \(subclass 495\)](#)
  - [Skilled Designated Area Sponsored Provisional visa \(subclass 496\)](#)
- You must have never held **more** than 1 of these visas.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian Government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.

## 29) Skilled Regional (Provisional) Visa (Subsequent entry pathway) (subclass 489)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled visa for family members.

**Target:** This visa is for a member of the family unit of someone who holds a Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 489) or a subclass 475, 487, 495 or 496 visa.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Until the visa that your family member holds ends.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this pathway.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- You must:
  - be one of the members of the family unit, of a subclass 475, 487, 489, 495 or 496 visa holder.

- If you are in Australia when you lodge your application you must hold a substantive visa or a subclass 010 Bridging A visa, a subclass 020 Bridging B visa or a subclass 030 Bridging C visa.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian Government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
- You and family members aged 18 years or older who are applying for the visa with you must either:
  - Have at least functional English,
  - Or pay a second instalment when we ask you to do so
    - To prove you have functional English, show evidence that:
      - you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
      - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider,
      - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
      - Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
      - Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 advanced test.

### 30) Temporary Work (International Relations) Visa (Foreign Government Agency stream) (subclass 403)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** lets you come to Australia for specific activities. You could work in Australia employed by a foreign government as a foreign language teacher or as a representative of a foreign government agency.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD310. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Can stay until the time Australia specifies in your visa grant notice, which may be up to 4 years. Can renew visa by applying to stay longer in Australia under the Foreign Government Agency stream if: you continue to be supported by the government agency, mission or international organisation or your continued employment will benefit Australia.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have a letter of support.
- Support yourself and any dependents financially.
- Work as:
  - a foreign government agency representative who will not be given official status in Australia by the respective government department (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/>) or
  - a foreign language teacher who will be employed by a foreign government in an Australian school
- If you are applying in Australia, you must hold or have in the last 12 months held a temporary substantive visa.
- The temporary substantive visa you hold or held must not have been a:
  - Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) in the Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or Consular) stream
  - Transit visa (subclass 771),
  - Or Special Purpose visa
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have adequate health insurance.

- Meet the genuine temporary stay requirement.
- Repay debt.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Financial:
  - Prove you can support yourself and anyone who comes to Australia on the visa with you by providing:
    - an employment contract or bank statements,
    - Or evidence of your financial position from your bank or financial institution.
    - We can also consider allowances, accommodation and other help from your employer.

31) Temporary Work (International Relations) Visa (Privileges and Immunities stream) (subclass 403)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa stream lets you come to Australia if you have, or expect to have, privileges and immunities under relevant legislation. You can stay in Australia on this visa while you are working as an international representative.

**Visa fee:** Free

**Duration:** Can stay for the time we specify in your visa grant letter. This is usually the time you are an international representative with the support of the respective government department (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/>). Cannot be renewed but you can apply for another visa under the Privileges and Immunities stream in Australia if you continue to meet the relevant criteria or you can apply for a different visa.

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have, or expect to have, privileges and immunities.
- Have a letter of support.
- Be able to support yourself and any dependents.
- You must continue to be employed:
  - by the employer you were granted the visa to work for
  - in a position that has the privileges immunities listed in the relevant legislation
  - You must do the work or activity specified in your visa application.
- Have this visa:
  - If you are applying in Australia, you must hold or, in the last 12 months, have held a temporary substantive visa.
  - The visa you hold or have held in the last 12 months can't have been:
    - a Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) in the Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or Consular) stream
    - a Transit visa (subclass 771),
    - Or a Special Purpose visa
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have adequate health insurance.
- Meet the genuine temporary stay requirement.
- Repay debt.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Financial:
  - Show us you can support yourself and anyone who comes to Australia on the visa with you by providing:
    - an employment contract or bank statements,
    - Or evidence of your financial position from your bank or financial institution,
    - We can also consider allowances, accommodation and other help from your employer.

### 32) Temporary Work (International Relations) Visa (Government Agreement stream) (subclass 403)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa stream allows a person to work in Australia under the terms and conditions of a bilateral agreement between the Australian Government and a government of another economy.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD310. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** You can stay until the time we specify in your visa grant notice, which may be up to 2 years. Cannot be renewed, but you could apply for a further subclass 403 visa under the Government Agreement stream, if you meet the requirements.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 8 days, 90% of applications: 33 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be engaged under the terms and conditions of a bilateral agreement between Australia or an Australian state or territory government and another economy.
- Have the support of the signatories to the agreement.
- Intend to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement.
- Be able to support yourself and any dependents.
- Have this visa:
  - If you are applying in Australia, you must hold, or in the last 28 days have held, a temporary substantive visa.
  - The temporary substantive visa you hold or held can't have been:
    - A Temporary Work (International Relations) (subclass 403) visa in the Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or Consular) stream
    - A Transit visa (subclass 771),
    - Or a Special Purpose visa
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have adequate health insurance.
- Genuine temporary stay requirement.
- Repay debt.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.

**33) Temporary Work (International Relations) Visa (Pacific Labour Scheme Stream) (subclass 403)**



**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** This visa stream lets you come to Australia to participate in the Pacific Labour Scheme program.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD310.

**Duration:** You can stay until the time Australia specifies in your visa grant notice, which may be up to 3 years. Cannot be renewed but can apply for another Pacific Labour Scheme stream visa if you: are endorsed again by respective government department (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/>) to participate in the Pacific Labour Scheme and are sponsored by an Australian employer endorsed by the referred government department who is an approved Temporary Activities sponsor.

**Processing time:** Processing time for this visa is not available.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements. Applicants cannot include family members in their application.

**Requirements:**

\*Must be a citizen and resident of a specified Pacific Island. This includes citizens and resident from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor, Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, or Vanuatu.

- You must usually be aged at least 21 and under 45 when you apply (Further conditions apply)
- You must be a citizen and resident of a [specified Pacific Island](#).
- Be endorsed by respective government department (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/>).
- Have a sponsor.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have health insurance.
- Meet the genuine temporary stay requirement.
- Have paid back your debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.

#### 34) Temporary Work (International Relations) Visa (Seasonal Worker Program Stream) (subclass 403)

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** Lets you come to Australia temporarily to participate in the Seasonal Worker Program.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD310.

**Duration:** You can stay until the time we specify in your visa grant notice, which may be up to 9 months. Cannot be renewed.

**Processing time:** 75% of applications: 5 days, 90% of applications: 9 days.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements. Applicants cannot include family members in their application.

**Requirements:**

\*Must be a citizen of and resident in either: Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor, Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, or Vanuatu.

- Be a citizen of and resident in a specified economy.
- Be invited as a seasonal worker.
- Be able to support yourself.
- Have a sponsor.
- You must usually be 21 years or older (further conditions apply).
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Have adequate health insurance.
- Meet the genuine temporary stay requirement.
- Repay debts.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.

### 35) Business Innovation Stream (Permanent) Visa (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 888)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** People who want to continue business activities in Australia indefinitely.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,590. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.

- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

### **Requirements:**

- Be nominated.
- Own and manage a business in Australia.
- Meet the assets and employees requirement.
- Have followed Australian laws.
- Meet the residence requirement.
- Not have been involved in unacceptable business activities.
- Have a realistic commitment to continuing business activities.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- You must be the primary holder of a:
  - [Business Innovation and Investment \(Provisional\) visa Business Innovation stream](#)
  - [Special Category visa \(SCV\) \(subclass 444\)](#)
  - [Business Innovation and Investment \(Provisional\) visa Business Innovation Extension stream,](#)
  - Or in certain cases, a [subclass 457 visa](#)
  - You can also apply if you are the secondary visa holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa and:
    - your spouse or de facto partner is the primary holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa in the Business Innovation stream
    - you meet all the primary criteria requirements of the Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa in the Business Innovation stream
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland

- Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
- Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
- Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - Have an annual business turnover of AUD300,000 (further conditions apply).

36) Business Innovation Stream (Provisional) Visa (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 188)

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** People who want to operate a new or existing business in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD5,375. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years and 3 months. You can apply for permanent residence and if you need more time to apply for permanent residence, you can apply to extend it.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be nominated.
- Have business ownership.
- Score at least 65 on the points test.
- Have a successful business career.
- Be under 55 (further conditions apply).
- Not have a history of involvement in unacceptable activities.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian Government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
  - Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
  - Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - Own personal and business assets of at least AUD800,000 (further conditions apply).

37) Investor stream Visa (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)  
(subclass 188)

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** People who want to maintain business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD5,375. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years and 3 months. Cannot renew but can apply for permanent residence.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be nominated.
- Own and manage business and personal assets and investments.
- Have the right experience.
- Score at least 65 on the points test
- Intend to live in a specific State or Territory.
- Be under 55 (further conditions apply).
- Not have a history involvement in unacceptable activities.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider

- Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
- Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - Have managed investments of AUD1.5million or a qualifying business,
  - Have assets of AUD2.25 million, and
  - Make an investment of AUD1.5 million in your nominating state or territory (further conditions apply).

38) Investor stream Visa (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 888)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** It lets you continue your investment activities in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,590. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

## Requirements:

- Have this visa:
  - You must be the primary holder of a [Business Innovation and Investment \(Provisional\) visa \(subclass 188\) in the Investor stream](#).
  - You can also apply as the primary applicant if you are the secondary visa holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa and:
    - your spouse or de facto partner is the primary holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa in the Investor stream
    - you meet all the primary criteria requirements of the Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa stream
- Have held your designated investment.
- Meet the residence requirement.
- Not have been involved in unacceptable business or investment activities.
- Have a realistic commitment to continuing business or investment activities.
- Have followed Australian laws.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
  - Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,



- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - Invested AUD1.5 million in an Australian state or territory (further conditions apply).

39) Significant Investor Stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 188)

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** Carry out business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD7,880. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years and 3 months. You can apply for permanent residence and if you need more time to apply for permanent residence, you can apply to extend your visa by 2 years. You can extend it twice.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be nominated.
- Not have a history of involvement in unacceptable activities.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:

- Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
  - Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
  - Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
    - Investment of at least AUD5 million (further conditions apply).

40) Significant Investor Stream (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 888)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** For those who wish to continue to conduct business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,590. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.

- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

### **Requirements:**

- Be nominated.
- Have held your complying investment or complying significant investment for the required period of time.
- Meet the residence requirement.
- Not have been involved in unacceptable business or investment activities.
- Have a realistic commitment to continuing business or investment.
- Have followed Australian laws.
- Have functional English.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- A primary applicant for the visa must be:
  - the primary holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa in the Significant Investor stream or Significant Investor Extension stream,
  - Or the holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa granted on the basis that you were the spouse or de facto partner of a person who held a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa in the Significant Investor stream or Significant Investor Extension stream, and you have ceased to be the spouse or de facto partner of that person or that person has died.
  - When you can apply for the permanent visa depends on when you applied for your provisional visa. To learn when to apply see the [Step by step tab](#).
  - Family members who wish to apply for the visa must combine their application with your (the primary applicant's) application. The family members do not need to hold a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.

- Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
- Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
- Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
- Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - Already invested at least AUD5 million for Significant investor stream provisional visa (further conditions apply).

41) Business Innovation Extension Stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 188)

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** For those who wish to operate a new or existing business in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD645. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** 2 years (added on as extension). Can apply for permanent residence.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.

- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Hold this visa:
  - You must already hold a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa (subclass 188) Innovation stream and have held it for at least three years.
  - You must not have held more than one Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa (subclass 188) in the Business Innovation stream.
- Demonstrate a need for you to be resident in Australia to operate the main business.
- Have maintained ownership interest in your nominated main business.
- Have maintained your commitment.
- Be nominated.
- Not have a history of involvement in unacceptable activities.
- Have functional English.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Meet the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
  - Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,

- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

#### 42) Premium Investor Stream (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 888)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** For those who wish to continue to conduct business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,590. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have this visa:
  - the primary holder of a [Business Innovation and Investment \(Provisional\) visa \(subclass 188\) in the Premium investor stream](#).
  - the holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa granted on the basis that you were the spouse or de facto partner of a person who held a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa in the Premium Investor stream, and you have ceased to be the spouse or de facto partner of that person or that person has died.
  - At the time you (the primary applicant) apply for the permanent visa, you must have held the Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa in the Premium Investor stream for

a continuous period of at least 12 months. You must have held your provisional visa for at least 1 year.

- Family members who apply for the visa with you do not need to hold a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa.
- Be nominated.
- Have held complying premium investments for the required period of time.
- Not have been involved in unacceptable business or investment activities.
- Have a realistic commitment to continuing business or investment activities in Australia.
- Have followed Australian laws.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
  - Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
  - Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

#### 43) Premium Investor Stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 188)

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** For those who wish to carry out business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD9,455. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years and 3 months. Can apply for permanent residence through the Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be nominated.
- Receive an invitation to apply.
- Not have a history of involvement in unacceptable activities.
- Agree not to bring action against the Commonwealth.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian Government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English



- Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - Make a complying investment of at least AUD15 million, and
  - Have net assets of at least AUD15 million (further conditions apply).

44) Entrepreneur Stream (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 888)

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa.

**Target:** Those who wish to continue your entrepreneurial activities.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD2,590. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Have this visa:
  - You (the primary applicant) must be the holder of a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa (subclass 188) in the Entrepreneur stream.

- You must have held your provisional visa for a continuous period of at least 4 years immediately before you apply.
- Be nominated.
- Have a successful record of entrepreneurial activities.
- Meet the residence requirement.
- Not have been involved in unacceptable business or investment activities.
- Have a realistic commitment to continuing business or investment activities.
- Have followed Australian laws.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English
  - Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
  - Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

45) Entrepreneur Stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)  
(subclass 188)

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** For those wish to carry out entrepreneurial activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD4,045. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 4 years and 3 months. Can apply for permanent residence through the Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa - Entrepreneur stream.

**Processing time:** There are no standard processing times available for this stream.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Receive an invitation to apply.
- Be nominated.
- Be under 55 (further conditions apply).
- Have a complying entrepreneur activity.
- Receive funding from an approved entity.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Have competent English measured by:
    - Provide evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, with your application
    - Or have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or Cambridge C1 Advanced test.

46) Significant Investor Extension Stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas) (subclass 188)

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** For those who wish to carry out business and investment activity in Australia.

**Visa fee:** Main applicant AUD645. There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

**Duration:** Up to 2 years after the expiry of your Provisional Significant Investor stream visa. Can apply for the Significant Investor stream (Permanent).

**Processing time:** Unavailable due to low volume of applications.

**Gender:**

- There are no gender requirements, but one can include members of the family unit in application (children and main applicant's spouse or de facto partner); additional charges apply.
- Family members who apply for the visa must meet the health and character requirements.
- Must provide your current marriage certificate, or enough documents to prove you have been in a de facto relationship with your partner for at least 12 months before you apply.
- Documents that prove your de facto relationship include: joint bank account statements, billing accounts in joint names, joint leases or mortgages, documents that show your partner has lived at the same address as you.

**Requirements:**

- Be nominated.
- Not have a history of involvement in unacceptable activities.
- Meet the health requirement (further charges may apply).
- Meet the character requirement.
- Sign the Australian values statement.
- Have no debt to the Australian government.
- Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused.
- Language:
  - Must prove that you have functional English.
  - Show evidence that you are a citizen of and hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland
  - Or your English has been assessed as functional by an Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider
  - Or you completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least two years of full-time study and all instructions were in English

- Or you undertook your education at: primary school and secondary school where all instruction was in English in or outside Australia, a secondary school in or outside Australia where all instruction was in English, an institution in Australia where all instruction was in English,
- Or in the 12 months before you applied for the visa, you have valid score in IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, or the Cambridge C1 Advanced test.
- Financial:
  - Be able to invest at least AUD5 million (further conditions apply).

#### 47) APEC Business Travel Card

Australia is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC).

**Duration:** Five years from the date of issue.

##### I. Australian citizens

Can apply for ABTC if:

- You travel frequently to an APEC economy (other than Australia or your place of residence) for business purposes (further conditions apply).
- You have not been convicted of a criminal offence.
- You are a fit and proper person.
- Your business entity or Australian-based peak business body is engaged in international trade or investment between APEC economies. See Business assessment below for details. If you are living outside Australia, you must have permission to live and work within this economy of residence. Applicants may be required to provide evidence of their work and residence permit with their application
- You are either:
  - the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or regional or county head of a registered business entity
  - an owner or director of a registered business entity
  - a board member of a registered business entity
  - the CEO or CFO of an Australian-based business peak body
  - a Vice President, Executive, Director, Senior Manager or similar
  - an employee of a registered business entity nominated by the CEO, CFO, regional head, owner or director of the organisation. See the [nomination form \(20KB PDF\)](#)
  - a senior government official

- Documents:
  - a copy of the bio-data page of your passport
  - other identity documents as listed below
  - supporting evidence to demonstrate your business is engaged in trade or investment activities between APEC economies (as outlined above)
  - if you live outside of Australia, evidence of authority to live and work within this economy.

## II. Foreign applicants

- When travelling to and entering Australia, you must hold a valid visa.
- If you hold a valid ABTC with 'AUS' printed on the reverse side, you would not need to apply for a separate visa to travel to Australia for business (the ABTC also permitted for use for tourism purposes) purposes as you would have been deemed a visa with your ABTC pre-clearance, so long as your pre-clearance remains valid. You must ensure that the passport number printed on your ABTC matches the passport number that you are using to travel. If your passport has changed during the lifetime of your ABTC, please contact your home economy for advice.
- If you hold a valid ABTC that does not have 'AUS' printed on the reverse side, contact your home economy to verify if Australia has provided pre-clearance since your card was printed. If your home economy confirms that pre-clearance was granted then you **do not** need to apply for a visa to travel to Australia for business purposes – the ABTC does not need to have 'AUS' printed on the reverse in this instance.
- Your ABTC allows you to visit Australia for short-stay business (and tourism) purposes for a maximum stay of up to three months (or 90 days) at a time.

## Official sources:

Business Talent (Permanent) Visa (Significant Business History stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-talent-permanent-132/significant-business-history-stream>

(Consulted on 3/4/19)

Business Talent (Permanent) Visa (Venture Capital Entrepreneur stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-talent-permanent-132/venture-capital-entrepreneur-stream>

(Consulted on 3/4/19)

Business owner visa

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-owner-890>

(Consulted on 3/5/19)

State or Territory Sponsored Business Owner visa

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/state-or-territory-sponsored-business-owner-892>

(Consulted on 3/6/19)

State or Territory Sponsored Investor visa

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/state-or-territory-sponsored-investor-893>

(Consulted on 3/6/19)

Investor visa

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/investor-891>

(Consulted on 3/8/19)

Business Innovation stream (Permanent) visa (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-888/business-innovation-stream>

(Consulted on 3/8/19)

Business Innovation stream (Provisional ) visa (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-888/business-innovation-stream>

(Consulted on 3/10/19)

Investor stream visa (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/investor-stream>

(Consulted on 3/10/19)

Investor stream visa (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-888/investor-stream>

(Consulted on 3/10/19)

Significant investor stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/significant-investor-stream>

(Consulted on 3/10/19)

Significant investor stream (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-888/significant-investor-stream>

(Consulted on 3/10/19)

Business Innovation Extension stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/business-innovation-extension-stream>

(Consulted on 3/10/19)

Premium Investor stream (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-888/premium-investor>

(Consulted on 3/10/19)

Entrepreneur stream (Permanent) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-888/entrepreneur-stream>

(Consulted on 3/12/19)

Premium Investor stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/premium-investor>

(Consulted on 3/12/19)

Entrepreneur Stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/entrepreneur-stream#Eligibility>

(Consulted on 3/12/19)

Significant Investor extension stream (Provisional) (Business Innovation and Investment visas)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/significant-investor-extension-stream>

(Consulted on 3/12/19)

Temporary Skill Shortage visa (Short term stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-skill-shortage-482>

(Consulted on 3/13/19)

Temporary Skill Shortage visa (Medium-term stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-skill-shortage-482/medium-term-stream>

(Consulted on 3/13/19)

Temporary Skill Shortage visa (Labour agreement stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-skill-shortage-482/labour-agreement-stream#Eligibility>

(Consulted on 3/13/19)



Temporary Skill Shortage visa (Subsequent entrant)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-skill-shortage-482/subsequent-entrant#About>

(Consulted on 3/13/19)

Skilled Regional visa (Permanent)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-regional-887>

(Consulted on 3/13/19)

Skilled Independent visa (Points tested stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-independent-189/points-tested#About>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Skilled Independent visa (New Zealand stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-independent-189/new-zealand>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Employer Nomination Scheme visa (Direct Entry stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/employer-nomination-scheme-186/direct-entry-stream>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Employer Nomination Scheme visa (Labour agreement stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/employer-nomination-scheme-186/labour-agreement-stream>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Employer Nomination Scheme visa (Temporary Residence Transition stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/employer-nomination-scheme-186/temporary-residence-transition-stream>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (Direct entry stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/regional-sponsor-migration-scheme-187/direct-entry-stream>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (Temporary Residence Transition stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/regional-sponsor-migration-scheme-187/temporary-residence-transition-stream>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Activity visa (Research Activities)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/research-activities>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Activity visa (Staff Exchange Arrangements)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/exchange-arrangements>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Skilled—Recognised Graduate visa <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-recognition-graduate-476#About>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Distinguished Talent visa (subclass 124)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/distinguished-talent-124>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Distinguished Talent visa (subclass 858)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/distinguished-talent-858>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Graduate visa (Graduate Work stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-graduate-485/graduate-work>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Graduate visa (Post-Study Work stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-graduate-485/post-study-work>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (Invited pathway)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-regional-provisional-489/invited-pathway>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (Extended stay pathway)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-regional-provisional-489/extended-stay-pathway>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (Subsequent entry pathway)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-regional-provisional-489/subsequent-entry-pathway>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (Foreign Government Agency stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-403/foreign-government-agency#About>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (Privileges and Immunities stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-403/privileges-immunities>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (Government Agreement stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-403/government-agreement>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (Pacific Labour scheme stream)

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-403/pacific-labour-scheme>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

Temporary Work (International Relations) visa Seasonal Worker Program stream

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-403/seasonal-worker-program#About>

(Consulted on 5/6/19)

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/business-travel-card/overview>

(Consulted on 5/10/19)

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Brunei offers **one skilled work visa**. In addition, it is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The skilled work visa targets those with a work contract aiming to obtain temporary residency in the sultanate of Brunei. The following visa is listed:

### 1) Employment visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** Foreigners intending to come to work in Brunei Darussalam.

**Visa fee:** BND 20

**Duration:** Up to 2 years

**Processing time:** 5 days

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Malaysian and Singaporean are exempted from employment visa.
- Applications related to foreign employment visa and pass shall be carried out at either at the headquarters of the respective government department (<http://www.immigration.gov.bn/en/Theme/Home.aspx>) or any it's office branch at all districts.
- Documents:
  - The employer must have a quota license from the corresponding government department (<http://www.buruh.gov.bn/Theme/Home.aspx>).
  - Approval letter from the work pass section of the Immigration and National Registration Department.
  - The worker should have a valid passport/travel document recognized by the Brunei Director of the corresponding immigration institution (<http://www.immigration.gov.bn/en/Theme/Home.aspx>).
  - The passport must have a validity of more than 6 months before entering the economy.

### 2) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Brunei is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The granting process for citizens and the admission process with the card to the economy for non-citizens are detailed.

## I. For Bruneian Citizens

APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) is eligible for businessman / businesswomen.

**Visa fee:** BND \$100.00

**Duration:** 5 years.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

### **Requirements:**

- Brunei Citizen who categorized as businessman is eligible for applying ABTC.
- Document:
  - Application Form (complete).
  - Passport (original and copy).
  - Smart Identity Card (original and copy)
  - Approval Letter from a corresponding Ministry or Association (<http://www.mfa.gov.bn/site/home.aspx>; <http://www.mppt.gov.bn/Theme/Home.aspx>; <https://www.chamber-commerce.net/dir/510/National-Chamber-of-Commerce-and-Industry-of-Brunei-Darussalam-in-Negara>; <https://www.yeabrunei.com/>).
  - 2 passport-sized photos.

## II. For Non-Bruneian Citizens

**Visa fee:** APEC has decided that participating economies will only charge fees on their applicants only.

**Duration:** up to 3 months.

**Processing time:** instantaneous provided one is registered in ABTC.

**Gender:** N/A

### **Requirements:**

- Where the holder of an ABTC, not being a citizen of Brunei Darussalam, enters Brunei Darussalam, he shall upon every entry produce his passport and a valid ABTC to the duty Immigration Officer.
- Upon such production on first entry into Brunei Darussalam, the holder of the ABTC, subject to the endorsements on his card, may be granted a multiple entry visa notwithstanding any other provisions relating to visa requirements under any other written law and shall render him eligible to a maximum stay of 3 months in Brunei Darussalam for that visit and any subsequent visits thereafter.

**Official Sources:**

Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to the United States of America

<http://www.bruneiembassy.org/work-in-brunei.html>

(Consulted on 05/10/19)

ABTC for Bruneians

[http://www.immigration.gov.bn/en/SitePages/APEC%20Business%20Travel%20Card%20\(ABTC\).aspx](http://www.immigration.gov.bn/en/SitePages/APEC%20Business%20Travel%20Card%20(ABTC).aspx)

(Consulted on 06/06/19)

Immigration Act – Immigration Regulations (APEC Business Travel Card Regulations)

[http://www.agc.gov.bn/AGC%20Images/LAWS/ACT\\_PDF/cap017,%20Rg3.pdf](http://www.agc.gov.bn/AGC%20Images/LAWS/ACT_PDF/cap017,%20Rg3.pdf)

(Consulted on 06/06/19)

## CANADA

Canada offers **three skilled work visas**<sup>2</sup> and it is a transitional member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The skilled work visas target those with a work contract or entrepreneurs, investors and merchants from abroad. One visa offers permanent residence while the other two ones are temporary. The following visas are listed:

### 1) Federal Skilled Worker (Express Entry)

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a university degree.

**Target:** For skilled workers with foreign work experience who want to immigrate to Canada permanently.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Permanent

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Minimum requirements:
  - Skilled work experience (Managerial jobs, skill type 0 - Professional jobs, skill level A - Technical jobs and skilled trades, skill level B).
    - At least 1 year of continuous work or 1,560 hours total (30 hours per week).
  - Education
    - For Canadian education: A certificate, diploma or degree from secondary (high school) or post-secondary school.
    - For foreign education: a completed credential, and an Educational Credential Assessment for immigration purposes from a designated organization showing that the education is equal to a completed certificate, diploma or degree from a Canadian secondary institution or post-secondary institution.
- Documents:
  - Medical exams.
  - Police certificate (background check).

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<sup>2</sup> Canada does not use the “work visa” terminology. Work in Canada is authorized through a work permit or work permit exemptions in very select cases.

- Language: Proficiency in French (NCLC exam) or proficiency in English (CLB exam).
- Financial: Proof of funds, or the ability to legally work in Canada and a valid job offer.

## 2) Temporary Foreign Worker Program

**Visa category:** An employer-specific work authorization (work permit) for those with specific work skills.

**Target:** For workers who can fill temporary labour and skill shortages according to a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA).

**Visa fee:**

- Work permit processing fee: \$155 CAD
- LMIA: Fee for employers (per position), with exemption for certain occupations/applications: \$1,000 CAD

**Duration:** Work permit issued for the duration of the LMIA.

**Processing time:** Varies

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents: Work permit and positive or neutral LMIA unless exemption by occupation or other. The LMIA verifies that there is a need for a temporary worker and that no Canadians or permanent residents are available to do the job.
- Language: Language ability can be assessed through an interview or official testing such as IELTS/TEF or in-house mission testing practice.

## 3) International Mobility Program (IMP)

**Visa category:** A work authorization (work permit) for those with specific skills. Permits can be either employer-specific or open.

**Target:** For workers whose work brings significant economic, cultural or competitive benefits or opportunities for Canada, as well as those intending to perform work pursuant to Canada's international agreements.

**Visa fee:**

- Work permit processing fee: \$155 CAD
- Open Work Permit Fee: \$100 CAD paid by applicants



- Employer Compliance Fee (Employer-Specific Permits): \$230 CAD paid by employers
- LMIA: exempt

**Duration:** Varies

**Processing time:** Varies

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents: Work permit unless exempted.
- Language: Language ability can be assessed through an interview or official testing such as IELTS/TEF or in-house mission testing practice.

#### 4) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Canada is a transitional member of the APEC Business Travel Card, meaning that cardholders can enter Canada using designated APEC lines at eight major international airports as long as they hold the necessary visa or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), and work permit when it applies.

I. For Canadian citizens:

- Foreign APEC member economies will not recognize the Canada APEC Business Travel Card in lieu of a visa. Card holders must present any travel or identity documentation, such as a passport and visa (where applicable), required by the foreign APEC member economy.
- ABTC members get faster border clearance on the way to participating APEC economies. Canadian members also benefit from Trusted Traveler kiosks when returning to Canada.

**Visa fee:** \$70 (in addition to the fee for NEXUS (a Canada Border Services Agency)).

**Duration:** For a period of five years, subject to passport and NEXUS validity.

**Processing time:** No specific timeline, but once the application is registered, progress status is available online.

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- All Canadian citizens must be NEXUS members before applying for an ABTC. You must be a Canadian citizen.
- Applications and renewals are coordinated through the U.S. Trusted Traveller Programs (TTP) System. Once your application is approved, you will be asked to visit an

Enrolment Centre to finalize your enrolment and provide a digitized signature. You will then receive your card by mail.

II. For Non-Canadian Citizens Seeking APEC Business Entry Permit:

- Canada does not recognize the ABTC as a visa. Cardholders from visa required economies still need to present valid passports and obtain Canadian visas as required by Canadian law.
- Cardholders can enter Canada using designated APEC lines at eight major international airports as long as they hold the necessary visa or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), and work permit when it applies.

**Official Sources:**

Government of Canada – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (Federal Skilled Worker Express Entry)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/federal-skilled-workers.html>

(Consulted on 03/03/2019) – Available in English and French.

Government of Canada – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (Temporary Foreign Worker and International Mobility Program)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/foreign-workers.html>

(Consulted on 03/03/2019) – Available in English and French

Government of Canada – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/abtc-cvaa/menu-eng.html>

(Consulted on 06/08/2019) – Available in English and French

## CHILE

Chile offers **9 skilled work visas**. In addition, it is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. Some of the visas target those with a work contract or entrepreneurs, investors and merchants from abroad. While, other visas look for postgraduates who studied in Chile or in other economies. Some visas are more general in the sense that they don't specify an area of focus for skilled workers. Chile also offers two visas specifically for women. All of the visas are temporary, some visas can be used to apply for permanent residence. The following visas are listed:

### 1) Temporary Residence Visa for Entrepreneurs

**Visa category:** A business visa for those with specific skills.

**Target:** For foreign entrepreneurs and investors.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>3</sup>

**Duration:** One year, can be renewed.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Complete the application form on the Consular Citizen Attention System website (<https://tramites.minrel.gov.cl/Solicitudes/visa.aspx>).
  - Write a letter of request, addressed to the Consul of Chile, mentioning the background of the interested party and the reasons for the request.
  - Provide a Kinship Certificate (only for family, marriage or birth reasons).
- Language: Intermediate level Spanish (SIELE or DELE language exam).
- Investment: Invest at least 100,000 US dollars (2.400 UF) and present a business plan.

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<sup>3</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: \$US 135; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100; Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 35; Mexico: US\$ 286; New Zealand: US\$ 1380; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; the Philippines: US\$ 305; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 77; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; the United States: US\$ 470; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

## 2) Temporary Visa for Professionals and High-Level Technicians, Foreigners Paid Abroad or Journalists and Communications Professionals

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills, a degree or a work contract.

**Target:** For professionals, high-level technicians, foreigners paid abroad and journalists and communications professionals who want to work and live in Chile temporarily.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>4</sup>

**Duration:** One year, can be renewed for another year. Foreigners can also apply for permanent residence when the visa period ends.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but for a spouse to obtain a visa an Original marriage certificate or a notarized copy is required.

### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Photocopy of the passport (identification sheets, number and dates of issuance and expiration of the passport and a stamp with an entry stamp, in addition, when appropriate, a photocopy of the Tourism Seal). In case of entering the economy with another identification document, attach a photocopy of the Identity Card, DNI, etc.
  - 1 photocopy of the last Tourism Card. If it was lost, you can request a duplicate at the offices of the corresponding institution (<https://pdichile.cl/>) (Eleuterio Ramírez N ° 852, Santiago).
  - 1 recent photograph, passport size (3x2 cm.), In colors, with full name and passport number.
  - Criminal record certificate from their economy of origin (legalized or apostilled, except for citizens of Colombia, Peru and the Dominican Republic who must present a certificate issued by their Consulate in Chile).

### a) Professionals and High-Level Technicians

- Higher Level Technicians correspond to careers with a minimum of 1,600 academic hours; If the technical title does not indicate the number of hours taken,

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<sup>4</sup> Same as footnote above (1).

you must attach a certificate from the Institution that certifies the hours, duly legalized.

- Copy of the degree apostilled or legalized by the Chilean Consulate of the respective economy and by the respective Ministry ([https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio\\_eng.html](https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio_eng.html)) (original or copy authorized before a notary).
- In the case of medical professions, these titles must be revalidated. This procedure is carried out at the corresponding certified university (<https://www.uchile.cl/>), in the case of medical professions (Medicine, Nursing, Speech Therapy, Kinesiology, Nutrition and Dietetics, Obstetrics and Child Care, Medical Technology, Occupational Therapy, Surgeon-Dentist).
- An exemption to the revalidation of the degrees of health professionals, is for those whose degree has been granted by an economy that maintains an international agreement with Chile, for which one must submit the original or legalized copy before a notary certificate of recognition of the degree issued by the respective Ministry ([https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio\\_eng.html](https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio_eng.html)).
- Must have a job offer, specifying function and remunerations, signed before a notary. This original document must contain a clause of validity that indicates that "the worker may begin to exercise his functions once he obtains the visa or the corresponding work authorization".

#### b) Foreigners Paid Abroad

- Temporary visa for a person who will carry out activities in a company in Chile but will be remunerated abroad.
- Provide the certificate of the foreign company that indicates the type of contractual relationship and functions that the economy is developing. Original or copy of certificate must be legalized before a notary. Certificate of the Chilean company must specify the tasks to be developed and the working conditions of the applicant.
- All documents obtained abroad must be duly apostilled or duly legalized at the Chilean Consulate of the economy of origin and translated and legalized at the respective Ministry ([https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio\\_eng.html](https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio_eng.html)).

#### c) Journalists or Communications Professionals

- Have the accreditation that allows the work activities, granted by the the corresponding Ministry (<https://msgg.gob.cl/wp/>).
- Documents provided must be original or a copy, both legalized before a notary.

### 3) Temporary Residence Visa for Opportunities for Workers

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a degree.

**Target:** For professionals, technicians and people with accredited trades.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>5</sup>

**Duration:** One year, can be renewed.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Provide a background check.
  - Complete the application form on the Consular Citizen Attention System website (<https://tramites.minrel.gov.cl/Solicitudes/visa.aspx>).
  - Write a letter of request, addressed to the Consul of Chile, mentioning the background of the interested party and the reasons for the request.
  - Provide a Kinship Certificate (only for family, marriage or birth reasons).
- Language: Intermediate level Spanish (SIELE or DELE language exam)

### 4) Resident Visa Subject to Contract

**Visa category:** A work visa that requires a work contract.

**Target:** For foreigners hired by a company in Chile. While it is not focused on attracting skilled work, it is a visa that can be requested to hire a qualified worker.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: \$US 135; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100; Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 35; Mexico: US\$ 286; New Zealand: US\$ 1380; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; the Philippines: US\$ 305; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 77; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; the United States: US\$ 470; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

<sup>6</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: US\$ 140; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100; Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 72; Mexico: US\$ 411; New Zealand: US\$ 310; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; the Philippines: US\$ 400; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 200; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; the United States: US\$ 580; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

**Duration:** Up to two years (without renewal and you can ask for a permanent residence permit within 90 days before the expiration of the visa).

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements to apply at consulate:**

- Documents:
  - Provide a physical examination form.
  - Provide a background check.
  - Complete the application form on the web page of the Consular Citizen Attention System (<https://tramites.minrel.gov.cl/Solicitudes/visa.aspx>).
  - Write a letter from employer, addressed to the Consul of Chile justifying the hiring (the document must be signed by a notary public).
  - Have a work contract authorized before a notary.
  - Hold a valid passport until the end of the stay.
- Language: Depends on the company that hires the individual.

#### **Requirements to apply in Chile:**

- Documents:
  - Visa application form subject to contract.
  - Photocopy of the passport (identification sheets, number and dates of issuance and expiration of the passport, and a page with a receipt stamp, in addition, when appropriate, a photocopy of the Tourism Seal). In case of entering the economy with another identification document, attach a photocopy of this identity document.
  - Photocopy of the Tourism Card.
  - Recent photograph, passport size (3x2 cm.), In colors, with full name and passport number.
  - Certificate of criminal record of their economy of origin (legalized or apostilled, except citizens of Colombia, Peru and Dominican Republic who must present a certificate issued by their Consulate in Chile).
  - Work contract: signed by the worker and the employer before a notary. You must have the following special clauses:
    - Validity Clause: "The obligation to provide services emanated from this contract, may only be fulfilled once the worker has obtained the corresponding residence visa in Chile or the special work permit for foreigners with a visa in process."
    - or Travel Clause: "The employer agrees to pay, at the end of the employment relationship (whether due to termination of



contract, dismissal or resignation), the return of the worker and the members of his family that are stipulated, to his economy of origin or to which the parties agree in due time, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2, of article 37 of Supreme Decree No. 597 of 1984. In this regard, it will be borne in mind that the aforementioned obligation of the employer will exist until the foreigner leaves the economy or obtain new visa or permanent permanence ".

- Provisional Regime Clause: "It is recorded that the worker will contribute to the Chilean pension system, with the employer agreeing to make the withholdings and deliver them to the corresponding institutions."
- Income Tax Clause: "The employer has the obligation to respond to the payment of the corresponding income tax in relation to the remuneration paid". (Only for salaries higher than 13.5 UTM).

#### 5) National Orientation Temporary Residence Visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for foreigners with a doctorate or master's degree obtained in Chile in the last 2 years.

**Target:** For those foreigners who obtain postgraduate degrees in accredited Chilean universities and who wish to work in Chile.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>7</sup>

**Duration:** One year, it can be renewed.

**Processing time:** approximately 6 months.

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

This visa can be requested until July 31, 2019, before the respective migration department (<https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/>) or the corresponding Provincial Government.

- Documents:
  - Visa application form subject to contract.

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<sup>7</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: US\$ 135; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100, Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 35; Mexico: US\$ 286; New Zealand: US\$ 1380; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; The Philippines: US\$ 305; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 77; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; the United States: US\$ 470; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

- Photocopy of the passport (identification sheets, number and dates of issuance and expiration of the passport, and a page with a receipt stamp, in addition, when appropriate, a photocopy of the Tourism Seal). In case of entering the economy with another identification document, attach a photocopy of this identity document.
- Photocopy of the Tourism Card.
- Recent photograph, identity card size (3x2 cm.), In colors, with full name and passport number.
- Certificate of criminal record of their economy of origin (legalized or apostilled, except citizens of Colombia, Peru and Dominican Republic who must present a certificate issued by their Consulate in Chile).
- Certificate of doctorate or master's degree issued by an accredited Chilean university.
- Criminal record certificate issued by the corresponding agency (<https://www.registrocivil.cl/>).
- Certificate of criminal record of their economy of origin (legalized or apostilled, except citizens of Colombia, Peru and Dominican Republic who must present a certificate issued by their Consulate in Chile).

#### 6) International Orientation Temporary Residence Visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with post-graduate degrees.

**Target:** For qualified professionals, who have a postgraduate degree in one of the 150 best foreign academic institutions, according to the ranking by discipline of WOS Global, currently used by [Scholarships Chile](#).

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>8</sup>

**Duration:** One year, can be renewed for another year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but for a spouse to obtain a visa an original marriage certificate or a notarized copy is required.

**Quota:** A total maximum of 300 visas will be granted according to the application order.

#### **Requirements:**

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<sup>8</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: US\$ 135; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100, Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 35; Mexico: US\$ 286; New Zealand: US\$ 1380; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; the Philippines: US\$ 305; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 77; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; the United States: US\$ 470; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

- Must not have been an undergraduate or post-graduate student who has previously benefited from scholarships from the respective government agency (<https://www.agci.cl/>) and before two years after having returned to their economy of origin have passed.
- Documents:
  - Complete the application form on the Consular Citizen Attention System web page.
  - Send a letter of request, addressed to the Consul of Chile, mentioning the background of the interested party and the reasons for the request.
  - When withdrawing the visa at the corresponding consulate, it is necessary to present the following documentation:
    - Valid passport until the end of the stay.
    - Criminal Record Certificate.
    - Medical certificate.
    - Photograph 5 x 5 (passport size)
  - Once in Chile:
    - You have a period of 30 days to go to the corresponding institution (<https://pdichile.cl/>) (International Police in the Chilean territory to carry out the Visa Registration).
    - Within the same 30 days, you must bring the Certificate of Registration issued by PDI to the corresponding agency (<https://www.registrocivil.cl/>) to obtain the Identity Card for foreigners.
  - Must provide a certified professional or technical degree, legalized or apostilled.
  - Must provide a criminal record certificate of the economy of origin and/or residence.
  - Must enter the Consular Citizen Attention System website and complete the *Oportunidades Visa* application form with the required information.
  - Letter of request, addressed to the Consul of Chile, mentioning the background of the interested party and the reasons for the request.

## 7) Temporary Visa for investors or Traders

**Visa category:** A business visa for foreign investors and traders.

**Target:** To bring foreigners to Chile to invest and trade temporarily.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>9</sup>

**Duration:** One year, can be renewed for another year. Foreigners can also apply for permanent residence when the visa period ends.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but for a spouse to obtain a visa an original marriage certificate or a notarized copy is required.

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Photocopy of the passport (identification sheets, number and dates of issuance and expiration of the passport and a stamp with an entry stamp, in addition, when appropriate, a photocopy of the Tourism Seal). In case of entering the economy with another identification document, attach a photocopy of the Identity Card, DNI, etc.
  - 1 photocopy of the last Tourism Card. If it was lost, you can request a duplicate at the offices of the corresponding institution (<https://pdichile.cl/>) (Eleuterio Ramírez N ° 852, Santiago).
  - 1 recent photograph, passport size (3x2 cm.), In colors, with full name and passport number.
  - Any document issued abroad must be legalized at the Chilean Consulate of the economy of origin and translated and legalized at the corresponding Ministry ([https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio\\_eng.html](https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio_eng.html)).
  - Sign the temporary visa application.
- a. If the project is in process:
  - Description of the project, activity or item to be carried out, which should include the following topics: geographical location, number of employees to hire, capital to invest and expectations in general.
  - Description of credit capital income to the economy:
    - If the capital has been admitted to Chile, one must prove by bank or customs documentation or any suitable document, in the name of the interested party, that it shows the income has means to sustain itself.

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<sup>9</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: US\$ 135; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100, Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 35; Mexico: US\$ 286; New Zealand: US\$ 1380; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; the Philippines: US\$ 305; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 77; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; the United States: US\$ 470; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

- If the capital has not been admitted to Chile, prove by means of any suitable document, on behalf of the interested party, that it demonstrates that it has capital abroad that will allow it to make the declared investment and that it has the means to sustain itself in Chile.
- b. If it is an active company:
  - o Credit capital income to the economy, corresponding to the money contributed to the company by the person applying for residence.
    - If the capital has been deposited in Chile, prove by means of bank or customs documentation or any suitable document, in the name of the interested party, that it shows the income of money or species, from abroad to Chile, and that it has the means to support itself.
    - If the capital has not been deposited in Chile, prove by means of any suitable document, in the name of the interested party, that it demonstrates that it has capital abroad that will allow it to make the declared investment and that it has the means to support itself in the economy.
  - All this documentation must be sent by registered letter to classifier nº 8 Central Post, Santiago, specifying the procedure that is being carried out. Once the application has been accepted, a numbered and stamped copy will be sent to your address.
  - If documentation issued outside Chile is presented, they must be duly apostilled or duly legalized by the Chilean Consulate in the economy of origin, in addition to being translated and legalized by the corresponding Ministry ([https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio\\_eng.html](https://minrel.gob.cl/minrel/site/edic/base/port/inicio_eng.html)).
  - If the document is written in English, French, Italian or Portuguese, translation is not necessary.

#### 8) Temporary residence visa for women victims of intrafamily violence

**Visa category:** Humanitarian visa for women who are victims of family violence.

**Target:** Facilitate care and protection in the Shelter and migrant Women's Centers, with regular or irregular residence, who are victims of family violence, derived from the respective institution (<http://www.fiscaliadechile.cl/Fiscalia/index.do>) by legal action.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>10</sup>

**Duration:** One year, no renewal.

**Processing time:** Approximately 6 months.

**Gender:** Female.

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Fill out an application form for temporary visa.
  - Photocopy of passport (identification pages, and expiration of the passport and a stamp with the entry stamp, in addition, when appropriate, a photocopy of the Tourism Seal).
  - In case of entering the economy with another identification document, attach a photocopy of this identity document.

9) Temporary Residence Visa for Pregnant Women

**Visa category:** Humanitarian visa for pregnant women.

**Target:** Maternity protection, aimed at facilitating access to health services for foreign workers who, residing in Chile, are pregnant and do not have the possibility of fulfilling the requirements to apply for a residence visa.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on citizenship.<sup>11</sup>

**Duration:** One year, no renewal.

**Processing time:** Approximately 6 months.

**Gender:** Female.

**Requirements:**

- Documents:

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<sup>10</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: US\$ 135; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100, Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 35; Mexico: US\$ 286; New Zealand: US\$ 1380; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; the Philippines: US\$ 305; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 77; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; The United States: US\$ 470; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

<sup>11</sup> Australia: US\$ 325; Brunei Darussalam: US\$ 16; Canada: US\$ 135; People's Republic of China: US\$ 152; Hong Kong, China: US\$ 21; Indonesia: US\$ 100, Japan: US\$ 55; Republic of Korea: US\$ 90; Malaysia: US\$ 35; Mexico: US\$ 286; New Zealand: US\$ 1380; Papa New Guinea: US\$ 220; Peru: US\$ 80; the Philippines: US\$ 305; Russia: US\$ 90; Singapore: US\$ 77; Chinese Taipei: US\$ 66; Thailand: US\$ 150; the United States: US\$ 470; Viet Nam: US\$ 100.

- Fill out an application form for temporary visa.
- Photocopy of passport (identification pages, and expiration of the passport and a stamp with the entry stamp) in addition, when appropriate, a photocopy of the Tourism Seal).
- Photocopy of the Tourism Card. Recent photograph, passport size (3x2 cm.), In colors, with full name and passport number.
- Certificate of criminal record of the economy of origin (legalized or apostilled).
- Women's Service Certificate requesting a visa and certifying compliance with the requirements.

#### 10) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Chile is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The information available via the Chilean official sources explains how Chileans can use this card to move in the APEC economies, but there is no information available regarding how a foreigner can use this card to travel to Chile.

**Duration:** The card has a validity equivalent to the validity of the holder's passport with a maximum of five years from the date of issue of the ABTC.

**Gender:** APEC card holders can only use the exclusive tracks with only one relative and no more. This norm is reported to International Police recently in a trade.

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - ABTC application fully filled out.
  - Color photography, passport size (4 x 4 cms.)
  - Photocopy of passport
  - Certificate of background for special purposes issued by the corresponding agency (<https://www.registrocivil.cl/>). It must be presented updated to the date of the presentation.
  - Certificate issued by any of the business associations that collaborate with the Government in the process of qualifying business persons for these purposes, of which this quality is recorded; or the documentation that allows to prove it.
  - Government officials, related to APEC activities, must certify such quality by means of a certificate issued by the corresponding government agency (<https://www.subrei.gob.cl/>).
  - Payment proof of the ABTC.

- The length of stay allowed in the economies that make up the ABTC system is as follows:
  - Australia: 90 days
  - Brunei Darussalam: 90 days
  - Republic of Korea: 90 days
  - Philippines: 59 days
  - Hong Kong, China: 60 days
  - Indonesia: 60 days
  - Japan: 90 days
  - Malaysia: 60 days
  - Mexico: 90 days
  - New Zealand: 90 days
  - Papa New Guinea: 60 days
  - Peru: 90 days
  - People's Republic of China: 60 days
  - Singapore: 60 days
  - Chinese Taipei: 90 days
  - Thailand: 90 days
  - Viet Nam: 60 days



**Official sources:**

Temporary Residence Visa for Entrepreneurs

<https://serviciosconsulares.cl/tramites/visa-de-residencia-temporaria-de-oportunidades-para-emprendedores>

(Consulted on 03/02/19) - Only available in Spanish

Temporary Residence Visa for Opportunities for Workers

<https://serviciosconsulares.cl/tramites/visa-de-residencia-temporaria-de-oportunidades-para-trabajadores>

(Consulted on 03/02/19) - Only available in Spanish

Residence Visa Subject to Contract

<https://serviciosconsulares.cl/tramites/visa-de-residente-sujeta-a-contrato>

(Consulted on 03/02/19) - Only available in Spanish

General Orientation Temporary Residence Visa

<https://www.chileatiende.gob.cl/fichas/55599-visa-de-residencia-temporaria-de-orientacion-nacional>

(Consulted on 04/14/19) – Only available in Spanish

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/acuerdos-internacionales/>

(Consulted el 03/05/19) - Only available in Spanish

Temporary Visa for Professionals and High-Level Technicians, Foreigners Paid Abroad or Journalists and Communications Professionals

<https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/media/2019/04/20.11.18-RequisitosVisaTemporariaPrimeraProfesionalesTe%CC%81cnicos.pdf>

(Consulted on 05/1/19) – Only available in Spanish

Temporary Visa for investors or Traders <https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/media/2019/02/20.11.18-RequisitosVisaTemporariaPrimeraInversionistasComerciantes.pdf>

(Consulted on 05/1/19) – Only available in Spanish

International Orientation Temporary Residence Visa

<https://serviciosconsulares.cl/tramites/visa-de-residencia-temporaria-de-orientacion-internacional>

(Consulted on 05/1/19) – Only available in Spanish

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The People's Republic of China offers **three skilled work visas**: two are skilled work and one is a business visa. The People's Republic of China is also a full member of the APEC Business Card (ABTC). The following visas are listed:

### 1) Z Visa

**Visa category:** A skilled work visa.

**Target:** Issued to foreign experts who intend to work in the P.R. China for a temporarily.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** One year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- The applicant should guarantee that all information provided in the application is true and correct. Any false, misleading or incomplete information may result in denial of the visa or refusal of entry into China.
- The invitation letter may be in the form of fax, photocopy or computer printout. An applicant may be required to submit an original invitation, provide other supporting documents, or schedule an interview with the consular officer.
- A holder of category Z visa must apply for a residence permit at the local public security authorities within 30 days of entry into China unless the Duration of Each Stay on the visa is marked as 30 days.
  - Documents:
    - Work permit
    - Original signed passport with at least six months of remaining validity and blank visa pages, and a copy of the passport's data page and the photo page if it is separate.
    - Visa Application Form (Form V.2013) and Photo - One completed Visa Application Form with a photo on glossy photo paper glued onto the form (your photo must meet the requirements).
    - Proof of legal stay or residence status (applicable to non-U.S. citizens)
    - Must provide the original and photocopy of your valid certificates or visa of stay, residence, employment or student status, or other

valid certificates of legal staying provided by the relevant authorities of the economy where you are currently staying.

- Photocopy of previous Chinese passports or previous Chinese visas (applicable to foreign citizens who were Chinese citizens and have obtained foreign citizenship)
- If you are applying for a Chinese visa for the first time, you should provide your previous Chinese passport held and a photocopy of its data page.
- If you have obtained Chinese visas before and want to apply for a Chinese visa with a renewed foreign passport that does not contain any Chinese visa, you should present the photocopy of the previous passport's data page and the photo page if it is separate, as well as the previous Chinese visa page. (If your name on the current passport differs from that on the previous one, you must provide an official document of name change.)

## 2) R Visa

**Visa category:** A skilled work visa.

**Target:** Foreigners who have high-level talents or whose skills are urgently needed in China.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** N/A

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Work permit.
  - Original signed passport with at least six months of remaining validity and blank visa pages, and a copy of the passport's data page and the photo page if it is separate.
  - One completed Visa Application Form with a photo on glossy photo paper glued onto the form (your photo must meet the requirements).
  - Must provide the original and photocopy of your valid certificates or visa of stay, residence, employment or student status, or other valid certificates of legal staying provided by the relevant authorities of the economy where you are currently staying. If you are

applying for a Chinese visa for the first time, you should provide your previous Chinese passport held and a photocopy of its data page.

- If you have obtained Chinese visas before and want to apply for a Chinese visa with a renewed foreign passport that does not contain any Chinese visa, you should present the photocopy of the previous passport's data page and the photo page if it is separate, as well as the previous Chinese visa page. (If your name on the current passport differs from that on the previous one, you must provide an official document of name change.)
- The applicant should submit relevant certification in accordance with relevant regulations and meet the relevant requirements of the competent authorities of the Chinese government on high-level talents and individuals with special skills urgently needed by China.

### 3) M Visa

**Visa category:** A skilled work business visa.

**Target:** Foreigners who intend to go to China for commercial and trade activities.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** N/A

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- If the applicant is a child born in the U. S. to a Chinese parent, the visa requirements are different.
- Documents:
  - Original signed passport with at least six months of remaining validity and blank visa pages, and a copy of the passport's data page and the photo page if it is separate.
  - One completed Visa Application Form with a photo on glossy photo paper glued onto the form (your photo must meet certain requirements).
  - Must provide the original and photocopy of your valid certificates or visa of stay, residence, employment or student status, or other valid certificates of legal staying provided by the relevant authorities of the economy where you are currently staying.

- Photocopy of previous Chinese passports or previous Chinese visas (applicable to foreign citizens who were Chinese citizens and have obtained foreign citizenship).
- If you are applying for a Chinese visa for the first time, you should provide your previous Chinese passport held and a photocopy of its data page.
- If you have obtained Chinese visas before and want to apply for a Chinese visa with a renewed foreign passport that does not contain any Chinese visa, you should present the photocopy of the previous passport's data page and the photo page if it is separate, as well as the previous Chinese visa page. (If your name on the current passport differs from that on the previous one, you must provide an official document of name change.)
- Documents on the commercial activity issued by a trade partner in China, or trade fair invitation or other invitation letters issued by relevant entity or individual. The invitation letter should contain:
  - i. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.).
  - ii. Information on the planned visit (purpose of visit, arrival and departure dates, place(s) to be visited, relations between the applicant and the inviting entity or individual, financial source for expenditures).
  - iii. Information on the inviting entity or individual (name, contact telephone number, address, official stamp, signature of the legal representative or the inviting individual).

**Official Sources:**

Z Visa

<http://en.shafea.gov.cn/ViewNews.aspx?id=a75ccda5-1e61-4363-8826-5b5872e82349>

(Consulted on 4/14/19)

R Visa

<http://english.gov.cn/services/workinchina/>

(Consulted on 4/14/19)

M Visa

<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/visas/hrsq/>

(Consulted on 4/14/19)

## HONG KONG, CHINA

Hong Kong, China offers **seven skilled work visas**, which they refer to as immigration policies/schemes to attract talent. It is also a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC). The following visas are listed:

### 1) General Employment Policy (GEP) - Investment as Entrepreneurs

**Visa category:** Skilled business visa based on employment condition.

**Target:** For persons who wish to enter/stay in Hong Kong, China (HKC) for investment as entrepreneurs under the General Employment Policy (GEP), i.e. to establish or join in business in HKC.

**Visa fee:** HKD \$230

**Duration:** Persons admitted will normally be granted an initial stay of 24 months on employment condition upon entry. They may apply for extension of stay in HKC within four weeks before their limit of stay expires. Such applications will be considered only when the applicants continue to meet the eligibility criteria for entry for investment. Extension of stay, if approved, will normally follow the 3-3 years pattern, on employment condition.

**Processing time:** It normally takes four weeks to process upon receipt of all the required documents.

**Gender:**

- Not specifically.
- Applicants admitted for investment may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, "same-sex marriage", opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration, and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to HKC under the prevailing dependant policy of HKC.

**Requirements:**

\*This entry arrangement does not apply to Chinese residents of People's Republic of China, citizens of Afghanistan, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nepal and Viet Nam.

In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in HKC, he/she requires a visa/entry permit for investment in HKC. While each application is determined

on its individual merits, an applicant should meet normal immigration requirements (such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her economy of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to HKC; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on HKC, etc.) as well as the relevant specific eligibility criteria (detailed below) before he/she may be considered for the grant of a visa/entry permit.

An application for a visa/entry permit to enter HKC for investment as entrepreneur may be favourably considered if:

- I. there is no security objection and no known record of serious crime in respect of the applicant;
- II. the applicant has a good education background, normally a first degree in the relevant field, but in special circumstances, good technical qualifications, proven professional abilities and/or relevant experience and achievements supported by documentary evidence may also be accepted;
- III. the applicant is in a position to make a substantial contribution to the economy HKC, with consideration factors including, but not limited to, business plan, business turnover, financial resources, investment sum, number of jobs created locally and introduction of new technology or skills. Details of these consideration factors are as follows:
  - i. Business Plan
    - An applicant who wishes to establish or join in business in HKC should submit a two-year business plan stating the nature of the business, market analysis, market positioning, business direction, sales targets, product marketing strategy, etc. in order to demonstrate that the business is suitable for and capable of developing in HKC.
    - The applicant should also submit a two-year forecast of the profit-and-loss account statement, cash flow statement and balance sheet to demonstrate the feasibility of the business in terms of operation, finances and development.
    - The respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) will seek advice, if needed, from relevant government departments or professional bodies on the applicant's business plan in order to assess whether the business supports HKC's overall economic development.
      - For example, the corresponding government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) may consider whether the applicant's business belongs to or is able to complement industries that HKC enjoys clear advantages, such as the four traditional pillar industries (i.e. trading and logistics, tourism, financial services, and professional and producer services) or the four clusters of sectors



being explored for support measures by the respective economic development commission (i.e. transportation, convention and exhibition industries and tourism, manufacturing industries, innovative technology and cultural and creative industries, and professional services), etc.

ii. Business Turnover

- If the applicant is running relevant business overseas or has joined in a business in HKC, he/she should submit the profit-and-loss account statement and balance sheet showing the business turnover and profit in the previous year.
- Those who intend to establish business in HKC should submit a two-year forecast of profit-and-loss account statement and balance sheet as mentioned above, including the anticipated business turnover in order to demonstrate the feasibility of the business operation and development.
- In assessing an application for entry for investment to establish business in HKC, the respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) will also consider whether the applicant has relevant investment or working experience in the business concerned. If needed, the government department will seek advice from relevant government departments or professional bodies in order to assess whether the business is suitable for and able to sustain a steady growth in HKC and can give impetus to the industry concerned.

iii. Financial Resources

- The applicant should submit statements of his/her personal and company bank accounts in the previous year and proof of other sources of funding, as well as the company's latest audited financial report (if any) to demonstrate that he/she has sufficient financial resources to run the relevant business in HKC and also support the smooth operation and sustainable growth of the business.

iv. Investment Sum

- The applicant should submit documentary proof showing the amount of capital investment in HKC. The respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) will consider whether the investment amount is able to support the operation of the business.

v. Number of Jobs Created Locally

- The applicant should set out the organisational structure of his/her business and the required number of staff and posts, based on the nature and scale of the business. He/she should indicate the number and level of actual jobs

created locally (e.g. managers, administrators, professionals, clerical support staff, etc.).

vi. Introduction of New Technology or Skills (if applicable)

- The applicant should explain how the new technology or skills to be introduced can inspire creativity in the high-value-added industries in HKC, and whether he/she has taken out patent, contributing to the long-term development of HKC as a knowledge-based economy.

IV. Requirements for Start-up Businesses

- An applicant who wishes to establish or join in a start-up business may also submit an application.
- The respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) may consider the application favourably, if the start-up business concerned is supported by a government-backed programme with a rigorous vetting and selection process, and the applicant is the proprietor or partner of the start-up company or a key researcher of the relevant project. Examples of government-backed programmes include:
  - StartmeupHK Venture Programme administered by the corresponding agency (<https://www.investhk.gov.hk/>);
  - Incu-App, Incu-Bio and Incu-Tech programmes administered by the respective corporation (<https://www.hkstp.org/en/>);
  - Cyberport Incubation Programme;
  - Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme and Enterprise Support Scheme administered by the respective commission (<https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/index.html>); and
  - Design Incubation Programme administered by the respective centre (<https://www.hkdesignincubation.org/>).

V. Overseas Chinese citizens holding People's Republic of China passports who are living overseas and meet the criteria stipulated above and normal immigration requirements may apply to enter HKC for investment if:

- the applicant has permanent residence overseas; or
- the applicant has been residing overseas for at least one year immediately before the submission of application ["overseas" means places outside the People's Republic of China, HKC and the Macao, China] and that the application is submitted from overseas.

VI. Documents:

- To be submitted by the applicant:
  - Application form (ID 999A)

- The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 2 of the application form ID 999A)
- Photocopy of the applicant's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held (if applicable). For an applicant who is currently staying in HKC, photocopy of his/her travel document page containing the latest arrival stamp/landing slip/extension of stay label in HKC.
- Photocopy of the applicant's HKC identity card (if any)
- Photocopy of proof of academic qualifications and relevant work experience
- Photocopy of proof of the applicant's financial standing (e.g. bank statements)
- Photocopy of the company's employment contract with or letter of appointment to the applicant containing information about post, salary, other fringe benefits and employment periods (if applicable)
- Detailed 2-year investment plan which contains details of proposed business activities, amount of investment, creation of local job posts, setting up of an office/showroom/warehouse, etc.
- Proof of company's business activities such as photocopy of contracts, invoices or proof of business deals under negotiation (if applicable).
- Photocopy of proof of the company's financial standing (e.g. latest audited financial report, trading profit and loss account, or profits tax return)
- Documents with details of company background such as business activities, mode of operation, background/connection of company, product ranges, sources and markets, membership of chamber of commerce (if any) etc. (supported with catalogues, brochures, etc.) [if the applicant has invested in HKC].
- Photocopy of tenancy agreements/supporting documents on office set-up.
- Proof of posts created for local employees such as photocopy of records of monthly contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme (if applicable).
- Photocopy of Business Registration Certificate and business registration particulars e.g. Inland Revenue Department Form 1(a)/Form 1(c) [if the applicant has invested in HKC].
- Photocopy of documents filed with the Companies Registry such as Certificate of Incorporation/latest annual return/Incorporation Form (Company Limited by Shares)/Memorandum of Association/Articles of Association.

- Photocopy of licences or certificates for the operation of the business (e.g. relevant licences for financial institutions issued by the Securities and Futures Commission) (if applicable).
  - Letter indicating valid support by a government-backed programme.
  - Photocopy of the applicant's Macao, China identity card [for Macao, China residents only].
  - Photocopy of the applicant's household registration in Chinese Taipei and Chinese Taipei identity card [for Chinese Taipei residents only].
  - Photocopy of proof of the applicant's overseas residence, such as photocopy of official documents showing applicant's condition of stay and limit of stay endorsed by overseas authorities [for overseas Chinese holding People's Republic of China passports only].
- To be submitted by the sponsor:
    - To apply for entry for investment, the applicant must nominate a local sponsor, who can either sponsor the applicant as a company or an individual. If the sponsor is an individual, he/she should be: of the age of 18 or above; a bona fide HKC resident; and acquainted with the applicant.
    - Application form (ID 999B).
    - Photocopy of Business Registration Certificate (if the sponsor is a company).
    - Photocopy of the sponsor's HKC identity card (if the sponsor is an individual).
    - Photocopy of the sponsor's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry, and the latest arrival stamp/landing slip/extension of stay label in HKC (if the sponsor is a non-permanent resident of HKC).

## 2) General Employment Policy (GEP) – Professionals

**Visa category:** Skilled work visa based on employment condition.

**Target:** Applicants who possess special skills, knowledge or experience of value to and not readily available in HKC may apply to come to work under the GEP.

**Visa fee:** HKD \$230

**Duration:**

- Persons admitted as professionals under the GEP will normally be granted an initial stay of 24 months on employment condition, or in accordance with the duration of the employment contract (whichever is shorter), upon entry. They may apply for extension of stay in HKC within four weeks before their limit of

stay expires. Such applications will be considered only when the applicants continue to meet the eligibility criteria under the GEP. Extension of stay, if approved, will normally follow the 3-3 years pattern, also on employment condition, or be in accordance with the duration of the employment contract (whichever is shorter).

- Admitted professionals who continue to meet the eligibility criteria under the GEP and fulfil the following criteria at the time of application for extension of stay may choose to apply for assessment under the top-tier employment stream:

(a) the applicant has been permitted to take up employment as a professional in HKC under the GEP for not less than two years; and

(b) the applicant has an assessable income for salaries tax of not less than HK\$2 million in the previous year of tax assessment.

Successful applicants will normally be granted an extension of stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay for a period of six years.

**Processing time:** It normally takes four weeks to process upon receipt of all the required documents.

**Gender:**

- Not specifically.
- Applicants admitted under the GEP may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognized by the local authorities of the place of celebration, and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to HKC under the prevailing dependant policy of HKC.

**Requirements:**

\*This entry arrangement does not apply to Chinese residents of People’s Republic of China, and citizens of Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nepal and Viet Nam.

In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in HKC, he/she requires a visa/entry permit to work in HKC. While each application is determined on its individual merits, an applicant should meet normal immigration requirements (such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her economy of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to HKC; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on HKC, etc.) as well as the

relevant specific eligibility criteria (detailed below) before he/she may be considered for the grant of a visa/entry permit.

An application for a visa/ entry permit to take up employment under the GEP may be favourably considered if:

- I. There is no security objection and no known record of serious crime in respect of the applicant;
  - II. The applicant has a good education background, normally a first degree in the relevant field, but in special circumstances, good technical qualifications, proven professional abilities and/or relevant experience and achievements supported by documentary evidence may also be accepted;
  - III. There is a genuine job vacancy;
  - IV. The applicant has a confirmed offer of employment and is employed in a job relevant to his academic qualifications or work experience that cannot be readily taken up by the local work force; and
  - V. The remuneration package including income, accommodation, medical and other fringe benefits is broadly commensurate with the prevailing market level for professionals in HKC.
  - VI. Overseas Chinese citizens holding People's Republic of China passports who meet the criteria stipulated above and normal immigration requirements may apply to enter HKC for employment under the GEP if:
    - The applicant has permanent residence overseas; or
    - The applicant has been residing overseas for at least one year immediately before the submission of application ["overseas" means economies or territories outside People's Republic of China, HKC and the Macao, China] and that the application is submitted from overseas.
- Documents
    - To be submitted by the applicant
      - Application form (ID 990A)
      - The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 2 of application form ID 990A)
      - Photocopy of applicant's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held (if applicable). For an applicant who is currently staying HKC, photocopy of his/her valid travel document page containing the latest arrival stamp/landing slip/extension of stay label in HKC. A Chinese resident of People's Republic of China who has not been issued with a travel document may submit a photocopy of his/her People's Republic of China (PRC) resident identity card.

- Photocopy of applicant's HKC identity card (if any).
  - Photocopy of proof of academic qualifications and relevant work experience
  - Photocopy of the applicant's Macao, China identity card [for Macao, China residents only].
  - Photocopy of the applicant's household registration in Chinese Taipei and Chinese Taipei identity card [for Chinese Taipei residents only].
  - Photocopy of proof of the applicant's overseas residence, such as copy of official documents showing the applicant's conditions of stay and limit of stay endorsed by overseas authorities [for overseas Chinese holding PRC passports only].
- To be submitted by the employing company
    - Application form (ID 990B).
    - Photocopy of the company's employment contract with or letter of appointment to the applicant containing information about post, salaries, other fringe benefits and employment periods.
    - Photocopy of the Business Registration Certificate. \*
    - Photocopy of proof of financial standing (e.g. latest audited financial report, trading profit and loss account, or profit tax return). \*
    - Documents with details of company background such as business activities, mode of operation, background/ connection of company, product ranges, sources and markets, membership of chamber of commerce (if any), etc. (supported with catalogues, brochures, etc.).
    - Detailed business plan (e.g. information on source of funds, estimated capital injection, nature/mode of business activities, expected turnover, sales volume, gross and net profit in the coming years, and proposed creation of local job posts, etc.) [for companies newly set-up within 12 months only].

\* Submission of the documents is not required if the employing company has successfully obtained an employment or training visa/entry permit for a non-local staff in the past 18 months immediately before submission of the application.

### 3) Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)

**Visa category:** Skilled work visa based on employment condition.

**Target:**

- For persons who wish to enter/stay in HKC for employment under TechTAS.

- TechTAS is a three-year pilot scheme. It provides a fast-track arrangement for eligible technology companies/institutes to admit non-local technology talent to undertake research and development (R&D) work for them in HKC. Eligible technology companies/institutes would first have to apply for a quota. A company/institute allotted with a quota by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) can accordingly sponsor an eligible person to apply for an employment visa/entry permit within the six-month quota validity period. It also has to fulfil the requirement to employ new local employees in technology-related work.

**Visa fee:** HKD \$230

**Duration:**

- Persons admitted under TechTAS will normally be granted an initial stay of 24 months on employment condition, or in accordance with the duration of the employment contract (whichever is shorter), upon entry. They may apply for extension of stay in HKC within four weeks before expiry of their limit of stay. Applications for extension of stay will be considered only when the applicants meet the eligibility criteria under TechTAS. Extension of stay, if approved, will normally follow the 3-3 years' pattern, also on employment condition, or be in accordance with the duration of the employment contract (whichever is shorter).
- Persons admitted under TechTAS who continue to meet the eligibility criteria under TechTAS and fulfil the following criteria at the time of application for extension of stay may choose to be assessed under the top-tier employment stream:
  - a. the applicant has been permitted to take up employment under TechTAS for not less than two years; and
  - b. the applicant has an assessable income for salaries tax of not less than HK\$2 million in the previous year of tax assessment.
- Successful applicants will normally be granted an extension of stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay for a period of six years.

**Processing time:** It normally takes two weeks to process an employment visa/entry permit application upon receipt of all the required documents.

**Gender:**

- Not specifically.
- Applicants admitted under TechTAS may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, "same-sex



marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration, and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to HKC under the prevailing dependant policy of HKC.

**Requirements:**

\*TechTAS does not apply to citizens of Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nepal and Viet Nam.

In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in HKC, he/she requires a visa/entry permit to work in HKC. While each application is determined on its individual merits, an applicant should meet normal immigration requirements (such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her economy of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to HKC; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on HKC, etc.) as well as the relevant specific eligibility criteria (detailed below) before he/she may be considered for the grant of a visa/entry permit.

An application for a visa/entry permit to take up employment under TechTAS may be favourably considered if:

- I. there is no security objection and no known record of serious crime in respect of the applicant;
- II. the employing company/institute has a valid quota approved by ITC at the time of application;
- III. the applicant is employed as a full-time employee in HKC by the employing company/institute;
- IV. the applicant is engaged principally in conducting R&D in the areas of biotechnology, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, data analytics, financial technologies or material science;
- V. the applicant is a degree-holder in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) from a well-recognised university, which is among the top 100 universities for STEM-related subjects in the latest publication of any of the following world university ranking: Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Shanghai Ranking), Times Higher Education.
- VI. work experience is not compulsory for those with a Master’s or Doctoral degree, whereas those with a Bachelor’s degree only should possess a minimum of one year of work experience in the relevant technology area. Persons not meeting the academic requirements but possessing good technical skills in specialty areas, proven professional abilities and/or relevant experience and

achievements can be considered on a case-by-case basis with full justifications. In such case, relevant documentary evidence should be provided;

- VII. the applicant is offered remuneration not lower than the prevailing market level for comparable jobs in HKC;
- VIII. the applicant meets the specific particulars pertaining to the job position set out in the quota allotment letter issued by ITC; and
- IX. the bona fides of the employing company/institute and the applicant are not in doubt.

- Documents:

- To be submitted by the applicant:

- Technology Talent Admission Scheme - Application for Visa/Entry Permit (ID 1024), with Part A duly completed by the applicant.
- Applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 1 of application form ID 1024).
- Photocopy of applicant's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held (if applicable). A Chinese resident of the People's Republic of China who has not been issued with a travel document may submit a photocopy of his/her People's Republic of China (PRC) resident identity card.
- Photocopy of applicant's HKC identity card (if any).
- Photocopy of proof of academic qualifications and relevant work experience, or proof of good technical skills in specialty areas, proven professional abilities and/or relevant experience and achievements (if applicable).
- Photocopy of applicant's Macao identity card [for Macao, China residents only].
- Photocopy of applicant's household registration in Chinese Taipei and Chinese Taipei identity card [for Chinese Taipei residents only].
- Photocopy of proof of applicant's overseas residence, such as copy of official documents showing the applicant's conditions of stay and limit of stay endorsed by overseas authorities [only applicable to overseas Chinese who have obtained overseas permanent residence; or have been residing overseas for at least one year immediately before the submission of an application and the application is submitted from overseas].
- Letter of consent from applicant's present working unit or relevant People's Republic of China authorities (page 9 of application form ID 1024) [for residents of People's Republic of China only].

- To be submitted by the employing company/institute:
  - Technology Talent Admission Scheme - Application for Visa/Entry Permit (ID 1024), with Part C duly completed by the employing company/institute.
  - Photocopy of the quota allotment letter issued by the ITC.
  - Photocopy of the employing company/institute's employment contract with or letter of appointment to the applicant containing information about post, salaries, other fringe benefits and employment period.
  - Photocopy of the Business Registration Certificate (not required if the employing company/institute has successfully obtained an employment or training visa/entry permit for a non-local staff in the past 18 months immediately before submission of the application).

#### 4) Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP)

**Visa category:** Skilled work visa based on employment condition.

**Target:** Chinese residents of People's Republic of China who possess special skills, knowledge or experience of value to and not readily available in HKC may apply to come to work under the ASMTP.

**Visa fee:** HKD \$230

**Duration:**

- Persons admitted as professionals under the ASMTP will normally be granted an initial stay of 24 months on employment condition, or in accordance with the duration of the employment contract (whichever is shorter), upon entry. They may apply for extension of stay in HKC within four weeks before their limit of stay expires. Such applications will be considered only when the applicants continue to meet the eligibility criteria under the ASMTP. Extension of stay, if approved, will normally follow the 3-3 years pattern, also on employment condition, or be in accordance with the duration of the employment contract (whichever is shorter).
- Admitted professionals who continue to meet the eligibility criteria under the ASMTP and fulfil the following criteria at the time of application for extension of stay may choose to apply for assessment under the top-tier employment stream:
  - a. the applicant has been permitted to take up employment as a professional in HKC under the ASMTP for not less than two years; and
  - b. the applicant has an assessable income for salaries tax of not less than HK\$2 million in the previous year of tax assessment.

Successful applicants will normally be granted an extension of stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay for a period of six years.

**Processing time:** It normally takes four weeks to process upon receipt of all the required documents.

**Gender:**

- Not specifically.
- Applicants admitted under the ASMTP may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration, and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to HKC under the prevailing dependant policy of HKC.

**Requirements:**

In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in HKC, he/she requires a visa/entry permit to work in HKC. While each application is determined on its individual merits, an applicant should meet normal immigration requirements (such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her economy of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to HKC; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on HKC, etc.) as well as the relevant specific eligibility criteria (detailed below) before he/she may be considered for the grant of a visa/entry permit.

An application for an entry permit to take up employment under the ASMTP may be favourably considered if:

- I. there is no security objection and no known record of serious crime in respect of the applicant;
- II. the applicant has a good education background, normally a first degree in the relevant field, but in special circumstances, good technical qualifications, proven professional abilities and/or relevant experience and achievements supported by documentary evidence may also be accepted;
- III. there is a genuine job vacancy;
- IV. the applicant has a confirmed offer of employment and is employed in a job relevant to his academic qualifications or work experience that cannot be readily taken up by the local work force; and
- V. the remuneration package including income, accommodation, medical and other fringe benefits is broadly commensurate with the prevailing market level for professionals in HKC.

- Documents:
  - To be submitted by the applicant:
    - Application form (ID 990A).
    - The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 2 of application form ID 990A).
    - Photocopy of the applicant's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held (if applicable). For an applicant who is currently staying in HKC, photocopy of his/her valid travel document page containing the latest arrival stamp/landing slip/extension of stay label in HKC. A Chinese resident of the People's Republic of China who has not been issued with a travel document may submit a photocopy of his/her People's Republic of China resident identity card.
    - Photocopy of the applicant's HKC identity card (if any).
    - Photocopy of proof of academic qualifications and relevant work experience.
    - Letter of consent from the applicant's present working unit or relevant People's Republic of China authorities (page 8 of application form ID 990A) [for residents of People's Republic of China only].
  
  - To be submitted by the employing company:
    - Application form (ID 990B).
    - Photocopy of the company's employment contract with or letter of appointment to the applicant containing information about post, salaries, other fringe benefits and employment period
    - Photocopy of the Business Registration Certificate. \*
    - Photocopy of proof of financial standing (e.g. latest audited financial report, trading profit and loss account, or profit tax return). \*
    - Documents with details of company background such as business activities, mode of operation, background/ connection of company, product ranges, sources and markets, membership of chamber of commerce (if any), etc. (supported with catalogues, brochures, etc.).
    - Detailed business plan (e.g. information on source of funds, estimated capital injection, nature/mode of business activities, expected turnover, sales volume, gross and net profit in the coming years, and proposed creation of local job posts, etc.) [for companies newly set-up within 12 months only].

\* Submission of the documents is not required if the employing company has successfully obtained an employment or training visa/entry permit for a non-local staff in the past 18 months immediately before submission of the application.

## 5) Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS)

**Visa category:** Skilled work visa.

**Target:** The QMAS is a quota-based entrant scheme. It seeks to attract highly skilled or talented persons to settle in HKC in order to enhance HKC's economic competitiveness.

**Visa fee:** HKD \$230

**Duration:**

- Person admitted through the General Points Test under the scheme will normally be granted an initial stay of 24 months on time limitation only without other conditions of stay upon entry. To obtain an extension of stay at the end of the first 24-month period, a person admitted through the General Points Test under the scheme is required to provide evidence demonstrating to the satisfaction of the corresponding government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng>) that he/she has taken steps to settle in HKC by taking up residence here, e.g. by securing gainful employment or establishing a business. To be eligible for further extension of stay, a person admitted through the General Points Test under the scheme is required to provide evidence demonstrating to the satisfaction of the respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) that:
  - (a) he/she has settled in HKC; and
  - (b) he/she has made contribution to HKC, such as engaging in graduate, specialist or senior level gainful employment or establishing a business of a reasonable size in Hong Kong, China.
- Extensions of stay, if approved, will normally follow the 3-3 years pattern on time limitation only without other conditions of stay.
- If a person admitted through the General Points Test under the scheme has been permitted to remain in HKC for not less than two years and he/she has an assessable income for salaries tax of not less than HK\$2 million in the previous year of tax assessment, an extension of stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay for a period of six years may normally be granted. The applicant is required to provide documentary proof of the income level, e.g. notice of salaries tax assessment of the previous tax assessment year issued by the corresponding department (<https://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/welcome.htm>) or relevant tax documents.

- Persons admitted through the Achievement-based Points Test under the scheme will normally be granted a stay of eight years on time limitation only without other conditions of stay upon entry.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:**

- Not specifically.
- Applicants under the QMAS may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration, and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to HKC under the prevailing dependant policy of HKC.

**Requirements:**

\*The scheme is not applicable to citizens of Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nepal and Viet Nam.

- **Stage 1: Prerequisites:**

All applicants under the Scheme are required to fulfill a set of prerequisites before they can be awarded points under one of the two points-based tests under the QMAS.

- Age: The applicant must be aged 18 or above when lodging an application under the QMAS.
- Financial requirement: The applicant must be able to demonstrate that he/she is capable of supporting and accommodating himself/herself and his/her dependants, if any, on his/her own financial resources without relying on public assistance during his/her stay in HKC.
- Good character: The applicant should not have any criminal record or adverse immigration record in HKC or elsewhere.
- Language proficiency: The applicant should be proficient in written and spoken Chinese (Putonghua or Cantonese) or English.
- Basic educational qualification: The applicant must have a good education background, normally a first degree from a recognized university or a tertiary educational institution. In special circumstances, good technical qualifications, proven professional abilities and/or experience and achievements supported by documentary evidence may be considered.

If the applicant fails to provide satisfactory supporting documents showing that he/she meets all the above prerequisites, his/her application will not be processed further and will be refused immediately.

- **Stage 2:** Points-based test:

Applicants who have met all the prerequisites may choose to be assessed either under the General Points Test or Achievement-based Points Test. There are six point-scoring factors under the General Points Test and one point-scoring factor under the Achievement-based Points Test.

A minimum passing mark is set under the General Points Test. Persons who choose the Achievement-based Points Test are advised to assess whether their credentials are adequate to meet the minimum passing mark before submitting an application.

- **Stage 3:** Selection exercise:

Selection exercises will be done on a regular basis for quota allocation to applicants. During each selection exercise, applicants who satisfy both the prerequisites and the minimum passing mark (under the General Points Test) or the one point-scoring factor (under the Achievement-based Points Test) will be ranked according to scores awarded. High scoring applications will be short-listed for further assessment. The Director of Immigration may seek advice from the respective committee (<https://www.info.gov.hk/cml/eng/cbc/b108.htm>) (the Advisory Committee) on the assessment, point-scoring and allocation of quota under the Scheme. The Advisory Committee comprises official and non-official members appointed by the Chief Executive of HKC. The Advisory Committee will consider the socio-economic needs of HKC, the sectoral mix of candidates and other relevant factors, and recommend to the Director of Immigration how best to allocate available quota in each selection exercise. Meeting the minimum passing mark or high-scoring applications do not necessarily secure quota allotment. Results of each selection exercise will be published on the respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) website.

- **Stage 4:** Approval-in-principle

Applicants who are allotted a quota in the selection exercise will be issued with an Approval-in-principle letter. Such applicants are required to come to HKC to attend an interview in person and present originals of all documents submitted during the application to the respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) for verification. They may enter HKC on visitor conditions for this purpose. The issue of an Approval-in-principle letter to an



applicant does not automatically guarantee approval of his/her entry to or remain in HKC under the Scheme.

- **Stage 5: Issue of visa/entry permit**

If all original documents are satisfactorily verified and all relevant application procedures are finalized, successful applicants will be issued with a visa/entry permit under the scheme for staying in HKC.

- Documents:

- Quality Migrant Admission Scheme - Application for Entry Visa/Entry Permit (ID 981);
- The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 1 of application form ID 981);
- Photocopy of the applicant's valid travel document containing his/her personal particulars, citizenship (if any), residential status in his/her economy of residence (if he/she is not a citizen of the economy), re-entry visa to the economy (if applicable), and date of issue and expiry of the travel document;
- Photocopy of People's Republic of China resident identity card (if applicable);
- Dependent visa/entry permit application form (ID 997) and necessary supporting documents for each of the accompanying dependent family members;
- Photocopy of proofs of personal net worth;
- Photocopy of HKC permanent identity of a HKC permanent resident immediate family member;
- Photocopy of proof of relationship with the HKC permanent resident immediate family member;
- Photocopy of residential proof of the HKC permanent resident immediate family member;
- Photocopy of university graduation certificate of accompanying married spouse;
- Originals of transcript of academic record of accompanying married spouse (for qualifications not awarded by higher education institutions in People's Republic of China); or original(s) of verification report issued by the corresponding centre (<http://www.cdgd.edu.cn/>) of accompanying married spouse (for qualifications awarded by higher education institutions in People's Republic of China);
- Photocopy of proof(s) of achievement;
- Photocopy of higher education graduation certificate(s)
- Originals of transcript of academic record (for qualifications not awarded by higher education in People's Republic of China); or original(s) of

verification report issued by the corresponding centre (<http://www.cdgd.edu.cn/>)(for qualifications awarded by higher education institutions in People's Republic of China);

- Photocopy of professional qualification/training/membership certificate(s), if any;
- Details relating to the professional qualification/training/membership claimed, if applicable;
- Photocopy of a reference letter from each employer;
- Photocopy of company documents for each business owned;
- Photocopy of evidence of self-employment experience;
- Photocopy of evidence on key career accomplishment/future plan;
- Photocopy of language proficiency proof.

#### 6) Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ASSG)

**Visa category:** Work visa for specified citizenship.

**Target:** Persons who are the second generation of emigrated Chinese permanent residents of HKC from overseas may apply to return to work in HKC under the scheme.

**Visa fee:** HKD \$230

**Duration:** Persons admitted under the ASSG will normally be granted an initial stay of 12 months on time limitation only without other conditions of stay. They may apply for extension of stay in HKC within 4 weeks before the expiry of their limit of stay. While applicants are not required to have secured an offer of employment in HKC upon application for entry under the scheme, when applying for extension, applicants are required to have secured an offer of employment (which is at a level commonly taken up by degree holders and the remuneration package of which is at market level). For those who have established or joined in business in HKC, they are required to produce proof of their business. Successful applicants for extension of stay will normally be permitted to remain on time limitation on the 2-2-3 years extension pattern without other conditions of stay.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:**

- Not specifically.
- Applicants admitted under the ASSG may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, "same-sex marriage", opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration, and unmarried dependent

children under the age of 18 to HKC under the prevailing dependant policy of HKC.

**Requirements:**

\*This scheme is not applicable to applicants who are citizens of Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nepal and Viet Nam.

Applicants under the scheme will have to meet, apart from normal immigration requirements, the following criteria:

- I. aged between 18 and 40 at the time of application;
  - II. born overseas (i.e. not in the People's Republic of China, HKC, Macao, China or Chinese Taipei);
  - III. have at least one parent who is holder of a valid HKC permanent identity card at the time of application and was a Chinese citizen\*\* who had settled overseas at the time of the applicant's birth;
  - IV. have a good education background, normally a first degree, but in special circumstances, good technical qualifications, proven professional abilities and/or relevant experience and achievements supported by documentary evidence may also be accepted; \*\*\*
  - V. proficient in written and spoken Chinese (Putonghua or Cantonese) or English; and
  - VI. have sufficient financial means and are able to meet the living expenses for their (including their dependants, if any) maintenance and accommodation in HKC without recourse to public funds.
- Documents to be submitted by the applicant:
    - Application Form (ID 1017).
    - The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 1 of application form ID 1017).
    - Photocopy of the applicant's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held.
    - Photocopy of the applicant's HKC identity card (if any).
    - Photocopy of evidence of the applicant's relationship with his/her Chinese HKC permanent resident parent(s) e.g. applicant's birth certificate.
    - Photocopy of valid HKC permanent identity card of applicant's parent(s).
    - Photocopy of proof of academic qualifications and relevant work experience.
    - Photocopy of the applicant's financial standing e.g. bank statements, savings accounts passbooks, tax receipts and salary slips.

\*\* "Chinese citizen" means a person of Chinese citizenship under the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China, as implemented in HKC pursuant to Article

18 of and Annex III to the Basic Law of HKC of the People's Republic of China and interpreted as provided in the following link (<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/lawsdata/chineselaw/200211/20021100050297.shtml>).

\*\*\*The academic level of claimed non-local academic qualifications shall be equivalent to the locally recognised standard of Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degrees. The corresponding government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) may require applicant to have his / her claimed overseas academic qualifications assessed by respective government council (<https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/>) at the applicant's own expense, if necessary.

## 7) Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG)

**Visa category:** Skilled work visa.

**Target:** Applicants who are/were non-local students\*\*\* and have obtained an undergraduate or higher qualification in a full-time and locally-accredited programme in HKC (hereafter "non-local graduates") may apply to stay/return and work in HKC under the IANG.

\*\*\*Non-local students refer to persons entering HKC for the purpose of education with a student visa / entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration.

**Visa fee:** HKD \$230

**Duration:** Persons admitted under the IANG will normally be granted an initial stay of 12 months on time limitation only without other conditions of stay upon entry. They may apply for extension of stay in HKC within four weeks before their limit of stay expires. Upon applying for extension, non-local graduates are required to have secured an offer of employment which is at a level commonly taken up by degree holders and the remuneration package is at market level. For those who have established or joined in business in HKC, they are required to produce proof of their business. Successful applicants will normally be permitted to remain on time limitation only without other conditions of stay on the 2-2-3 years pattern.

**Processing time:** In general, it takes about two weeks to process applications submitted by non-local fresh graduates upon receipt of all the required documents. For returning non-local graduates, it takes four weeks.

**Gender:**

- Not specifically.
- Applicants admitted under the IANG may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, "same-sex marriage", opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of

the place of celebration, and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to HKC under the prevailing dependant policy of HKC.

**Requirements:**

\*The IANG does not apply to citizens of Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nepal and Viet Nam.

- I. Non-local graduates who submit applications to the respective government department (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>) within six months after the date of their graduation (i.e. the date shown on their graduation certificates) are classified as non-local fresh graduates.
  - II. Non-local graduates who submit applications beyond six months of the date of their graduation are classified as returning non-local graduates.
  - III. Non-local fresh graduates who wish to apply to stay and work in HKC are not required to have secured an offer of employment upon application. They may be granted 12 months' stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay provided that normal immigration requirements are met. Those who intend to apply to stay and work in HKC but have not yet secured graduation results may apply for extension of stay to wait for the promulgation of results. Non-local fresh graduates who have not yet obtained their graduation certificate could apply to stay and work by producing proof from the institution confirming that they have graduated.
  - IV. Returning non-local graduates who wish to return to work in HKC are required to secure an offer of employment upon application. The applications will be favourably considered so long as the job is at a level commonly taken up by degree holders and the remuneration package is at market level. They may be granted 12 months' stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay provided that normal immigration requirements are met.
  - V. In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in HKC, he/she requires a visa/entry permit to work in HKC. While each application is determined on its individual merits, an applicant should meet normal immigration requirements (such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her economy of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to HKC; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on HKC, etc.) as well as the relevant specific eligibility criteria detailed above before he/she may be considered for the grant of a visa/entry permit.
- Documents:
    - To be submitted by the applicant:
      - Application form (ID 990A).

- The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 2 of application form ID 990A).
  - Photocopy of the applicant's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held (if applicable). For an applicant who is currently staying in HKC, photocopy of his/her valid travel document page containing the latest arrival stamp/landing slip/extension of stay label in HKC. A Chinese resident of the People's Republic of China who has not been issued with a travel document may submit a photocopy of his/her People's Republic of China resident identity card.
  - Photocopy of the applicant's HKC identity card (if any).
  - Photocopy of transcript of academic records, graduation certificate or supporting letter from the degree awarding institution showing the applicant's attainment of undergraduate or higher qualification in a full-time and locally-accredited programme in HKC.
  - Letter of consent from the applicant's present working unit or relevant People's Republic of China authorities (page 8 of ID 990A) [for residents of People's Republic of China only].
  - Photocopy of the applicant's Macao identity card [for Macao SAR residents only].
  - Photocopy of the applicant's household registration in Chinese Taipei and Chinese Taipei identity card [for Chinese Taipei residents only].
  - Photocopy of proof of the applicant's overseas residence, such as copy of official documents showing the applicant's conditions of stay and limit of stay endorsed by overseas authorities [for overseas Chinese holding PRC passports only].
- To be submitted by employing company (for returning non-local graduates):
    - Application for Employing Professionals in Hong Kong, China (ID 990B).
    - Photocopy of the company's employment contract with or letter of appointment to the applicant containing information about post, salary, other fringe benefits and employment period.
    - Photocopy of the Business Registration Certificate. \*
    - Photocopy of proof of financial standing (e.g. latest audited financial report, trading profit and loss account, or profit tax return). \*
    - Detailed business plan (e.g. information on source of funds, estimated capital injection, nature/mode of business activities, expected turnover, sales volume, gross and net profit in the coming years, and proposed creation of local job posts, etc.) [for companies newly set up within 12 months only].

\* Submission of the documents is not required if the employing company has successfully obtained an employment or training visa/entry permit for a non-local staff in the past 18 months immediately before submission of the application.

#### 8) APEC Business Travel Card

Hong Kong, China is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC).

**Visa fee:** New issue of card: HKD \$540; Replacement: HKD \$210.

**Duration:** ABTC is normally valid for five years.

#### **Requirements:**

A business person residing in HKC may apply for an ABTC if he/she:

- a. holds a permanent identity card of HKC and a valid passport;
- b. has not previously been denied entry to any of the participating economies;
- c. has never been convicted of a criminal offence;
- d. must be a bona fide business person who needs to travel frequently on short term visits within the APEC region to fulfil business commitments.

A bona fide business person is taken to mean a person who is engaged in the trade of goods, the provision of services or the conduct of investment activities. It does not include entertainers, musicians, artists or persons engaged in similar occupations.

**Official Sources:**

General Employment Policy (GEP) (investment as entrepreneur)  
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/investment.html>  
(Consulted on 4/14/19)

General Employment Policy (GEP) (Professionals)  
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/GEP.html>  
(Consulted on 4/14/19)

Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)  
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/TECHTAS.html>  
(Consulted on 4/14/19)

Quality Migrant Admissions Scheme  
[https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/quality\\_migrant\\_admission\\_scheme.html](https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/quality_migrant_admission_scheme.html)  
(Consulted on 4/14/19)

APEC Business Travel Card  
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/fee-tables/index.html>  
[https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/apec\\_business\\_travel\\_card.html](https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/apec_business_travel_card.html)  
(Consulted on 4/14/19)

Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP)  
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/ASMTP.html>  
(Information provided by Hong Kong, China)

Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ASSG)  
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/secondgenerationhkpr.html>  
(Information provided by Hong Kong, China)

Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG)  
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/IANG.html>  
(Information provided by Hong Kong, China)



## INDONESIA

Indonesia offers **one skilled work visa** whose particular dispositions makes it for professionals such as investors or foreigners who intend to conduct scientific research in Indonesia. In addition, Indonesia is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The following visa is listed:

### 1) KITAS Temporary Stay visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills

**Target:** Foreigner entering the economy as investor, expert, to enroll in for education, be a training participant or to conduct scientific research

**Visa fee:** Rp2,055,000

**Duration:** up to 2 years, renewable for 1 year at a time up to 5 times

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** No, but spouses and children (under 18-year-old, unmarried) can accompany the KITAS visa holder

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Completed application form
  - Sponsor/guarantor letter (Exemption: foreigners who are married to an Indonesian citizen)
  - Passport and a copy of passport photo/biodata page, visa, and recent arrival stamp;
  - A valid entry permit date and date by which report to the immigration office (please check your arrival stamp
  - Domicile letter from local authority

There are requirements specified by occupation:

- a) Investors, experts
  - Recommendation letter from related Ministry or other government agency
  - RPTKA (foreign workers utilization plan) document from the corresponding Ministry (<https://kemnaker.go.id/>)
- b) Foreigners who are intending to enroll in education and training, or to carry out scientific research

- Recommendation letter from the related ministry or other government agency (<https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/>, <https://international.ristekdikti.go.id/>, or the respective board (<https://www.dipi.id/>).

## 2) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Indonesia is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The granting process for citizens and the admission process with the card to the economy for non-citizens are detailed.

### I. For Indonesian citizens

The information available via the Indonesian official sources (in Indonesian) explains how citizens can use this card to move in the APEC economies

#### **Requirements:**

- Information available in Indonesian on the reference website and form [available here](#).

### II. For Non-Indonesian Citizens Seeking APEC Business Entry Permit

There is no information available regarding how a foreigner can use this card to travel to Malaysia.

**Official Sources:**

<http://www.imigrasi.go.id/index.php/en/layanan-publik/izin-tinggal-terbatas-itas#general>

(Consulted on 04/14/19)

ABTCC for Indonesian citizens

<https://jakarta.kemenkumham.go.id/layanan-publik/layanan-keimigrasian/layanan-untuk-wni/2844-apec-business-travel-card-abtc#penjelasan-umum>

(Consulted on 04/14/19)

## JAPAN

Japan offers **15 skilled work visas** that cover a wide variety of skilled works and types of professionals. It is also a full member of the **APEC Business Travel Card**. The following visas are listed:

### 1) Highly Skilled Professional Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for Highly Skilled Professional (1)(a), Highly Skilled Professional (1)(b), Highly Skilled Professional (1)(c).

**Target:** Highly-skilled human resources in accordance with the points' system.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

The Three Categories of Activities of Highly Skilled Professional:

- i. **Highly Skilled Professional(i)(a)** - Advanced academic research activities. Activities of engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan.
  - ii. **Highly Skilled Professional(i)(b)** - Advanced specialized/technical activities. Activities of engaging in work requiring specialized knowledge or skills in the field of natural sciences or humanities based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan.
  - iii. **Highly Skilled Professional(i)(c)** - Advanced business management activities. Activities of engaging in the operation or management of a public or private organization in Japan.
- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
    - The applicant must file an application for issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Highly Skilled Professional.
    - Note: The application may be filed by a person representing the organization accepting the relevant foreign citizens. The applicant must submit a point calculation form pertaining to the activities he/she intends to engage in and documentary evidence of the points and apply for recognition as a highly skilled professional.
  - STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).

- Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “Immigration Act”) (Including calculation of points). Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
  - The applicant must file an application for issuance of a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility for highly skilled professional (1)(a), (1)(b), or(1)(c)
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents required upon application for visa:
  - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the ones listed below).
  - Passport
  - One visa application form
  - One photograph
  - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy

## 2) Professor Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for professors.

**Target:** University professor, assistant professor, assistant, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exceptions apply). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities for research, guidance of research or education at a university, an equivalent educational institution, or a technical school ("Kotosenmon-gakko").

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Professor to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.

- Documents required upon application for visa:
  - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
  - Passport
  - One visa application form
  - One photograph
  - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy

### 3) Artist Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for Artists.

**Target:** Composers, songwriters, artists, sculptors, craftspeople, photographers, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exceptions apply). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Artistic activities that provide income, including music, the fine arts, literature, etc. (except for the activity "Entertainer").

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Artist to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)

- Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position.
    - Materials proving the foreign citizen's artistic achievements.
  - Documents required upon application for visa
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy

#### 4) Journalist Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for journalists.

**Target:** Newspaper journalists, magazine journalists, editors, news cameramen, announcers, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** News coverage and other journalistic activities conducted based on a contract with foreign journalistic organizations.

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Journalist to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).



- Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
  - Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below)
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy

## 5) Business Manager Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for Business Managers

**Target:** Company presidents, directors, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exceptions apply). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 4 months or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to operate international trade or some other business in Japan, or to engage in the management of such business (except for the activities to engage in the operation or management of business which is not allowed without the legal qualifications listed in the activity of "Legal/Accounting Services").

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Business Manager to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
  
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility
    - Application form
    - Photo

- (i) Materials listed in the following sub-items a to c:
    - a. A copy of a business plan.
    - b. In cases where a juridical person is to conduct the business, a copy of the certificate of registered information (if the registration of the juridical person has not yet been completed, a copy of the articles of incorporation or other documents proving the juridical person intends to commence business).
    - c. A copy of the profit and loss statement or another equivalent documents (this shall not apply where the juridical person intends to commence business).
  - (ii) Any of the following materials:
    - a. Materials proving the total number of full-time employees except for said foreign citizen and, where the number is two, a document relating to the payment of their wages and copies of their residential certificate, residence card or special permanent resident certificate.
    - b. Materials proving the amount of the stated capital or the total amount of the contribution.
    - c. Other materials proving the size of the business.
  - (iii) Materials giving an outline of the business office.
  - (iv) Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
  - (v) Document certifying the foreign citizen's career and a certificate pertaining to the period during which the foreign citizen majored in operation or management at a graduate school in cases where the foreign citizen intends to engage in the management of a business.
- Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy

## 6) Legal/Accounting Services Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for Legal/Accounting Services

**Target:** Attorneys, judicial scriveners, public accountants, tax accountants, etc. certified in Japan

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to engage in a legal or accounting business which may lawfully only be carried out by registered foreign-qualified lawyers ("Gaikoku-houjimu-bengoshi"), registered foreign-qualified public accountants ("Gaikokukon-inkaikeishi") or those with other legal qualifications.

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Legal/Accounting Services to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa

- The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - Document certifying the qualifications listed in the right-hand column corresponding to "Legal/Accounting Services" specified in Appended Table I (2) of the Immigration Act.
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
- Documents required upon application for visa
  - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
  - Passport
  - One visa application form
  - One photograph
  - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

#### 7) Medical Services Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for medical services.

**Target:** Physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, etc. certified in Japan

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to engage in medical treatment services, which may lawfully only be undertaken by physicians, dentists or those with other legal qualifications.

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Medical Services to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).

- Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - Materials giving an outline of the inviting organization.
    - Document certifying the qualifications listed in the right-hand column corresponding to "Medical Services" specified in Appended Table I (2) of the Immigration Act.
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
  - Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

## 8) Researcher Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for researchers.

**Target:** Researchers, investigators, etc. at research institutes, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to engage in research based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan (except for the activities of "Professor").

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Researcher to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.

- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - (i) In the case where the foreign citizen intends to engage in research based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan:
      - a. Materials giving an outline of the inviting organization.
      - b. Graduation certificate and a document certifying the foreign citizen's career or other background.
      - c. Materials certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
    - (ii) In cases where the foreign citizen intends to engage in research by being transferred to a business office in Japan for a limited period of time from a business office established in a foreign economy by a public or private organization which has a head office, branch office or other business office in Japan:
      - a. Document indicating the relationship between the business offices in the foreign economy and in Japan.
      - b. Certificate of registered information, a copy of the profit and loss statement and materials proving the contents of business of the business office in Japan.
      - c. Document certifying the contents of the duties and employment period at the business office in a foreign economy (in cases where the applicant resided in Japan with the status of residence of "Researcher" within one year immediately prior to being transferred, including the business office in Japan where the applicant engaged in business during the period).
      - d. Certificate of registered information of the business office in the foreign economy and materials giving the office's outline.
      - e. Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
      - f. Graduate certificate and a document certifying the foreign citizen's background.
  - Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph



- Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

## 9) Instructor Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for instructors.

**Target:** Teachers, etc. at elementary schools, intermediate schools and high schools.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to engage in language instruction or other education at an elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, school for secondary educational school ("chutokyoikugakko"), school for special needs education, vocational school ("senshugakko"), miscellaneous category school ("kakushugakko"), or the other educational institution equivalent to a miscellaneous educational institution in facilities and curriculum.

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Instructor to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)

- Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - Materials giving an outline of the inviting organization.
    - Document certifying the foreign educational background or a copy of a license pertaining to the educational activities.
    - Document certifying the foreign citizen's career.
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
  - Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below)
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

#### 10) Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International services

**Target:** Scientific engineers, IT engineers, foreign language teachers, interpreters, copywriters, designers, etc.).

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to engage in services which require specialized skills or knowledge pertinent to the field of physical science, engineering or other natural science fields or to the fields of jurisprudence, economics, sociology or other human science fields or to engage in services which require specific ways of thinking or sensitivity acquired through experience with a foreign culture (except for the activities of "Professor", "Artist", "Journalist", "Business Manager", "Legal/Accounting Services", "Medical Services", "Researcher", "Instructor", "Intra-company Transferee" and "Entertainer") based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan .

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo

- Certificate of registered information and a copy of the profit and loss statement of the inviting organization.
  - Materials proving the contents of business of the inviting organization.
  - Graduation certificate or a certificate pertaining to the period during which the foreign citizen majored in subjects pertaining to the activities, and a document certifying the foreign citizen's career.
  - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
- Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below)
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy

#### 11) Intra-Company Transferee Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for Intra-Company Transferees.

**Target:** People transferred to the Japanese branch (head office of the same company, etc.)

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities on the part of a personal who is transferred to a business office in Japan for a limited period of time from a business office established in a foreign economy by a public or private organization which has a head office, branch office or other business office in Japan, and who engages in the activities of the "Engineering/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" section in this table at this business office.

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Intra-Company Transferee to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>)

- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form
    - Photo
    - Document indicating the relationship between the business offices in the foreign economy and in Japan.
    - Certificate of registered information, a copy of the profit and loss statement and materials proving the contents of business of the business office in Japan.
    - Document certifying the contents of duty and employment period at the business office in the foreign economy (in cases where the applicant resided in Japan with the status of residence of "Intra-company Transferee" within one year immediately prior to being transferred, including the business office in Japan where the applicant engaged in business during the period).

- Certificate of registered information of the business office in the foreign economy and materials giving the office's outline.
  - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
  - Graduate certificate and a document certifying the foreign citizen's background.
- Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
    - Passport
    - One visa application form
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

## 12) Nursing Care Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for nursing care.

**Target:** Certified nursing care workers, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities where a foreign citizen, who is qualified as a certified care worker, engages in nursing care or teaching of nursing care based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan.

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Nursing Care to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.

- Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
  - STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
  - STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
    - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
  - STEP 6: Issuance of visa
    - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form.
    - Photo
    - Materials giving an outline of the inviting organization.
    - Document certifying the qualification of the certified care worker.
    - Materials certifying the qualification to the item (i) of the right-hand column corresponding to the activities listed in the right-hand column of "Nursing Care" specified in Appended Table I (2) of the Immigration Act of the table set forth in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria.
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
  - Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below)
    - Passport
    - One visa application form.
    - One photograph
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

### 13) Entertainer Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for entertainers.

**Target:** Musicians, actors, singers, dancers, sportspeople, models, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 3 years, 1 year, 6 months, 3 months or 15 days.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to engage in acting performances, stage performances, musical performances, sports or any other form of show business (except for the activities of "Business Manager").

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Entertainer to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.



- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form.
    - Photo
    - (i) In the case where the foreign citizen intends to engage in public entertainment consisting of theatrical performances or musical performances (except for cases falling under the following item):
      - a. Curriculum vitae and a document certifying the foreign citizen's background pertaining to the activities.
      - b. Certificate of registered information, a copy of the profit and loss statement or other materials giving an outline of the contracting organization of the entertainer (hereinafter referred to as "contracting organization of the entertainer") of the organization prescribed in item (i)b of the right-hand column corresponding to the activities listed in the right-hand column of "Entertainer" specified in Appended Table I(2) of the Act of the table set forth in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria (hereinafter referred to as "'Entertainer" specified in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria").
      - c. Materials giving an outline of the facilities where the performances take place.
      - d. Copy of the contract pertaining to the performances.
      - e. Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
      - f. In the case where the foreign citizen intends to engage in theatrical or musical performances based on a performance contract prescribed in item (i), sub-item (b) of the right-hand column corresponding to "Entertainer" specified in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria, the following materials:
        - (1) List of names of the operator and full-time employees of the contracting organization of the entertainer.
        - (2) Document with a statement by the contracting organization of the entertainer that its operator and full-time employees do not fall under any of item (i), sub-item (b)(3)(i) to (v) of the right-hand column corresponding to "Entertainer" specified in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria.
        - (3) Document certifying that the contracting organization of the entertainer has paid all the reward that it has the obligation to pay to the foreign citizens who have stayed in Japan with the status of residence of "Entertainer" based on the performance contracts entered in the past 3 years by the organization.

g. The following materials of the organization managing the facilities prescribed in item (i), sub-item (c) of the right-hand column corresponding to "Entertainer" specified in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria (hereinafter referred to as "managing organization"):

(1) Certificate of registered information, a copy of the profit and loss statement or other materials giving an outline of the managing organization.

(2) List of names of the operator of the managing organization and its full-time employees engaged in businesses pertaining to the facilities.

(3) Document with a statement by the managing organization that its operator and its full-time employees engaged in businesses pertaining to the facilities do not fall under any of (i) to (v) of item (i), sub-item (c), (6) of the right-hand column corresponding to "Entertainer" specified in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria.

(ii) In cases which fall under any of sub-items (a) to (e) of item (ii) of the right-hand column corresponding to "Entertainer" specified in the Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria: In addition to those listed in sub-items (a) and (c) to (e) of the preceding item, a certificate of registered information, a copy of the profit and loss statement or other materials giving an outline of the inviting organization.

(iii) In the case where the foreign citizen intends to engage in public entertainment other than theatrical or musical performances:

(a) Curriculum vitae and a document certifying the foreign citizen's background pertaining to the activities.

(b) Certificate of registered information, a copy of the profit and loss statement and the list of employees of the inviting organization.

(c) Materials giving an outline of the facilities where the performances take place.

(d) A copy of the contract when the inviting organization is the contractor of the performances.

(e) Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.

(iv) In the case where the foreign citizen intends to engage in show business other than public entertainment:

(a) Materials certifying the foreign citizen's achievements in show business.

- (b) Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's reward.
- Documents required upon application for visa:
  - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below)
  - Passport
  - One visa application form.
  - One photograph.
  - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

#### 14) Skilled Labor Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for individuals with Skilled Labor

**Target:** Chefs specializing in the food of a foreign country, animal trainers, pilots, sports trainers, sommeliers, etc.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** 5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:** Activities to engage in services, which require industrial techniques or skills belonging to special fields based on a contract with public or private organizations in Japan.

- STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Skilled Labor to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).
- STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immimoj.go.jp/english/>).
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
- STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
  - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan

abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.

- STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
- STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
  - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
- STEP 6: Issuance of visa
  - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.
  
- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form.
    - Photo
    - Certificate of registered information and a copy of the profit and loss statement of the inviting organization.
    - Materials proving the contents of business of the inviting organization.
    - Curriculum vitae and a document issued by a public organization certifying the foreign citizen's background and qualifications pertaining to the activities.
    - Document certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
  
  - Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
    - Passport
    - One visa application form.
    - One photograph.
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

### 15) Specified Skilled Worker Visa

**Visa category:** Work visa for Specified Skilled Worker (i), Specified Skilled Worker (ii)

**Target:** Work-ready foreign citizens who possess certain expertise and skills in certain industrial fields.

**Visa fee:** About JPY3,000 for single entry (Exception applies). Visa fee is to be collected in the currency of the economy (region) where the application is filed.

**Duration:** (i): 1 year, 6 months or 4 months, (ii): 3 years, 1 year or 6 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

The Two Categories of Activities of Specified Skilled Worker:

- i. **Specified Skilled Worker (i)** - Activities to engage in work requiring skills which need considerable knowledge or experience belonging to specified industrial fields.
- ii. **Specified Skilled Worker (ii)** – Activities to engage in work requiring proficient skills belonging to specified industrial fields.
  - STEP1: Submission of an application for Certificate of Eligibility for status of residence for Specified Skilled Worker to the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
  - STEP 2: Examination by the corresponding bureau (<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/>).
    - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing set forth in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act. Confirmation of the applicability of the status of residence and compliance with the conditions for landing
  - STEP 3: Issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility.
    - Examination of compliance with the conditions for landing has already been completed with regard to this application. Therefore, the foreign citizens can smoothly acquire a visa and permission for landing by presenting the Certificate of Eligibility when filing an application for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan abroad, or by presenting the certificate and visa at the time of the landing examination at a seaport or airport in Japan.
  - STEP 4: Submission of an application for visa to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan
  - STEP 5: Examination by the respective Ministry (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/>)
    - Examination of compliance with the criteria of visa issuance set by the Ministry and of whether the issuance is considered to be appropriate.
  - STEP 6: Issuance of visa
    - The bearer of visa must apply for landing permission at the port of entry before the visa is expired, which is generally valid for 3 months.

- Documents
  - Documents required upon application for Certificate of Eligibility:
    - Application form.
    - Photo
    - i. Specified Skilled Worker(i)
      - a. Materials providing the outline of the organization of affiliation of the specified skilled worker.
      - b. Documents certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
      - c. Documents pertaining to a support for the applicant by the organization of affiliation of the specified skilled worker.
      - d. Materials certifying Japanese language proficiency.
      - e. Materials certifying skills about the business which is to engage in.
      - f. In case there is an intermediary agent when signing a contract, the outline of the intermediation.
      - g. Materials certifying that the foreign citizen is in good health.
    - ii. Specified Skilled Worker(ii)
      - a. Materials providing the outline of the organization of affiliation of the specified skilled worker.
      - b. Documents certifying the contents and period of the activities and the foreign citizen's position and reward.
      - c. Materials certifying skills about the business which is to engage in.
      - d. In case there is an intermediary agent when signing a contract, the outline of the intermediary.
      - e. Materials certifying that the foreign citizen is in good health
  - Documents required upon application for visa:
    - (Depending on the citizenship of applicants, other documents may be necessary in addition to the below).
    - Passport
    - One visa application form.
    - One photograph.
    - Certificate of Eligibility - the original and one copy.

#### 16) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Information is only available in Japanese.

**Official Sources:**

Highly-Skilled Professionals Visa

[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_3/en/pdf/171110\\_leaflet.pdf](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_3/en/pdf/171110_leaflet.pdf)

[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_3/en/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_3/en/index.html)

- [List of Statutes of Residence](#)

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/kanri/qaq5.html>

Application for Certificate of Eligibility

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/kanri/shyorui/01.html>

(Consulted on 4/14/19)

Work or Long-term stay

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/long/index.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/long/index.html)

Criteria of Visa Issuance

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/procedure/issuance.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/procedure/issuance.html)

(Consulted on 4/14/19)

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/apec/btc/index.html>

(Consulted on 4/14/19)

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Korea offers **18 skilled work visas** and business opportunities for professionals. In addition, it is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card and has integrated this initiative in one of their visas offering (C-3-4). The following visas are listed:

Passengers arriving at Incheon International Airport can visit the Global Talent Visa Centre (terminal 1 and 2), a multi-lingual centre (Korean, English and Chinese) designed to provide counselling services including visa related matters for talented foreigners as well as immigrant falling under the investor scheme procedure.

*Note: All the required documents and steps mentioned cover an application for visa via Diplomatic Office unless indicated otherwise. The head of Korean diplomatic missions abroad may request for additional documents depending on the condition of the economy of residence/jurisdiction if it is deemed necessary for visa evaluation.*

*In any visa application, if a representative is hired, he/she must submit a Power of Attorney from an applicant, his/her employment certificate and a copy of ID Card.*

### 1) C-1 Short-Term News Coverage

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific professional skills and a work contract.

**Target:** A person dispatched from a foreign media to cover/report news or establish a branch in the Republic of Korea.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 90 days, Multiple-entry valid for 5 years.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- A representative of the foreign media travelling to the Republic of Korea for temporary news coverage/report.
- A journalist seeking for temporary news coverage/report on the basis of a contract with the foreign media.
- A representative preparing to establish a Korean branch office of the foreign media outlet



- If you continue to stay in the ROK after you have successfully established the Korean branch office, you are allowed to change your status of stay to the Long-Term News Coverage (D-5) visa.
- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee<sup>12</sup>.
  - International press card or a document demonstrating an applicant's current employment status or overseas assignment.

## 2) C-3-4 Business visitor (General)

**Visa Category:** A business visa for those with specific professional skills.

**Target:** Person who plans to engage in commercial activities such as market research, business meetings, consultation, signing a contract, or small-scale international trading or an APEC card holder visiting Korea without a visa.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 70 Double-entry (no fee for APEC card holder).

**Duration:** up to 90 days Single-entry, Double-entry visa valid for 6 months. Periods of stay will be granted up to 90 days for a Single-entry visa (and APEC card holders) and 30 days for a Double-entry visa.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

### **Requirements:**

- People who are invited by Korean public or private organizations as consultants or contract workers.
- People who plan to establish a branch of a foreign corporation or foreign invested corporation.
- Self-employed people who wish to do market research with regard to purchasing items in Korea.
- People who are in export/import businesses related to machinery or who need to go to Korea to learn about machinery installation, repair, inspection and operation. But not people who are paid for installation and inspection. Not for the purpose of making profit (If so, please read C4 Visa.)
- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.

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<sup>12</sup> Many economies with exempted and adjusted fees. [Click here](#) for more information.

- Photo in a standard format.
- Fee.
- A document proving the purpose of your business such as a business invitation letter, a copy of Business Registration Certificate or a certified copy of Corporate Register.

### 3) C-4 Short Term Employee

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific professional skills and a work contract.

**Target:** A person who plans to visit for a short-term employment such as temporary show, advertising/modelling, lecturing/speech, research, technology consulting, etc.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 90 days, Multiple-entry valid for 1 years.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- A person who plans to work at a domestic company in a field of e-business (i.e. information technology, e-commerce), biotechnology, nanotechnology, advanced materials industry (metal, ceramics, and chemistry), transportation machinery, digital electronics, environment/energy, or technology management, and who have received an employment recommendation by the minister of respective department.
- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - Employment Contract.
  - Employment Recommendation Letter from the respective department (affiliated organizations).
  - Documents relevant to the establishment of institution (a copy of business registration certificate or a certified copy of corporate register).
    - The head of Korean diplomatic missions abroad may request for additional documents depending on the condition of the economy of residence/jurisdiction if it is deemed necessary for visa evaluation.

#### 4) D-5 Long-Term News Coverage

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** A journalist dispatched for news reporting and coverage by a foreign media outlet (newspapers, broadcasting corporations, magazines, or other foreign information media) that has a branch office in the ROK.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - Proof of overseas assignment or a proof of current employment status.
  - A copy of permit to the establishment of a Korean branch or liaison office, or a document demonstrating foreign capitals flowing into a Korean branch office.

#### 5) D-7 Intra-Company Transfer

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** Foreign worker planning to work in the branch or headquarters office of a company in the Republic of Korea.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Copy of passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.

- Fee<sup>13</sup>.

**There are specific requirements depending of the sub-type of visa, D-7-1 or D-7-2:**

I. D-7-1 Foreign Company

- A person who has worked for at least 1 year or more at a foreign public institution or headquarters / branch / or any other offices of a foreign company, and is dispatched to the affiliates, subsidiary, or branch in ROK in a field requiring expertise.
- Application form for Confirmation of Visa Issuance (Form No. 21).
- Statement of Invitation.
- Document demonstrating you are a highly required specialist (i.e. resume, a certificate of employment history).
- Proof of an applicant's current employment status from an applicant's company.
- Dispatch order from an applicant's organization
- Document relevant to the establishment of a Korean branch.
  - Copy of a permission for the establishment of a Korean branch or a copy of an Acceptance of Declaration.
- Document demonstrating that a Korean branch or a liaison office is operated properly.
  - A record of the inflow of funds or capital to a Korean branch or liaison office in ROK.
  - In case of a newly-established company, a business management outline is required to submit.
  - A Certificate of Tax Payment, etc.
- If a representative is hired, he/she must submit a Power of Attorney from an applicant, his/her employment certificate and A copy of ID Card.

II. D-7-2 Domestic Company

- A person who has worked for at least 1 year or more at an overseas corporation or branch of a public organization or a listed

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<sup>13</sup> Many economies with exempted and adjusted fees. [Click here](#) for more information.

company and is dispatched to headquarters or head office in Korea for training or teaching professional knowledge/technology.

- Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
- A document demonstrating that you are an indispensable professional specialist (i.e. resume, a certificate of employment history and others).
- A certified copy of unabridged Corporate Register of the headquarter (you may be exempt from submitting this document, if your company is a public corporation).
- Foreign Direct Investment Declaration or Overseas Branch Office Establishment Declaration.
- A document proving international wire transfer.
- A copy of business registration certificate or a certified copy of Corporate Register(unabridged) of the overseas branch office.
- A proof of employment or a tax payment receipt.
- A dispatch order (It should indicate the period of the overseas assignment).

#### 6) D-8 Corporate Investment

**Visa Category:** A business visa for those with specific professional skills, a work contract and/or a degree.

**Target:** A specialist participating in administration/management or production/technological development of a foreign investment company as outlined by the Foreign Investment Promotion Act.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.

**There are specific requirements depending of the sub-type of visa, D-8-1, D-8-2, D-8-3 or D-8-4:**

I. D-8-1 Incorporated Enterprise

- An indispensable skilled worker dispatched by a foreign company which has invested in the ROK in accordance with regulations of the Foreign Investment Promotion Act, and who plans to engage in management, administration, production, or technology at the foreign company.
- A dispatch order indicating the period of a dispatch and a certificate of employment.
- A Foreign Investment Notification form or A copy of Certificate of FDI Company Registration.
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate, a copy of unabridged corporate registration, an original copy of a statement demonstrating the change of shareholders.
  
- Documents demonstrating a transfer of investment capitals, Case A. Investment in Cash.
  - A permission of a foreign currency transfer, or a confirmation of foreign currency remittance issued by the respective customs service or a bank (or a financial institution) of a respective economy.
  - A statement of investment funds such as a confirmation of foreign currency transfer, a certificate of purchased foreign currency, a customs declaration form and others.
  
- Case B. Investment in Kind.
  - A copy of Confirmation of Completion of In-Kind Investment issued by the head of respective government service (<https://www.customs.go.kr/english/main.do>).
  - A copy of Customs Import Declaration Certificate.
- Additional documents for private investors who has invested less than 300 million KRW.
  - Documents demonstrating an initial capital such as a receipt for the purchased goods, costs of office interior, a bank statement.
  - Documents verifying the existence of business (i.e. an office lease contract, photos of an office in a front and an inside view, a street sign of a company or others).
  - Documents proving work or entrepreneurial experiences from an applicant's economy.

## II. D-8-2 Business Venture

- A person who established a venture firm, or who has been confirmed with a preliminary venture firm in accordance with the Act on Special Measures for the Promotion of Business Venture.
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate or a certified copy of unbridged Corporate Register.
- Business Venture Confirmation or Prospective Business Venture Confirmation.
- Documents demonstrating that you have either the intellectual property right or equivalent skills:
  - A copy of Patent Registration Certificate.
  - Utility Model Registration Certificate.
  - Design Registration Certificate.
  - Trade Mark Registration Certificate issued by Korean Intellectual Property Office.
  - Copy of Copyrights Registration Certificate issued by Korea Copyright Commission and others.
  - An assessment result proving an excellent technical performance from any of the corresponding corporations (<http://www.kibo.or.kr/src/english/about/koa100.asp> or <http://www.kosmes.or.kr/sbc/SH/MAP/SHMAP001M0.do>).

## III. D-8-3 Unincorporated Enterprise

- A person whose name is registered as a co-founder of a company run by Korean(individual) after investing in the company in accordance with the Foreign Investment Promotion Act.
- Same required documents as D-8-1 Incorporate Enterprise with the addition of
  - Usage statement of start-up capitals from Korean co-founder.
  - Original copy of Business Partnership Agreement and A copy of Business Registration Certificate on which the name of co-founder is written.
  - No dispatch order necessary.

## IV. D-8-4 Technology and Business Start-up

- A person who acquired a bachelor's degree or higher who is a Corporate founder with intellectual property rights or any equivalent technical skills.
- A certified copy of Corporate Register(unabridged) and a copy of Business Registration Certificate.
- Documents demonstrating that you have either intellectual property right or equivalent skills.
- Any documents proving points earned through the Points-Based System:
  - A copy of Patent Registration Certificate, Utility Model Right Registration Certificate, Design Registration Certificate, Trade Mark Registration Certificate for intellectual property rights holders.
  - Patent Candidates must submit application certificate issued by the head of respective government office (<https://www.kipo.go.kr/en/MainApp?c=1000>).
  - A certificate for completion or graduation of the OASIS program issued by the head of respective center (<https://sbiz.wooribank.com/biz/Dream?withyou=ENENG068>) designated by the Minister of Justice, award winner confirmation letter, official statement of selection, and etc.
  - Other documents that can prove points earned through the Points-Based System

## 7) D-9 Trade Management

**Visa Category:** A business visa for those with specific professional skills.

**Target:** Either a specialist dispatched to Korea for installation, operation and repair of imported machinery/supervising production of industrial facility or a specialist wishing to engage in trades.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.



- Fee.
- **There are specific requirements depending of the sub-type of visa, D-9-1, D-9-2, D-9-3 or D-9-4:**

I. D-9-1 International Trade

- A trader engaging in a corporate management, international trade, or for-profit business who is given a trader serial number by the head of the corresponding trade association (<http://www.kita.org/>) in accordance with the provisions of International Trade Laws and Regulations.
  - Only for a trader whose annual trade turnover with ROK reaches US \$500,000 or more is eligible to apply.
- Application form for Confirmation of Visa Issuance (Form No. 21).
- An Invitation Statement.
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate or a certified copy of un-abridged Corporate Register.
- A copy of international trade registration or a copy of International Trade Agent Registration.
- A copy of business plan or documents demonstrating the inflow of capital or funds to ROK for business operation.
- Any documents proving trade performances with Korea.
  - A statement of trade performance.
- A certificate of annual tax payment
- If a representative is hired, he/she must submit a Power of Attorney from an applicant, his/her employment certificate and A copy of ID Card.

II. D-9-2 technician (Industrial Machinery)

- A person dispatched to the Korean company which has imported equipment or machinery, and who plans to provide technologies for instalment, management, and maintenance of industrial equipment or machinery.
- Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
- Equipment Introduction Contract or any documents proving industrial equipment introduction.
- Dispatch order.
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate or a certified copy of un-abridged Corporate Register of the inviting company.
- Certificate of annual tax payment

III. D-9-3 Technician (Ship Building)

- A person who is dispatched for the supervision of ship-building and/or industrial facilities manufacturing (dispatched by professional services company, assigned by the ordering individual/company).
- Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
- A copy of trade contract.
- Dispatch order.
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate or a certified copy of unabridged Corporate Register of the inviting company.
- Certificate of annual tax payment.

IV. D-9-4 Individual Foreign Business

- 1. A person who has completed a business registration under Value Added Tax Laws and plans to manage a company or engage in for-profit activities in Korea, after having invested foreign capitals worth 300 million KRW in accordance with Foreign Exchange Transaction Act and Foreign Exchange Transaction Regulation.
- 2. A private entrepreneur who has completed the foreigner investment notification and has been issued a certificate of foreign-invested company registration, after having invested 300 million KRW or more in accordance with the Foreign Investment Promotion Act.
  - A person signing up for hiring Korean workers is eligible for applying for this visa in the case of making an investment of 200 million KRW or more.
- Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate, a copy of business license (not required by all), a copy of Certificate of FDI Company Registration (holders only).
- Documents (both original and photocopy) of joint venture contract (not required by all).
  - The documents above should include details on the gross capital, equity, profit sharing allocation method.
- Documents on business fund.
  - A certificate of wire transfer, certificate of foreign currency purchase, customs declaration.
- Detailed statement of business fund expenditure.

- Receipt of purchased goods, office interior's costs, domestic bank statement.
- Any documents proving the sales record.
  - Trade (import and export) permit, value-added tax or final tax return, etc.
  - Limited to those who has engaged in sales activities with general business visitor visa such as (C-3-4), prior to apply for the D-9 visa.
- Documents confirming the existence of your company.
  - Office rental contract, photographic documents of workplace, offices, and signs.
- Pledge to hire Koreans (if applicable).

#### 8) D-10-1 Job Seeker

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with special skills and a degree.

**Target:** A person who plans to engage in a training or find a job in a field qualified for a visa of Professor (E-1), Foreign Language Instructor (E-2), Research (E-3), Technical Instructor/Technician (E-4), Professional (E-5), Artist/Athlete (E-6), and Foreign Citizen of Special Ability (E-7).

**Cost:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 6 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- You are eligible to apply for this visa if you are:
  - (1) A previous employee of a listed company on the Fortune's Global 500 companies for more than 1 year in recent 3 years.
  - (2) A graduate of a university listed on the Times' Higher World University Rankings in recent 3 years.
  - (3) A graduate of a Korean community college or higher in recent 3 years.
  - (4) A person having a bachelor's degree or above, completed a research program at a Korean research institution in recent 3 years.
  - (5) Others who are specially acknowledged by the head of diplomatic mission.
- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.

- Photo in a standard format.
- Fee.
- Additional documents for each case.
  - Case (1)
    - Certificate of employment history (Proof of Employment).
    - Plan for seeking employment.
  - Case (2)
    - Proof of Education such as Degree (or a document confirming that you will receive a degree in the future), Certificate of Education, Certificate of your degree (Please choose one).
    - Plan for seeking employment.
  - Case (3)
    - Proof of education and Transcript.
    - Plan for seeking employment.
    - If a proof of education in Korea can be verified via their system (International student Information System), you are exempt from submitting these documents.
  - Case (4)
    - Education Certificate.
    - Completion Certificate (A certificate indicating research topic, research period, completion results, which is issued by the head of research institution).
    - Plan for seeking employment.
  - Case (5)
    - Documents proving that you are a talent such as Proof of Education, career certificate, recommendation from the respective group or any other proving documents (if you have been awarded or covered by the media for winning a respected international or domestic competition).
    - plan for seeking employment.

#### 9) D-10-2 Business Start-up

**Visa Category:** A business visa for those with specific skills and a degree.

**Target:** A person having a bachelor's degree or above (including a prospective graduate) preparing for business establishment with intellectual property right or equivalent skills.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 6 months.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - Education Certificate.
  - Technology/Business Start-up Plan.
  - Application Certificate such as a Letter of Patent, Utility Model Registration Card, Design Registration Card Copy or Intellectual Property Right Permission (for respective candidate only).
  - OASIS program completion certificate or participation confirmation letter (for a respective candidate only).

10) E-1 Professor (Electronic Visa available)

**Visa Category:** A work visa that requires a work contract

**Target:** A person who is hired as a professor, an associate professor, an assistant professor, or a visiting professor in accordance with the respective institution's law (<https://www.kaist.ac.kr/en/>)

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - A certificate of employment history or Degree.
  - Employment Contract or Confirmation on the appointment as a professor.

11) E-2-1 Foreign Language Instructor (Applying for Confirmation of Visa Issuance)

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with special skills, a work contract and/or a degree.

**Target:** A person who plans to teach conversational language at a foreign language institute or other equivalent organization.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 2 years.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Full list of eligibility criteria available at <https://www.visa.go.kr> in the Foreign Language Instructor (General) E-2-1 category.
- Documents:
  - Application form for Confirmation of Visa Issuance (Form No. 21).
  - Copy of passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - A proof of an applicant's education authenticated by a public authority.
  - A criminal record issued and authenticated by a public authority in an applicant's economy.
  - A Self-Assessment Report on Health.
  - An employment contract, and a document of the establishment of an academic institute or an organization.
  - Other necessary documents for evaluation:
    - an outline of teacher's management (document suggesting the total number of students and faculties).

12) E-3 Research (Electronic Visa available)

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific skills, a degree and a work contract.

**Target:** A person who plans to engage in research and development of advanced industrial technology or natural science field at research laboratories upon invitation by a Korean public or private institute.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - Documents with regards to the establishment of an inviting institution.
  - Degree or documents proving your professional experiences.
  - Employment contract.

13) E-4 Technical Guidance (Electronic Visa available)

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** A person who plans to provide professional knowledge of natural science or technology guidance related to an area categorized as industrially special upon invitation by a Korean public or private institute.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - Documents with regards to the establishment of the public/private companies.
    - i. A copy of Business Registration Certificate.
    - ii. A copy of Certificate of FDI Company Registration, a permission of the establishment of a branch.
  - A Certificate of Report on Licensing Agreement.
  - Dispatch order and a proof of employment.

14) E-5 Special Profession (Electronic Visa available)

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific skill, a degree and a work contract.

**Target:** A person with a citizen certificate such as a foreign lawyer, certified public accountant, doctor who plans to engage in professional work in legal, accounting, medical and other fields prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Korea.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form.
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - A degree certificate and a copy of license.
  - A recommendation letter from the head of a responsible government department. If you wish to work in Korean Free Economic Zone, you must submit an employment recommendation letter or a document proving the necessity of employment issued by the respective mayor or provincial governor.
  - An employment contract.

15) E-6 Culture/art

**Target:** Those participating in musical, artistic, or literary activities such as pop entertainment, musical performances, sport games, advertisement or fashion modelling for profitable purposes.

**Visa fee:** USD 40 Single-entry, USD 90 Multiple-entry.

**Duration:** up to 3 months Single-entry, otherwise up to 1 year.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Application form for Confirmation of Visa Issuance (Form No. 21).
  - Copy of passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.



- **There are specific requirements depending of the sub-type of visa, E-6-1, E-6-2 or E-6-3:**

#### I. E-6-1 Artist

- A person who plans to engage in for-profit musical, artistic, literature, or entertainment activities designated by the Performance Act. (i.e. composer, painter, photographer and others artist, a member of orchestra and conductor, advertising/fashion model, badook (go) player, broadcaster, entertainer, theatrical actors/actress, makeup artists).
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate.
- A copy of employment contract.
- If you are going to perform in accordance with the Performance Act:
  - A performance recommendation letter from the respective Board (<http://www.kmr.or.kr/eng/CMS/Contents/Contents.do?mCode=MN018>) (If an applicant's performance is not recommended, then you will be exempt from submitting this document).
  - An outline of performance.
- Other cases:
  - An employment recommendation letter from a respective government department or any documents proving the necessity of the employment.
  - An employment recommendation letter for an advertising/fashion model from the Minister of the corresponding Ministry (<http://www.mcst.go.kr/english/>), and a person on-air from the Minister of the corresponding Ministry (<http://english.msip.go.kr/english/main/main.do>) respectively.
  - For those who plans to participate in athletic, badook, and singing competitions awarding prize money, you must submit a cooperation agreement forged by the Ministers of respective government departments, an invitation statement, business plans or outlines from the host (organization), an attendance confirmation issued by the organizer

#### II. E-6-2 Hotel and Adult Entertainment

- A person who plans to perform or engage in entertainment activities in a hotel or an adult entertainment business defined in the Tourism Promotion Act. (i.e. a pop musician, instrument player, circus artists or magician)

- A copy of Business Registration Certificate.
- A copy of employment contract.
- A performance recommendation letter from the corresponding Board (<http://www.kmr.or.kr/eng/CMS/Contents/Contents.do?mCode=MN018>).
- An outline for entertainment activities.
- A certificate of qualification or a certificate of employment history.
- A letter of guarantee

### III. E-6-3 Athlete

- A person who plans to engage in a sports industry such as a professional soccer, baseball, or basketball player, and their accompanying managers etc. (professional athletes in a field such as soccer, baseball, basketball, and etc., director in professional team, manager and others).
- A copy of Business Registration Certificate.
- A copy of employment contract.
- An employment recommendation letter from a respective government department\* or any documents proving the necessity of the employment:
  - An employment recommendation letter of a professional athlete/coach/judge from the hiring company or association

### 16) E-7-1 Foreign Citizens of Special Ability (Electronic Visa available)

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** Those participating in activities specially designated by the Minister of Justice through contract with public/private organization in Korea.

**Visa fee:**

**Duration:** up to 3 years

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- A qualified person for Foreign Citizen of Special Ability (E-7) visa, who has received employment recommendation (gold card) for high-tech science technology field
- Documents:

- A recommendation letter of employment (or gold card) issued by the respective association (<https://www.mss.go.kr/site/smba/main.do>) or government agency (<http://www.kotra.or.kr/kh/main/customer-Main.do>).
- Document of the establishment of public or private institute organization.
- Copy of employment contract.
- Letter of guarantee.

### 17) F-5-11 Special Talent

**Visa Category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a degree.

**Target:** A person who has recognized by the Minister of the corresponding Ministry ([http://www.moj.go.kr/moj\\_eng/index.do](http://www.moj.go.kr/moj_eng/index.do)) for his/her excellence in a specific field including science, management, education, cultural arts, and athletics.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Permanent residence.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17).
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - Personal Statements.
  - Documents proving your annual incomes.
  - Documents proving that you have published your research paper in a prominent journal, such as SCI (Science Citation Index), or documents proving your research achievement(s).
  - Letter of guarantee.
  - Degree and other materials (awards history in relevant field, certificates of your career experiences).
- **There are specific requirements depending of the five sub-types of visa:**
  - I. Science Field
    - A person recommended by the Minister of the corresponding Ministry (<http://english.msip.go.kr/english/main/main.do>) on the basis

of the awards history, research publication or citation on SCI (Science Technology Research Citation Index), or Research Results.

- Recommendation letter from the Minister of any of the corresponding Ministries (<http://english.msip.go.kr/english/main/main.do> or <http://english.moe.go.kr/main.do?s=english>).

## II. Business Management

- A full-time director at a company with capitals worth more than 8 billion KRW and more than 300 full-time employees, and who is recommended by the head of the corresponding chamber of commerce (<http://english.korcham.net/nChamEng/Service/Main/appl/Main.asp>), agency (<https://www.kotra.or.kr/foreign/kotra/KHENKT010M.html>), or federation (<http://www.fki.or.kr/en/about/Intro.aspx>).
- A multinational manager or an executive who has worked for 1 year or more at a company listed on the 500 companies in the past 3 years selected by UNCTAD, FORTUNE, FORBES, BUSINESS WEEK(US), or ECONOMIST(UK) and is working at a Korean branch as an executive.
- Recommendation letter from the head of the corresponding chamber of commerce (<http://english.korcham.net/nChamEng/Service/Main/appl/Main.asp>), agency (<https://www.kotra.or.kr/foreign/kotra/KHENKT010M.html>), or federation (<http://www.fki.or.kr/en/about/Intro.aspx>).
- If you worked as a multinational manager or an executive at a company listed on the Top 500 companies of the world, you need to submit a proof of employment or a certificate of your career experience that can prove your work experiences.

## III. Education Field

- A person who is recommended by the Minister of Education on the basis of research publications and citations on SSCI (Social Science Research Citation Index) or A&HCI (Arts and Humanity Research Citation Index), and research achievements.
- A person who is recommended by the Minister of Education, Science and Technology as the status of a full-time lecturer or higher at a community college or above.
- A recommendation letter from the Minister of Education.

## IV. Culture & Arts

- An internationally famous artist, director, or singer recommended by the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

V. A recommendation letter from the Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism.

- An athlete and a coach who won a bronze medal or above at an international athletic competition equivalent to the Olympic, the World Championship, the Asian Game and others. Soccer players and the coaches finished in the Top 16 at the World Cup Game while being recommended by the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of ROK.

#### 18) F-5-5 Big Investor

**Visa Category:** A business visa for those with specific professional skills.

**Target:** Foreign person willing to invest a certain sum and create jobs.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Permanent residence.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Visa Application Form (Form No. 17),
  - Passport.
  - Photo in a standard format.
  - Fee.
  - Copy of Certificate of FDI Company Registration.
  - A letter of guarantee.
  - A copy of Business Registration Certificate or a certified copy of unabridged Corporate Register.
  - Receipts for Earned Income Tax Withholding (issued by a Tax Office) of at least 5 Korean employees or Certificate of Income Amount (issued by a Tax Office).
- Financial: invested US\$500,000 or more in accordance with the Foreign Investment Promotion Act.

#### 19) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Korea is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card.

I. For Korean Citizens

- Information only available in Korean.

II. For Non-Korean Citizens

- APEC Business Travel Card holders entering Korea are granted Short-Term Business (C-3-4) status and allowed to stay in Korea for up to 90 days.

**Official Sources:**

Republic of Korea - Visa Portal (Visa Navigator)

[https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU\\_ID=10101](https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU_ID=10101)

(Consulted on 06/01/19)

Hi Korea eGovernment for Foreigners (Migration Guide)

<https://www.hikorea.go.kr/guide/G4FIntroR.pt>

(Consulted on 21/08/20)

Republic of Korea - Visa Portal (Visa application fee with exempted and adjusted economies fee)

[https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU\\_ID=10103#this](https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU_ID=10103#this)

(Consulted on 06/06/19)

Hi Korea eGovernment for Foreigners (Form Repository)

<https://www.hikorea.go.kr/board/BoardApplicationListR.pt>

(Consulted on 21/08/20)

Republic of Korea - Visa Portal (Global Talent Visa Center GTVC)

[https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU\\_ID=10403&LANG\\_TYPE=EN](https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU_ID=10403&LANG_TYPE=EN)

(Consulted on 06/03/19)

Republic of Korea (Korean ABTC card holders)

[https://abtc.kita.net/cstmrCntr/faq/faq\\_list.do?searchReqType=RESET](https://abtc.kita.net/cstmrCntr/faq/faq_list.do?searchReqType=RESET)

(Consulted on 06/06/19) – only available in Korean

## MALAYSIA

Malaysia offers **three skilled work visas**, which they refer to as work passes for skilled foreign professionals. In addition, Malaysia is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The following visas are listed:

### 1) Employment Pass

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work pass for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** For those who are offered work in Malaysia for a short term, based on the employment contract duration.

**Visa fee:** Processing fee RM318, Immigration Pass Fee (RM200/year + RM125 + visa fee/year by economy (if applicable)).

**Duration:** Up to 5 years. Duration of stay will depend on the contract duration and salary offered and determined by Employment Pass Category I, II and III.

**Processing time:** 5 working days.

**Gender:**

- Not specifically, but for Category I and II worker may bring dependents.

**Requirements:**

- Hiring company must be registered with ESD Online via [esd.imi.gov.my](http://esd.imi.gov.my)
- Degree and above, with at least 3 years' experience in the relevant field; or
- Diploma, with at least 5 years' experience in the relevant field; or
- Technical Certificate or equivalent, with at least 7 years' experience in the relevant field.
- For Shareholder(s) of the company, must have a minimum 30% equity in the company; AND
- Must be a registered Director of the company AND/OR holds a key position in the company.
- Spouse and children under 18 years old of Employment Pass holder are eligible for Dependant Pass (For Employment Pass Category I and II only).
- Children over 18 years old until 25 years old are eligible for Social Visit Pass (Long Term) (For Employment Pass Category I and II only).
- Parents / Parents-in-law are eligible for Social Visit Pass (Long Term maximum of 1 year for each approval) (For Employment Pass Category I and II only).



- Eligible to hire foreign maid(s) (For Employment Pass Category I and II only).
- Renewal of the pass can be considered depending on the requirements.
- Documents:
  - Recent passport photo.
  - Copy of passport.
  - Copy of highest educational certificates (to include copy of Professional certificate (if applicable)).
  - Latest comprehensive Resume.
  - Release letter from previous employer in Malaysia (for change of employer only).
  - Copy of Employment Contract (duly stamped by the corresponding board (<http://www.hasil.gov.my/indexbi.php>)).
  - Supporting document from Approving Agency / Regulatory Body (if applicable).
  - Detailed Job Description printed on company's letterhead.
  - Latest 3 months' salary slips (for Employment Pass renewal and change of position).
  - Latest e-BE /e-M tax filing (for Employment Pass renewal or change of position or change of employer).
  - Tax payment receipts (if any).
  - Latest EA Form (for Employment Pass renewal or change of position or change of employer).
  - Account statement from Malaysia Inland Revenue Board (Note: upon request).
  - Other documents specified upon request.
- **Financial:**
  - Base salary of RM10,000 and above (Employment Pass Category 1)
  - Base salary of RM5000 – RM9,999 (Employment Pass Category II)
  - Base salary of RM3000 – RM4999 (Employment Pass Category III)

## 2) Professional Visit Pass

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work pass to engage in Temporary Employment (contracted activity).

**Target:** Those who are hired to work with a company abroad or to undergo a practical training in Malaysia for a short term, with maximum of 12 months contract with no extension.

**Visa fee:** No processing fee, but only for Immigration Pass Fee (RM90/quarter + visa fee/year by economy (if applicable) upon approval of application

**Duration:** Up to 12 months and is restricted to one contract / project at a time.

**Processing time:** 5 working days.

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Hiring company must be registered with ESD Online via [esd.imi.gov.my](http://esd.imi.gov.my)
  - Expatriate applicant fulfills one of the following categories:
    - Category I: Expertise Transfer
    - Category II: Research
    - Category III: Training at ESD-registered companies
    - Category V: Volunteers
    - Category IV: Exhibitors under regulation of the respective government bureau (<https://www.myceb.com.my/>)
    - Category VI: Student Internship\* under:
      - i. Foreign Embassies
      - ii. ESD-registered companies
      - iii. Hotels
- \*must be relevant to the applicant's education background

**For Hotel Trainee:**

- Applicable to hotels rated 4 star and above only.
- Hotels rated 3 stars may apply but restricted to Indonesian trainees only.
- Limited to 25 trainees at any given time.
- Maximum duration allowed is for six (6) months only and non-renewable.
- The trainee can only apply once for training in any hotel in Malaysia

**Documents:**

- Application letter from sponsor (must be signed by authorized endorser as per the Letter of Undertaking).
- Recent passport photo.
- Copy of passport.
- Offer letter / agreement for services / sponsor contract / internship offer in Malaysia (duly stamped by the respective Board (<http://www.hasil.gov.my/indexbi.php>)).

- Confirmation letter by home-/base-economy Company on the applicant's employment details (salary, designation, duration of pass applied, etc.), if applicable.
- Detailed Job Description printed on company's letterhead.
- Copy of highest educational certificates.
- Latest updated comprehensive Resume.
- Personal Bond form (NOT applicable for Chinese and Bangladesh citizenship) (duly stamped by Inland Revenue Board); OR
- Security Bond & Bank Guarantee (for Chinese and Bangladesh citizenship ONLY).
- Letter of Award (LOA) / Contract, if applicable a Supporting document from Approving Agency / Regulatory Body.
  
- Additional documents for specific activities:
  - For machinery / equipment installation / commissioning / maintenance:
    - Invoice of purchase of machinery
    - Form K1/ZB4/ Others / BI or Letter of Confirmation from the respective Department (<http://www.customs.gov.my/en>) to validate company's physical location in Free Trade Zone (FTZ)
  - For secondment in mining activities:
    - Approval letter from the corresponding Department (<https://www.jmg.gov.my/en/>) on mining activity,
    - Supporting letter from the corresponding Department for individuals, and Mining License.
  - For Flight Simulator Tester:
    - Supporting letter from the respective Department (<http://www.caam.gov.my/>)
  - For internship:
    - Training schedule / job description of internship is required
  - For hotel trainee:
    - Memorandum of Understanding on the special arrangement for hotel training (compulsory)
    - Valid certificate of star rating from the corresponding Ministry (<http://www.motac.gov.my/en/>)
    - Other documents specified upon request
  
- Financial:

- The position in Malaysia is non-salaried. However, hiring company in Malaysia may provide allowances

### 3) Residence Pass-Talent (RP-T)

**Visa category:** A work pass for those with specific skills and a degree.

**Target:** Highly skilled foreign workers.

**Visa fee:** RM 2388

**Duration:** 10 years and is renewable.

**Processing time:** 21 working days

**Gender:** No, but spouse (legally married) and dependents under 18 years old are eligible for a RP-T Dependent Pass (RP-T DP).

#### **Requirements:**

- Worked for a minimum of 3 years in Malaysia.
- Holds a valid Employment Pass (EP) with more than 3 months validity at the time of application.
- Possesses a Malaysian income tax file number and has paid income tax for at least 2 years.
- Holds a PhD/Master's/Bachelor's Degree or Diploma in any discipline from a recognized university or a professional/competency certificate from a recognized professional institute.
- Possesses at least 5 years of work experience.
  - Documents:
    - A copy of the passport (all pages, including front and back cover, and in color)
    - Updated resume.
    - Copies of academic certificates.
    - Passport photo sized 3.5x5.0cm or 99x142pixels and light blue background
    - Employment contract duly stamped by the corresponding Board (<http://www.hasil.gov.my/indexbi.php>).
    - Latest Job Description printed on company letterhead.
    - Latest two (2) year's tax declaration slip (e-BE & EA Form) with proof of tax paid
    - Latest three (3) months' salary slip.
    - No Objection Letter (NOL) from current employer (must be in Bahasa Malaysia)
    - A copy of the local contact person's NRIC (MyKad) (the front and back, and in color).

- Testimonials with company's letterhead.
- Other supporting documents, ex. recommendations from Regulatory Agencies (optional).
- Financial:
  - Earn a basic monthly salary of RM15,000 which excludes any allowances and/or bonuses.

#### 4) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Malaysia is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The granting process for citizens and the admission process with the card to the economy for non-citizens are detailed.

### III. For Malaysian citizens

The information available via the Malaysian official sources explains how Malaysians can use this card to move in the APEC economies, but there is no information available regarding how a foreigner can use this card to travel to Malaysia.

**Visa fee:** RM 100

**Duration:** The card has a validity equivalent to the validity of the holder's passport with a maximum of five years from the date of issue of the ABTC.

**Processing time:** approximately 3-6 months with progress status available online.

#### **Requirements:**

- Be a Malaysian citizen.
- Not eligible if:
  - Name or Company in the criminal record of the applicant or the black list: i. respective police institution (<https://www.rmp.gov.my/>) ii. Respective immigration department (<https://esd.imi.gov.my/portal/>).
  - Athletes, journalists, entertainers, musician's artists or equivalent.
  - Enterprise status companies.
- The members of the Administration & Professional, The Dignitaries, Senior Government Officials or equivalent Senior Government Officials frequently travels to the Asia Pacific Region with APEC economies must be endorsed by the Ministry or Department concerned.
- The members of the business and investment community must be endorsed by the appointed regulatory agencies through a Supporting Letter.
- Fill the application form, through the page: [https://www.imi.gov.my/images/borang/Kad%20Perjalanan%20APEC/borang\\_apec.pdf](https://www.imi.gov.my/images/borang/Kad%20Perjalanan%20APEC/borang_apec.pdf)
- Documents:

- Application Form.
- A copy Malaysian Passport (validity minimum 3 years and above).
- A Copy of Identity Card.
- Recent passport sized photograph - 1 piece (blue background).
- Application letter from the applicants Company (companies' letter) with confirmation on Name / Date of Birth / Identity Card & Passport Number and Number of Position In Company Justification applying for an APEC Business Card Travel.
- Supporting Letter from the relevant Regulatory Agency
  - The websites of the regulatory agencies appointed are:
    - <https://www.fmm.org.my/>
    - <https://www.dpmm.org.my/>
    - <https://www.accim.org.my/en/who-we-are/>
    - <https://maicci.org.my/>
    - <https://www.mspc.my/>
    - <https://www.micci.com/>
 The Supporting Letter can also be issued by Professional Bodies of Engineering, Accounting, Legal, Medical and Development.
  - The validity of the supporting letter is three (3) month from the issuance date.

#### IV. For Non-Malaysian Citizens Seeking APEC Business Travel Card

The card provides cardholders with pre-cleared, multiple entry (without visa) for a short stay business visits and access to express immigration processing upon arrival and departure through Premier Lanes (KLIA, KLIA 2, PEN, BSI & KSAB).

**Visa fee:** APEC has decided that participating economies will only charge fees on their applicants only.

**Duration:** up to 90 days, multiple entries no extension permitted (while holder's passport and Business card remain valid).

**Processing time:** instantaneous provided one is registered in ABTC.

An officer after examining the passport and APEC Business Travel Card and being satisfied that they are valid documents will then orally advise the applicant that an APEC Business Travel Card for business purposes has been granted and is valid for 90 days from the date of entry. The officer then will use the normal wet stamp to stamp the entry date in the passport and record the entry in the movement.

**Official sources:**

Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (Residence Pass-Talent)

<https://www.talentcorp.com.my/initiatives/residence-pass-talent>

(Consulted on 05/12/19)

ESD Guidebook v3

[https://esd.imi.gov.my/portal/pdf/tc-esd-quick-guidev3n-2019\\_july.pdf](https://esd.imi.gov.my/portal/pdf/tc-esd-quick-guidev3n-2019_july.pdf)

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://www.imi.gov.my/index.php/en/apec-business-travel-card-abtc.html>

(Consulted on 05/31/19)

## MEXICO

Mexico offers **one skilled work visa** that is temporary and requires a work contract. In addition, Mexico is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The following visas are listed:

### 1) Visitor/temporary visa with permission to perform paid work with job offer

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with a work contract.

**Target:** For foreigners who have a job offer in Mexico and want to live and work in this economy temporarily.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** No more than 180 days.

**Processing time:** A total of 20 working days. After the interview the consulate authority will issue the visa within the next 10 business days.

**Gender:** Not specifically, but there is a particular visa for families (temporary or permanent residence visa requested to the institute by family unit). This visa allows the children and spouse to accompany the person that has the work visa. For a spouse, one must provide the original marriage certificate and a copy or show evidence that the couple has lived together for 5 years.

#### **Requirements:**

- Submit to the consular interview.
- Provide the migratory authority with the information required during the consular interview (personal data, reason for travel...).
- Allow the taking of photos and of fingerprints through electronic means.
- Enter the economy no more than 30 days after receiving a visa.
- Documents:
  - Passport or identity and travel document that is valid under international law, accompanied by a simple readable copy.
  - A passport-sized photo with minimum dimensions of 32 mm x 26 mm and a maximum of 39 mm x 31 mm.
  - Have a copy of the employment contract.
  - Documents written in other languages must be accompanied by a Spanish translation.
  - Documents must be apostilled by the government authority of the issuing economy.
  - In case of doubts about the legitimacy of the data or documents presented, the immigration authority can ask the foreigner for more information.



## 2) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Mexico is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card.

- The low Visa fee of the ABTC Card implies savings for the application for the issuance of visas from those economies that still require it for Mexicans, which are: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; People's Republic of China; Papua New Guinea; Russia; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and Viet Nam.
- As of April 2016, in addition to Central Offices, the process can be done in any of the following federal delegations of the corresponding Institute (<https://www.gob.mx/inm>): Aguascalientes, Baja California, Chihuahua, State of Mexico, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Nuevo León, Puebla, Querétaro and Veracruz.
- Although in the cases of the United States and Canada it is necessary to present the corresponding visa, both economies offer the facility to enter through preferential lanes, which allows to optimize times in the ranks of its main airports.

**Duration:** The procedure is resolved in a period of between 4 or 5 months, depending on the authorization of the APEC member economies; however, the INM manages the approval and delivery of the ABTC Card, in an approximate time of 3 months.

### **Requirements:**

- Online application, through this [page](#).
- Documents:
  - Original Passport
  - Proof of payment
  - Document that argues the need to obtain the ABTC:
    - Public Sector: Office signed by the owner of the unit or the administrative unit.
    - Private Sector: Letterhead signed by the owner, owner or legal representative of the company.

**Official Sources:**

*“Poder Ejecutivo Secretaría de Gobernación (2014): Lineamientos Generales para la expedición de visas que emiten las secretarías de Gobernación y de Relaciones Exteriores”.* (Visitor/temporary visa with permission to perform paid work with job offer)

(Consulted on 5/8/2019) – Only available in Spanish

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://www.gob.mx/inm/acciones-y-programas/tarjeta-de-viaje-de-negocios-apec>

(Consulted on 5/8/2019) – Only available in Spanish

## NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand offers **11 skilled work visas**: six permanent and five temporary visas. Out of the eleven visas, six visas are work visas, while the remaining five are visas in the business sector. New Zealand is also a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card.

COVID-19 update:

As at 1 July 2020 the New Zealand border is closed to most travellers apart from New Zealand citizens and residents and people who have a critical purpose to travel to New Zealand and are granted an exception to come here. This is to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of people already in New Zealand.

Although all INZ onshore offices have reopened as at 1 July 2020 all offshore offices re-main closed for the time being and visa processing for offshore applicants is on hold. This is because legally INZ is not able to grant a visa to individuals who are unlikely to meet entry requirements.

The processing of residence visa applications resumed from Thursday 14 May 2020. Applications where the applicant is in New Zealand are being prioritised. Priority for temporary visa processing is being given to applications for critical workers to support the Government response to COVID-19 and for other temporary visa applicants that are in New Zealand.

Because of the effects of COVID-19 the Government has decided to postpone selections for Expressions of Interest (EOI) in the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC). Immigration New Zealand will continue to reassess and determine when this programme can resume.

The following visas are listed:

### 1) Skilled Migrant Category visa

**Visa category:** A resident visa.

**Target:** New Zealand invites people who have the skills to contribute to its economic growth to apply for this visa. Before New Zealand can invite you to apply, they'll first need you to send an Expression of Interest (EOI) telling them about your employment in New Zealand, work experience, and qualifications. If your Expression of Interest is successful they'll offer you the opportunity to apply to live and work in New Zealand indefinitely.

**Visa fee:** All costs in NZD: EOI - \$680 hard copy, \$530 online; Residence visa - \$2710 in New Zealand, \$2440 Pacific fee band, \$3310 rest of world fee band (costs include Immigration Levy)

**Duration:** Indefinitely.

**Processing time:** Note that as at July 2020 selections for Expressions of Interest are suspended until further notice due to Covid-19.

**Gender:** Not specifically, but can include partner, and dependent children aged 24 and under, in residence application.

**Requirements:**

- Submit an EOI.
- Receive an invitation to apply.
- Must be 55 years old or under.
- Must have 160 points or above in point system.
- If the worker has an offer of skilled employment in Auckland, they must: take up that job within 3 months of coming to New Zealand, stay in that job for at least 3 months, continue to be paid at or above the level of remuneration for which skilled employment points were awarded, for at least 3 months. They must provide evidence within 5 years of their first day in New Zealand as a resident that they stayed in their skilled employment for at least 3 months.
- If the worker has an offer of skilled employment outside of Auckland, they must: take up that job within 3 months of coming to New Zealand, stay in that job for at least 12 months and continue to be paid at or above the level of remuneration for which skilled employment points were awarded, for at least 12 months. They must provide evidence within 5 years of their first day in New Zealand as a resident that they stayed in their skilled employment for at least 12 months.
- If the worker has current skilled employment in Auckland of less than 3 months, they must: stay in the job for at least 3 months and continue to be paid at or above the level of remuneration for which skilled employment points were awarded, for at least 3 months. They must provide evidence within 5 years of their first day in New Zealand as a resident that they stayed in their skilled employment for at least 3 months.
- If the worker has current skilled employment outside of Auckland of less than 3 months, they must: stay in the job for at least 12 months and continue to be paid at or above the level of remuneration for which skilled employment points were awarded, for at least 12 months. They must provide evidence within 5 years of their first day in New Zealand as a resident that they stayed in their skilled employment for at least 12 months.

- Must have full or provisional registration, if it's needed to work in the occupation in New Zealand.
- Documents:
  - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*. Must provide an original or a certified copy of their full birth certificate.
- Language:
  - An acceptable English language test result,
  - Or evidence that the individual is a citizen of Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom (UK) or the United States of America (USA), and has spent at least five years working or studying in those economies, or in Australia or New Zealand,
  - Or evidence that the individual has a recognised qualification that's comparable to a New Zealand level 7 bachelor's degree, gained in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, the UK or the USA. The individual must have also studied for at least two years in any of those economies to get that qualification,
  - Or evidence that the individual has a recognised qualification that's comparable to a postgraduate New Zealand qualification, gained in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, the UK or the USA. The individual must have also studied for at least one year in any of those economies to get that qualification.

## 2) Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa

**Visa category:** A resident visa (from a temporary work visa).

**Target:** This visa is for holders of Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visas who have worked for an accredited employer for 2 years.

**Visa fee:** \$1,800 NZD. This is the fee for the corresponding agency (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>) to process your application. An immigration levy is charged and is included in the cost.

**Duration:** Indefinitely.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 5 months. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically, but can include partner, and dependent children aged 24 and under, in residence application.

**Requirements:**

- Must have full or provisional registration, if it's needed to work in their occupation in New Zealand.
- Documents:
  - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
  - Must provide original or a certified copy of their full birth certificate.
- Financial: Must have a base salary of at least NZ\$55,000 per year (before tax), or NZ\$79,560 if you applied for your Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa on or after 7 October 2019.

### 3) Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa

**Visa category:** A temporary work visa (a Work to Residence visa).

**Target:** For people who are looking for a pathway to live in New Zealand and who have a skill that's needed by a New Zealand accredited employer. If an accredited employer offers you full-time work, you'll be able to get a visa to work here. If you continue to work for that employer for 2 years, you'll be able to apply to live in New Zealand permanently.

**Visa fee:** Application cost: \$635 NZD (online and paper). Passport Fee and Courier Fee are dependent on the economy of origin.

**Duration:** Up to 30 months on a work visa, and then if your residence application is successful, indefinitely.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 4 months. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 Processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically. You can't include a partner or dependent children in your work visa application, but they can apply for visas based on their relationship to you.

**Requirements:**

- Be 55 and under.
- Have a full-time job offer of at least two years from an accredited employer.
- Must work in the specific occupation and for the specific accredited employer detailed in the job offer that was the basis of their work visa application.
- Must have full or provisional registration, if needed to work in their occupation in New Zealand.

- Documents:
  - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
- Financial:
  - Job must pay at least NZ \$79,560 a year (before tax).

#### 4) Long Term Skill Shortage List Work Visa

**Visa category:** A temporary work visa (a Work to Residence visa).

**Target:** This visa offers a pathway to New Zealand residence. To apply, you'll need to have the specified work experience, qualifications and occupational registration to work in an occupation on their Long Term Skill Shortage List, and an offer for work in that occupation. If you continue working in that occupation in New Zealand for 2 years, you can apply for residence.

**Visa fee:** Application cost \$635 NZD (online and paper). Application processing Fee and Courier Fee are dependent on the economy of origin.

**Duration:** 30 months and can apply for residence after 2 years.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 4 months. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically. You can't include a partner or dependent children in your work visa application, but they can apply for visas based on their relationship to you.

#### **Requirements:**

- Be 55 and under.
- Must have a job offer.
- Have to work in the specific occupation from the Long Term Skill Shortage List, for the specific employer, and in the specific location detailed in the job offer that was the basis of their work visa application.
- Must have full or provisional registration if required to work in the occupation in New Zealand.
  - Documents:
    - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.

#### 5) Long Term Skill Shortage List Resident Visa

**Visa category:** Resident visa for specific skills.

**Target:** This visa is for people who hold a Long Term Skill Shortage List Work Visa and have been employed in New Zealand for more than 2 years. If you have ongoing

employment and your salary is NZ\$45,000 or greater, you may be eligible for this resident visa.

**Visa fee:** \$1,800 NZD. This is the fee for the corresponding agency (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>) to process your application. An immigration levy is charged and is included in the cost.

**Duration:** Indefinitely.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 13 months. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically, but you can include your partner and dependent children aged 24 and under in your residence application.

#### **Requirements:**

- To apply for this visa, a worker must hold a Long Term Skill Shortage List Work Visa and have worked in New Zealand for more than 2 years.
- Must have ongoing, full-time employment in an occupation that was on the Long Term Skill Shortage List (LTSSL) at the time the work visa was granted, or an occupation that is on the LTSSL at the time the worker applies for residence.
- Must hold full or provisional registration if required to work in the occupation in New Zealand.
- Documents:
  - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
  - Must provide original or a certified copy of their full birth certificate.
- Financial:
  - Must have a minimum base salary of NZ\$45,000.

#### 6) Global Impact Visa (GIVs)

**Visa category:** A temporary work visa with potential to apply for permanent residence in New Zealand.

**Target:** Entrepreneurs and Investors accepted into the specific organization (<https://www.ehf.org/>) can apply to the corresponding agency (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>) for a Global Impact Work Visa. This visa gives you the flexibility to work and live in New Zealand while establishing or supporting innovative ventures here. This visa is also a pathway to permanent residence.

**Visa fee:** Application costs \$635 NZD (online and paper). Passport Fee and Courier Fee are dependent on the economy of origin.



**Duration:** 36 months and can apply for permanent residence in New Zealand after 30 months if you remain in the specific organization (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/global-impact-work-visa>).

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 6 months. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically. You can't include a partner or dependent children in your work visa application, but they can apply for visas based on their relationship to you.

### **Requirements:**

- The individual must be accepted into the specific organization (<https://www.ehf.org/>) before they apply for the visa and receive a Letter of Offer from EHF (400 quota for the entire programme, 100 per year).
- If the individual was selected on the basis of an investor profile, they must provide evidence that funds/or assets were earned legally.
- They must not apply for or accept welfare assistance while in New Zealand.
- They must remain in the Edmund Hilary Fellowship for the duration of their visa.
- Must have full or provisional registration, if it's needed to work in the occupation in New Zealand.
- Documents:
  - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
  - Must provide original or a certified copy of their full birth certificate.
- Language:
  - Must be able to demonstrate a high standard of English with either an acceptable English language test result,
  - Or evidence they are a citizen of Canada, Ireland, the UK or the USA, and have spent at least five years working or studying in those economies, or in Australia or New Zealand,
  - Or evidence they have a recognised qualification that's comparable to a New Zealand level 7 bachelor's degree, which was gained in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, the UK or the USA. They must have also studied for at least two years in any of those economies to get that qualification,
  - Or evidence they have a recognised qualification that's comparable to a postgraduate New Zealand qualification, which was gained in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, the UK or the USA. They must have also

studied for at least one year in any of those economies to get that qualification.

- Or confirmation from the specific organization (<https://www.ehf.org/>) that they have demonstrated a high standard of English.
- Financial:
  - NZ\$36,000 maintenance funds to support the individual and their family for the first year.

## 7) Investor 1 Resident Visa

**Visa category:** A resident business visa.

**Target:** If you have NZ \$10 million to invest in New Zealand over a 3-year period, you can apply for New Zealand residence. If you're granted residence you can come to New Zealand.

**Visa fee:** Immigration cost NZ\$4,960 from offshore or \$5070 if applying from within New Zealand.

**Duration:** Indefinitely.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 24 months. This includes a 12 month investment period for you to complete your investment in New Zealand. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically, but can include partner, and dependent children aged 24 and under, in residence application.

### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
  - Must provide original or a certified copy of their full birth certificate.
- Financial:
  - Must invest \$NZ10 million or more over a three-year period.
  - Must spend 44 days in each of the last two years of their three-year investment period in New Zealand, or, 88 days at any time over the three-year investment period if they have invested a minimum of NZ\$2.5 million in growth investments.
  - Must transfer funds to New Zealand. Must have earned or acquired funds lawfully. Must invest nominated investment funds in acceptable investments in NZ for a minimum of 3 years.

## 8) Investor 2 Resident Visa

**Visa category:** A resident business visa.

**Target:** Experienced businesspeople who have a minimum of NZD \$3 million in available funds or assets can apply for New Zealand residence. Before you can apply, New Zealand will first need you to send them an Expression of Interest telling them about your business experience and investment. If your Expression of Interest is successful they'll invite you and your partner and dependent children to apply for New Zealand residence.

**Visa fee:** All costs in NZD: EOI - \$620; Resident visa - \$5070 in New Zealand, \$4960 outside New Zealand, includes the Immigration Levy

**Duration:** Indefinitely.

**Processing time:** Every 2 weeks EOIs are selected from the pool. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** No, but can include partner, and dependent children aged 24 and under, in residence application.

#### **Requirements:**

- Be an applicant of maximum age 65 years.
  - Meet required points to be invited to apply for residence (points are available for business experience, investment funds, English speaking ability and age).
  - Documents:
    - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
    - Must provide original or a certified copy of their full birth certificate.
  - Language:
    - Must be able to speak English or will be required to pre-purchase English language tuition. If the applicant's IELTS certificate (or equivalent) shows an overall band score of 3 when they apply for residence, they must complete 20 hours English language tuition at a New Zealand-registered school or tertiary education provider within the 4-year investment period.
- Financial:
  - Must have at least NZ \$3 million to invest in a four-year period and must invest the nominated investment funds in acceptable investments in NZ for a minimum of 4 years.
  - Must spend 146 days per year in New Zealand in each of the last 3 years in the 4-year investment period, or 438 days at any time over the four-year investment period if they have invested a minimum of NZ\$750,000 in growth investments.

- Must have earned or acquired funds lawfully.
- Must have 3 years of recognized business experience.

## 9) Entrepreneur Work Visa

**Visa category:** A temporary business visa.

**Target:** This visa is for people who want to work in their own business in New Zealand. To apply, you'll need to provide a detailed business plan, have at least NZD \$100,000 to invest in your business and be able to claim 120 points on the New Zealand points scale. If you're granted this visa, you can buy or set up a business without living in New Zealand permanently, or as a first step towards residence.

**Visa fee:** Application cost NZD \$3,365. This is the fee for the corresponding agency (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>) to process your application. An immigration levy is charged and is included in the cost.

**Duration:** 12 months in the start-up stage of their visa, then another 24 months once they have shown that they have set up the business. Visa cannot be renewed but the individual can apply for residence later on.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 12 months. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically, but family can apply for visas under the Partnership and Dependent Child categories.

### **Requirements:**

- Must be awarded 120 points on point scale.
- Must provide a detailed business plan.
- Must have a New Zealand occupational registration to run business if required.
- Must start up business within 12 months.
- Must agree to take part in an evaluation of the Entrepreneur Work Visa Category.
  - Documents:
    - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
  - Language:
    - Must be able to speak English by either providing: an acceptable English language test result or evidence they have an English-speaking background.
- Financial:

- Must show that they are able to make a capital investment of at least NZ\$100,000 (if less than NZD\$100,000 must request a minimum capital investment waiver).

## 10) Entrepreneur Resident Visa

**Visa category:** A residence business visa.

**Target:** This visa is for people who have been self-employed in New Zealand at least 6 months or have operated a business for two years on another visa that allows self-employment.

**Visa fee:** Immigration cost NZ\$4,140.

**Duration:** Indefinitely.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 14 months. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically, you can include your partner, and dependent children aged 24 and under, in your visa application.

### **Requirements:**

- Must have a current Entrepreneur Work Visa if has have been self-employed for less than two years.
- The business must have realized the benefits outlined in the business plan.
- The business must be profitable.
- The business must be contributing to New Zealand's economic growth.
- The applicant must have invested at least as much capital as outlined in business plan.
- The business must comply with New Zealand employment and immigration law.
- The applicant must have not received any welfare benefits or assistance.
- Documents:
  - Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
  - Must provide original or a certified copy of their full birth certificate.
- Language:
  - Must be able to speak English by either providing: an acceptable English language test result or evidence they have an English-speaking background.
- Financial:

- If they have been running the business for less than 2 years, they must have invested capital of at least NZ \$500,000 and have created 3 new jobs in New Zealand.
- Must have either set up or purchased at least 25% of the shareholding in a New Zealand business and have been running that business for at least 6 months.

## 11) Essential Skills Visa

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa with a job offer.

**Target:** If you've been offered a full-time job, and you have the necessary qualifications and experience to work in that job, you can apply for a temporary visa to work in New Zealand. Your employer must have checked if any New Zealanders were available to do the work, before offering you the job.

**Visa fee:** Online application - NZD \$495 in New Zealand, \$425 Pacific fee band, \$495 Rest of World fee band (including the Immigration Levy)

**Duration:** Up to 5 years depending on the skill level of the job you are offered.

**Processing time:** 90% of applications are currently completed within 71 days. Note that processing of critical or essential visas related to COVID-19 requests for entry to New Zealand are being prioritised based on the direction of the New Zealand Government. Processing times may vary.

**Gender:** Not specifically, but your partner or dependent children may be able to apply separately for visas based on their relationship to you.

### **Requirements:**

- Meet health and character requirements (see end of chapter)\*.
- The individual cannot be granted a further visa to do lower-skilled work if they are subject to a stand-down period (they must spend 12 consecutive months outside New Zealand).
- Must have full or provisional registration, if it's needed to work in the occupation in New Zealand.
- The job offer must:
  - be current at the time they apply for the visa for full-time work (30 hours per week minimum).
  - The employment agreement must be with an employer who has a history of compliance with immigration and employment law. The corresponding agency (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>) won't normally grant a visa if the employer is included on the list of non-compliant employers maintained by the Labour Inspectorate.

- Documents:
  - One acceptable photo if apply online, or 2 photos if a paper application form.
  - Passport or certificate of identity.
  - A copy of the employment agreement as evidence of the job offer. The employment agreement must include:
    - employer's name and contact details
    - applicant's name and contact details
    - job title
    - address for place of work
    - the kind of work and responsibilities at work
    - details of any necessary qualifications or work experience
    - information about whether the applicant will need New Zealand occupational registration to do the work
    - how long the work will be for
    - how long the applicant has to take up the job offer
    - pay and work conditions that comply with New Zealand employment law.
  - A filled in copy of the 'Employer Supplementary Form' completed by the employer describing the work offered.
  - Your employer must also provide evidence they have made genuine attempts to recruit New Zealanders, unless one of the following applies:
    - The job you've been offered is on one of the Essential Skills in Demand Lists and you meet the qualification and work experience requirements listed for your occupation.
    - You are applying to continue working in the role you currently hold and have been invited to apply, or have applied, for a Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa based on your current employment.
  - The qualifications and/or experience needed are listed by occupation in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). The corresponding agency uses ANZSCO Version 1.2 to assess the skill level of most occupations. Occupations that have a higher skill level in ANZSCO Version 1.3 are treated as exceptions. Evidence of qualifications can include:
    - original or certified copies of the applicant's qualifications
    - evidence the respective agency (<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>) recognises their qualification.
  - Evidence of experience can include documents that show:
    - the work that the applicant has done

- the dates they did the work
- how many hours a week they worked (on average)
- the contact details for their employer or employers
- how their work experience relates to the work offered in New Zealand.
- If registration is required to work in the occupation in New Zealand, the applicant must provide either:
  - a certified copy of their full or provisional New Zealand registration
  - confirmation from the appropriate registration body that they are eligible for New Zealand registration.

## 12) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Members of other economies can visit New Zealand to carry out trade and investment activities. They can also be granted a visa for short-term visits on arrival in New Zealand. If individuals want to stay in New Zealand longer than 3 months, they'll need to apply for a work visa. Interim APEC Business Travel Card holders must apply for a Business Visitor Visa before they can travel to New Zealand.

**Visa fee:** As charged by the businessperson's economy.

**Duration:** APEC applications are valid for five years from the date the first card is issued to the businessperson. However, if the passport provided with the application expires before this date, the expiry date listed on the card will match the expiry date of the passport.

**Processing time:** Between 4-6 months (For citizens of New Zealand).

### **Requirements:**

- The APEC card is designed to meet a businessperson's frequent short-term travel needs and not to replace visa applications for infrequent travel.
- The APEC Business Travel Card is available to genuine businesspeople of APEC economies engaged in trade and investment activities, who:
  - Are citizens of that economy and hold a current passport.
  - Travel frequently (on short notice and for short term stay) to conduct trade and investment activities in participating APEC economies due to the nature of their business.
  - Have not been convicted of a criminal offence.
- Documents:
  - As nominated by each economy



**\*All applicants** for visas must meet health and character requirements. Those requirements are set on the corresponding agency (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>) website, but in general:

**Health:**

- People planning to stay in New Zealand for 6 months or more must provide a chest x-ray if they are a citizen of an economy that does not have a low incidence of tuberculosis (TB) or have spent more than 3 months in the last 5 years in an economy or economies that do not have a low incidence of TB.
- People planning to stay in New Zealand for 12 months or more must have a chest x-ray and undergo medical screening no matter where they are from (with the exception of Australians).
- Chest x-rays and medical screening must be undertaken by radiologists and panel physicians that are recognised by the corresponding agency (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>) .

**Character:**

- Applicants for all visas must be of good character, not pose a security risk and not threaten New Zealand's international reputation.

**Resident visa applications:**

- Applicants who are 17 years of age or older (including partners and children of principal applicants) must provide current police certificates from their economy or economies of citizenship and any economy they have spent 12 months or more in over the previous 10 years (even if that 12 months was not all in one visit).

**Temporary visa applications:**

- Applicants who are 17 years of age or older and who are planning to spend 24 months or longer in New Zealand must provide current police certificates from their economy or economies of citizenship and any economy they have lived in for five years or more since turning 17.

## Official Sources:

Skilled Migrant Category (Residence) Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/skilled-migrant-category-resident-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/talent-accredited-employers-resident-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/talent-accredited-employers-work-to-residence-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Long Term Skill Shortage List Work Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/long-term-skill-shortage-list-work-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Long Term Skill Shortage List Resident Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/ltssl-resident-work-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Global Impact Visa (GIVs)

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/global-impact-work-visa>

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/global-impact-permanent-residence-visa>

(Consulted on 17/7/2020)

Investor 1 Resident Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/investor-plus-investor-1-resident-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Investor 2 Resident Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/investor-investor-2-resident-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Entrepreneur Work Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/entrepreneur-work-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Entrepreneur Resident Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/entrepreneur-resident-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

Essential Skills Visa

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/essential-skills-work-visa>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/knowledgebase/kb-question/kb-question-1324>

(Consulted on 17/07/2020)

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea offers **four skilled work visas**. In addition, it is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The skilled work visas are work and business visas that incorporate different areas of focus. The work visas target those with a work contract while the business one aims to ease the movement of workers coming in the economy for a specific professional task, such as attending a business meeting. The following visas are listed:

### 1) Business Category Visa

**Visa category:** A business visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** For visitors attending business meetings, board meetings, conferences, conducting an exploratory business visit or participating in business negotiation.

**Visa fee:** PGK 500 for single entry and PGK 1000 for multiple entry.

**Duration:** up to 30 days for the short-term single entry, and up to 60 days for the short-term multiple entry, with a validity of 12 months and no extension possible in either case.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Complete the “Application for Entry Permit” (Form 1).
  - Pay the MSF as set out in the Entry Permit Fee Form and provide receipt.
  - Provide documentary evidence as follows:
    - Letter from business associate in Papua New Guinea indicating purpose of visit, duration of stay, location of business, and proposed frequency of visits
    - Evidence of return/on-going ticket.

### 2) Entertainer Category Visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract

**Target:** Visitors who wish to carry his professional activity in Papua New Guinea as a filmmaker, comedian, or musician or is taking part in the activity of a gospel group or cultural exchange.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on class<sup>14</sup>.

**Duration:** up to sixty days (single entry) from date of arrival with extension only being granted once for a maximum of thirty days.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but eligible for a Dependent Entry Permit if included in sponsorship of Principal Applicant.

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Complete the “Application for Entry Permit” (Form 1).
  - Pay MSF as set out in the Entry Permit Fee Form and provide the documentary evidence in accordance with the visa class.

d) Filmmaker (commercial)

- Persons filming movies or videos for commercial purposes.
- Approval from the respective Institute ([http://www.nationalfilmintstitute.org.pg/Papua\\_New\\_Guinea\\_National\\_Film\\_Institute/2.\\_Home.html](http://www.nationalfilmintstitute.org.pg/Papua_New_Guinea_National_Film_Institute/2._Home.html)).
- Evidence of return/on-going ticket.

e) Comedian (commercial)

- Persons providing entertainment or advertisements as comedians for commercial purposes.
- Letter of invitation from the event(s) organizers.
- Evidence of return/on-going ticket.

f) Musician (commercial):

- Persons providing entertainment or advertisement as musicians for commercial purposes.
- Letter of invitation from event(s) organizers.
- Evidence of return/on-going ticket.

g) Gospel group (charity)

- Gospel groups doing performances and shows for charity purposes.
- Letter of invitation from event(s) organizer.
- Evidence of return/on-going ticket.

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<sup>14</sup> Film-maker: PGK 1500, Comedian: PGK 1000, Musician: PGK 1000, Gospel Group: PGK 100, Cultural Group: PGK 100

### 3) Special Exemption Category Visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** For professions falling within the special exemption such as aid workers, volunteers, foreign officials and diplomats and medical placements.

**Visa fee:** Dependent on class<sup>15</sup>.

**Duration:** up to 3 years except for Medical (up to 6 months) and Researcher/Academic (up to 60 days).

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but eligible for a Dependent Entry Permit if included in sponsorship of Principal Applicant.

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Complete "Application for Entry Permit" (Form 1)
  - Pay MSF as set out in the Entry Permit Fee Form and provide the documentary evidence in accordance with the visa class.

#### a) Aid worker/Volunteer

- Person employed by or working on projects funded by overseas aid agencies. Agencies must be approved under the Aid Status (Privileges and Immunities) Act;
- Or volunteers working with volunteer agencies on community-based projects. Agencies may or may not be approved under the Aid Status (Privileges and Immunities) Act. Letter of invitation/appointment from aid or volunteer organization indicating purpose of visit.
- Authorization from the division in charge of diplomatic and consular affairs, from the respective government authority (<https://ica.gov.pg/>), must be obtained prior to Entry Permit issue.
- Note: Volunteers working with Agencies that are not approved under the Aid Status (Privileges and Immunities) Act are required to obtain a work permit from the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>).

#### b) Researcher/Academic

- Person undertaking educational, medical or scientific research in Papua New Guinea or teaching in Papua New Guinean institutions.

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<sup>15</sup> Foreign official, Diplomat: nil, Aid worker/Volunteer, Medical, Researcher/Academic, Domestic Worker (Diplomat): PGK 100

- Approval from any of the respective institutions (<https://pngnri.org/> , <https://www.pngimr.org.pg/>), or educational institution stating purpose and duration of visit to be obtained prior to lodgement of application.

*Note: Academics who have been appointed to staff positions at education institutions are processed under Working Resident requirements. Appointees must provide a copy of their employment contract. In addition, appointees to non-government institutions must provide a Letter of Approval from the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>) regarding the work permit.*

c) Foreign Official

- Foreign government employees without diplomatic or official status who are conducting business on behalf of their governments. For periods up to three years.
- Letter from Foreign Government employer indicating purpose of visit.

d) Diplomat

- Person entering Papua New Guinea as accredited diplomats of foreign governments or international organisations.
- Diplomatic Note from foreign government confirming diplomatic status.
- Approval from the division in charge of diplomatic and consular affairs, from the respective government authority (<https://ica.gov.pg/>), must be obtained prior to Entry Permit issue.

e) Medical

- For doctors or trainees entering Papua New Guinea for short-term placements in Papua New Guinean hospitals.
- Letter from medical sponsor indicating purpose of visit.

f) Domestic Worker (Diplomatic)

- Persons entering Papua New Guinea as domestic assistants for foreign diplomats residing in Papua New Guinea.
- Letter from the relevant diplomatic personnel guaranteeing repatriation.
- Approval from the division in charge of diplomatic and consular affairs, from the respective government authority (<https://ica.gov.pg/>)(which must be obtained prior to Entry Permit issue).

4) Working Resident Category Visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract or degree.

**Target:** For foreigners looking to work as a business person/investor, employment, consultant/specialist, employee of major development project company or seeking short term employment in Papua New Guinea.

**Visa fee:** PGK 1000

**Duration:** Multiple entry up to 3 years in accordance with expiry dates of the work permit/approval issued by the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>), with a possibility for extension.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but eligible for a Dependent Entry Permit if named in the principal applicant's letter of offer from employer, provide a maintenance guarantee bond and a marriage certificate (or birth certificate)/evidence of de facto relationship.

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Complete "Application for Entry Permit" (Form 1)  
*Note: The overseas mission may also require supporting documents from the prospective employer - copies of offer letter, and copies of certificates.*
  - Pay relevant Entry Permit fee and provide receipt of payment together with the following documentary evidence (lodged by the sponsor) at corresponding agency (<https://ica.gov.pg/>).

a) Business Person / Investor

- Person wishing to invest in Papua New Guinea and/or establish a business. A valid work permit is required as well as:
- Certificate of Incorporation.
- Certificate from the respective agency ([www.ipa.gov.pg](http://www.ipa.gov.pg)) permitting a foreign enterprise to conduct business in Papua New Guinea (if applicable).
- Maintenance Guarantee Bond.
- Letter of Approval from the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>) regarding the work permit (Employers need to apply for a work permit through the mentioned Department).
- Educational qualifications and CV.

b) Employment - Non-Governmental:

- Persons wishing to work in Papua New Guinea for 3 months to 3 years. A valid work permit is required as well as:
- Certificate of incorporation.



- Certificate from the respective agency ([www.ipa.gov.pg](http://www.ipa.gov.pg)) permitting a foreign enterprise to conduct business in Papua New Guinea (if applicable).
  - Maintenance Guarantee Bond.
  - Letter of approval from the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>) regarding work permit.
  - Educational qualifications and CV.
- c) Employment - Governmental
- Foreign government employees without diplomatic or official status who are conducting business on behalf of their governments. For periods up to three years.
  - Letter from Foreign Government employer indicating purpose of visit
- d) Short Term Employment
- Persons wishing to perform short work assignments and relief duties for period of up to 12 months. Approval from the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>) is required as well as:
    - Certificate of incorporation
    - Certificate from the respective agency ([www.ipa.gov.pg](http://www.ipa.gov.pg)) permitting a foreign enterprise to conduct business in Papua New Guinea (if applicable)
    - Letter of offer from employer
    - Maintenance Guarantee Bond
    - Letter of approval from the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>) regarding position
    - Educational qualifications and CV
- e) Consultant/Specialist
- Consultants or Specialists who wish to work for periods up to three (3) months. This class is designed for persons with specialized skills who wish to carry out a specific work assignment, which would be completed in less than 3 months, e.g., repair or maintenance of equipment. Approval from DLIR is required as well as:
    - Return/on-going ticket
    - Letter from the sponsor
    - Letter of approval from the respective Department (<https://www.workpermits.gov.pg/>)
- f) Employees of Major Development Project Companies

- Persons required for major infrastructure development companies for periods of less than six months. Entry allowed without work permit. Subject to approval by the Chief Migration Officer of the corresponding government authority (<https://ica.gov.pg/>). Where period of stay is to extend beyond six months application for work permit and Working Resident Entry Permit may be made onshore.
- Must be required for a major development infrastructure project approved by the Chief Migration Officer
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Certificate from the respective agency ([www.ipa.gov.pg](http://www.ipa.gov.pg)) permitting a foreign enterprise to conduct business in Papua New Guinea (if applicable)

#### 5) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Papua New Guinea is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card.

##### a) For Papua New Guinean Citizens

- In the cases of the United States and Canada it is necessary to present the corresponding visa but both economies offer the facility to enter through preferential lanes, which allows to optimize times in the ranks of its main airports

**Visa fee:** KGP 400

**Duration:** For a period of five years, subject to passport validity

**Processing time:** No specific timeline, but once the application is registered, progress status is available online

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- The Applicant must be:
  - a Papua New Guinean citizen and holder of a valid Papua New Guinean passport, valid for 6 months or more
  - of good character and is not the subject of criminal charges or court proceedings within Papua New Guinea
  - a bona fide business person engaged in the trade of goods, the provision of service or the conduct of investment activities; and
  - endorsed by an approved business organization or a Papua New Guinean Government Minister or senior official or an official actively engaged in APEC business related activities.
- Fill the application form, through this [page](#).

- Documents:
  - Supporting Letter from any of the following business organizations:
    - <http://www.bcpng.org.pg/>
    - <https://www.pngcci.org.pg/>
    - <http://pngchamberminpet.com.pg/>
    - <https://www.fia-png.com/>
    - <http://www.fiapng.com/>
  - Business Registration Certificate from the respective agency (www.ipa.gov.pg)
  - Duly completed Application for APEC Business Travel Card
  - 1x current Passport size photo 2
  - Copy of valid PNG Passport bio-data page i.e 6 months or more
  - Police Clearance Certificate
  - New Application Fee

b) For Non-Papua New Guinean Citizens Seeking APEC Business Entry Permit

- Foreign APEC business travel card holders can enter and exit Papua New Guinea only through the international entry port at Jackson's International Airport and Tokua.

**Visa fee:** APEC has decided that participating economies will only charge fees on their applicants only.

**Duration:** up to 60 days, multiple entry no extension permitted (while holder's passport and Business card remain valid).

**Processing time:** instantaneous provided one is registered in ABTC.

**Gender:** No, but Dependents of APEC Business Travel Card holders can apply for tourist entry permits at PNG Diplomatic missions or upon arrival in PNG.

**Requirements:**

- The applicant is not a PNG citizen and is the holder of a foreign valid passport issued by a participating economy and a valid APEC Business Travel Card.
- Foreign APEC business travel card holders can enter and exit PNG only through the international entry port at Jackson's International Airport and Tokua.
- The holder must present the valid foreign passport and valid APEC business travel card at the designated immigration processing line at above mentioned designated ports of entry.
- An officer after examining the passport and APEC Business travel Card and being satisfied that they are valid documents will then orally advise the applicant

that an APEC Business entry permit for business purposes has been granted and is valid for 60 days from the date of entry. The officer then will use the normal wet stamp to stamp the entry date in the passport and record the entry in the movement database.

**Official sources:**

Business Category Visa

<https://www.immigration.gov.pg/business.html>

(Consulted on 05/10/19)

Entertainer Category Visa

<https://www.immigration.gov.pg/entertainer.html>

(Consulted on 05/10/19)

Special Exemption Category Visa

<https://www.immigration.gov.pg/special-exemption.html>

(Consulted on 05/10/19)

Pa Working Resident Category Visa

<https://www.immigration.gov.pg/working-resident.html>

(Consulted on 05/10/19)

APEC Business Travel Card

<http://www.immigration.gov.pg/apec.html>

(Consulted on 05/31/19)

Migration Service Fees Table <https://www.immigration.gov.pg/images/documents/Publication-Revised%20MSF2.pdf>

(Consulted on 05/30/19)

## PERU

Peru has **no skilled work visas**, and it is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC). The following is listed:

### 1) APEC Business Travel Card

Business people of Peruvian citizenship who need to enter the member economies of APEC with the intention of carrying out activities such as trading of goods, provision of services or carrying out investment activities, may submit the request for the ABTC card. The information contained in the application will be presented to the participating economies of the scheme so that they can approve the respective visas.

**Visa fee:** For the expedition process the single cost is S / 161.00 and for the redispatch is S / 70.00.

**Duration:** A validity of 5 years or until the expiration date of the passport, because the information of both documents must coincide.

**Processing time:**

- Once the applicant enters their file through the Table of Parties of the respective Ministry (<https://www.gob.pe/rree>), the Executive Secretariat will have a term of 15 working days to evaluate the eligibility of the interested party and enter the information to the virtual platform of the ABTC System so that the economies participating in the scheme, after an evaluation, authorize or reject the visa application.
- The average delay time for economies to approve the visa is 1 to 2 months; however, this term is established discretely by each economy according to its internal procedures to resolve the requests of each economy.

**Requirements:**

- Be a business person.
- Possession of a citizen identity document.
- Have a valid passport issued by Peru.
- Do not have police, criminal or judicial records.
- Be associated or linked to a Peruvian business association authorized by agreement.
- Demonstrate the frequency of business trips.

- Documents:
  - Application for Eligibility - Form completely filled out.
  - Letter of presentation of the company, original and on letterhead, which justifies the need for frequent and short trips within the APEC region to comply with business commitments. The letter must contain the original signature of the person who has power to represent the company.
  - Letter of Sponsorship in original of any of the entities authorized by agreement:
    - <https://www.perucamaras.org.pe/>
    - <https://www.snp.org.pe/>
    - <https://www.camaralima.org.pe/principal>
    - <https://www.comexperu.org.pe/>
    - <https://www.sni.org.pe/>
    - <https://www.snmpe.org.pe/>
    - <https://www.confiep.org.pe/>
    - <http://www.adexperu.org.pe/eng/>
  - Simple and legible copy of pages 1, 2 and 3 of the current Peruvian passport and 31 in the case of a validated passport. The passport must have a minimum validity of 6 months;
  - Proof of original payment of fees set by the Single Text of Administrative Procedures (TUPA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  - Two (2) updated color photographs on the front with white background passport size (without glasses) and formal clothes.
  - Cost of processing (payment for processing fee in both cases may be made in the windows of the bank enabled in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Jr. Lampa No. 545 basement 1 - Center of Lima) or any agency of the bank Interbank).

**Official Sources:**

APEC Business Travel Card

<http://www.rree.gob.pe/SitePages/abtc.aspx>

<http://www.rree.gob.pe/SitePages/abtc.aspx#expedicion>

<http://www.rree.gob.pe/SitePages/abtc.aspx#faq>



## THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines offers **two skilled work visas**, one work visa and a special work permit. In addition, it is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) network. The following are listed:

### 1) 9(g) Pre-arranged Employee Visa

**Visa category:** A work visa filed by the Philippine-based employer on behalf of the applicant through a petition at the respective government Bureau (<http://www.immigration.gov.ph/>).

**Target:** Foreign citizens who are proceeding to the Philippines to engage in any lawful occupation, whether for wages or salary or other forms of compensation.

**Visa fee:** USD 400 (to be paid by the foreign citizen at the Philippine Foreign Service Post).

**Duration:** 1-3 years (depending on the employment contract assessment by the respective government Bureau (<http://www.immigration.gov.ph/>)).

**Processing time:** 2-3 months

**Gender:** N/A

### **Requirements to be submitted by the foreign applicant to the Philippine Embassy/Consulate:**

1. Duly accomplished visa application Form (FA Form No. 2);
2. Passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond authorized period of stay in the Philippines;
3. At least two (2) passport-size photographs taken during the last six (6) months, quarter profile showing earlobes;
4. Police clearance issued by the citizen police authorities in the applicant's economy of origin or legal residence, authenticated by the Philippine Embassy/Consulate having consular jurisdiction over the place;
5. Medical Health Certificate issued by an authorized physician including standard-size chest x-ray; and
6. Personal appearance.

### **Requirements to be submitted by the Philippine-based Employer to the respective government Bureau (<http://www.immigration.gov.ph/>):**

1. Joint letter request addressed to the Commissioner from the applicant and the petitioner;

2. Duly accomplished Consolidated General Application Form (CGAF) for Non-Immigrant Visa;
3. Photocopy of passport bio-page and latest admission with valid authorized stay;
4. Photocopy of Employment Contract, Secretary's Certificate of Election, Appointment or Assignment of applicant, or equivalent document, with details of exact compensation, duration of employment and comprehensive description of the nature and scope of the applicant's position in the company;
5. Photocopy of petitioner's latest Income Tax Return (ITR) with the corresponding proof of payment (official receipt, bank teller's validation slip, corresponding government Bureau's (<https://www.bir.gov.ph/>) eFPS payment details' print-out or other similar evidence);
6. a. For Corporations or Partnerships, photocopies of the following:
  - i. Certificate of Registration from the respective Commission (<http://www.sec.gov.ph/>);
  - ii. Articles of Incorporation;
  - iii. General Information Sheet (GIS) for the current year stamped received by the SEC;
 b. For Single Proprietorships, photocopies of the following:
  - i. Certificate of Registration of Business Name from the corresponding government Department ([www.dti.gov.ph](http://www.dti.gov.ph/));
  - ii. Mayor's Permit;
7. Photocopy of Alien Employment Permit (AEP) issued by the respective government Department (<https://www.dole.gov.ph/>) and actual publication of the applicant's approved AEP or in the absence thereof, a Certificate of Publication issued by the Publisher;
8. Notarized certification of number of foreign and Filipino employees from the petitioning company (preferred format can be downloaded at the BI website);
9. Special Temporary Permit for an applicant practicing a regulated profession under the corresponding Commission (<https://www.prc.gov.ph/>), if applicable;
10. BI Clearance Certificate; and
11. Original or certified true copy of the respective Bureau (<http://quarantine.doh.gov.ph/>), if applicant is a citizen of any of the economies listed under Annex "A" of Immigration Operations Order No. SBM-14-059-A who arrived in the Philippines on or after June 2014.

## 2) Special Work Permit

**Visa category:** A permit to be acquired on top of a 9(a) temporary visitor visa at the respective government Bureau (<http://www.immigration.gov.ph/>). Said permit is issued by the BI to foreign citizens who intend to work, engage in specific activities, or render services outside of an employment arrangement as enumerated below:

- a. Professional athletes, coaches, trainers and assistants;
- b. International performers with exceptional abilities;
- c. Artists, performers and their staff, who perform before an audience for a fee, subject to the compliance with the requirements of the concerned agency, office or body;
- d. Service suppliers coming primarily to perform temporary services and who do not receive salary or other remuneration from a Philippine source other than expenses incidental to their temporary stay;
- e. Treasure hunters authorized to search for hidden treasure with permit from the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities;
- f. Movie and television crews authorized to film in the economy by the relevant regulatory office, body or agency;
- g. Foreign journalists practicing their profession or covering a specific event in the economy;
- h. Trainee/s assigned in government institutions, government owned and controlled corporations (GOCC), and private entities;
- i. Lecturers, researchers, trainers and others pursuing academic work, who are assigned in schools, universities, educational and research institutions, government agencies and other entities (with or without compensation);
- j. Religious missionaries and preachers;
- k. Commercial models and talents;
- l. Culinary specialists/Chefs;
- m. Professionals; and
- n. Consultants or specialists.

*Provided:* that when the performance of work or service constitutes practice of a regulated profession, the foreign citizen shall comply with the requirements imposed by the corresponding Commission (<https://www.prc.gov.ph/>), including securing a Special Temporary Permit (STP).

**Target:** Foreign citizens who will engage in short-term employment in the Philippines.

**Visa fee:** PHP 6,440

**Duration:** 3-6 months

**Processing time:** 2-3 months

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

1. Letter request addressed to the Commissioner from the petitioning company;
2. Duly accomplished CGAF for Work Permit;
3. Photocopy of applicant's passport bio-page and latest admission with valid authorized stay;
4. a. For Corporations or Partnerships, photocopies of the following:
  - i. Certificate of Registration from the respective Commission (<http://www.sec.gov.ph/>);
  - ii. Articles of Incorporation;
  - iii. General Information Sheet (GIS) for the current year stamped received by the SEC;
- b. For Single Proprietorships, photocopies of the following:
  - i. Photocopy of the Certificate of Registration of Business Name from the corresponding government Department ([www.dti.gov.ph](http://www.dti.gov.ph));
  - ii. Mayor's Permit;
5. Employment Contract, Secretary's Certificate of Election, Appointment, Assignment, Secondment or Deployment of applicant, or equivalent document indicating duration of employment, compensation and other benefits, and scope of duties;
6. Board Resolution if the signatories of the letter of application and employment contract are other than those appearing in the Articles of Incorporation and in the latest GIS;
7. For newly-incorporated corporations, a photocopy of the corresponding government Bureau's (<https://www.bir.gov.ph/>) Certificate of Registration (BIR Form 2303) or latest Quarterly Income Tax Return (ITR) [BIR Form 1702Q] or official receipt of the corporation's Quarterly ITR;
8. A sworn declaration of the petitioning company operating in the Philippines:
  - 8.1 Undertaking to withhold and remit to the respective government Bureau (<https://www.bir.gov.ph/>) the taxes due on all income of the applicant;
  - 8.2 Stating that the entire salary or any other form of compensation of the SWP applicant shall be paid entirely by his/her home office outside the economy (for SWP applicants who are not paid by the petitioning companies within the Philippines where they intend to render short-term work/services); and

## 9. BI Clearance Certificate.

### 3) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

It provides business people streamlined entry to participating economies through a simple pre-clearance system that allows them, through a single application, to obtain a multiple short-term entry to participating APEC economies.

Qualifications for an ABTC, among others:

- The company/business entity represented by the business person must be engaged in international trade, and selling of goods or services and investments between APEC economies.
- Applicants must have never been charged or convicted of any criminal offense.
- Must be a *bona fide* business person who is:
  1. Vested with powers and prerogatives to lay down and execute management policies in furtherance of the primary business purpose of the business entity and hold specific authority to negotiate and commit to trade and investment activities (e.g. Chairman, CEO, President, Vice Presidents, Chief Financial Officer, Regional Head and Board members of a registered company); or,
  2. An official nominated by the CEO, President, or Regional Head, whose work is directly involved in the trade of goods, the provision of services, or the conduct of investment activities when travelling overseas.

Reminders to ABTC Holders:

- Passport and ABTC details should be the same.
- Passports generally have to be valid for at least 6 months from the date of travel.

For inquiries, please contact:

ABTC-Philippines

Visa Division, Office of Consular Affairs

Department of Foreign Affairs

Telefax No: (+632) 8367763

email address: [oca.abtc@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:oca.abtc@dfa.gov.ph)

**Official Sources:**

Pre-arranged Employee Visa

<http://immigration.gov.ph/visa-requirements/non-immigrant-visa/pre-arranged-employment-visa>

(Retrieved on 8/09/19)

Special Work Permit

<http://immigration.gov.ph/services/special-permits/special-work-permit-commercial#>

(Retrieved on 8/09/19)

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://consular.dfa.gov.ph/visainformation/25-visa/226-apec-business-travel-card>

(Retrieved on 8/09/19)

## RUSSIA

Russia offers **three skilled work visas**, in addition to being a full member economy in APEC Business Travel Card. One visa specifically refers to attracting highly qualified specialist, another is a business visa and the last one is a visa for cultural and sport activities. The following visas are listed:

### 1) HQS Highly Qualified Specialist

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work permit.

**Target:** A foreign citizen having experience, skills or achievements in a certain sphere with an invitation to work in Russia.

**Visa fee:** RUB\$ 50,000.

**Duration:** 3 years, multiple entry.

**Processing time:** 30 days.

**Gender:** Not specified, but family member may gain access in accordance to the original visa support letter issued by a branch of the respective federal service(<http://archive.government.ru/eng/power/247/>).

#### **Requirements:**

- Upon arrival in Russia and signing of contract, the highly skilled migrant is issued a new multiple entry work visa.
- Documents:
  - Letter of invitation.
  - An invitation to enter Russia provided for the foreign citizen by an employer or a sponsor.
  - A medical insurance on Employer's part.
- Financial:
  - The migrant should present a bank statement in no longer than one month which has a current balance of a minimum of 6000 Euros.
  - Salary of no less than RUB\$ 2M.

### 2) Business Visa

**Visa category:** A business visa for those with a work contract.

**Target:** For those wishing to enter Russian territory for business purposes (business negotiations, seminars, conferences, meeting business partners etc).

**Visa fee:** Not mentioned.

**Duration:** 3-year multiple-entry.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Letter of invitation.
  - Visa application form.
  - Valid passport
  - One standard picture.
  - Fee
  - Written statement from the host organization, which should give:
    - The full name of the host organization.
    - Its official address and contact information.
    - The surname, first name, patronymic, and position of the person who signed the statement (if the host organization is a legal entity or enterprise, an institution, or their affiliate established in the territory of Russia - the individual taxpayer number).
    - Basic information regarding the visa applicant: the surname, first name, other names, date of birth, citizenship, sex, passport number, multiplicity of the visa, purpose of travel, requested period of entry, location of intended residence of the visa applicant, and the cities to be visited.

### 3) Humanitarian Visa

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills.

**Target:** For those wishing to enter the Russian territory with a purpose of establishing, renewing and strengthening scientific, cultural, social and political relations, for sporting activities, religious and charity work as well as humanitarian aid delivery.

**Visa fee:** Highly dependent on the economy of application and citizenship – For Australians, AUS \$ 400 for a multiple-entry visa.

**Duration:** single or double entry with a validity of up to 90 days or multiple-entry with a validity period up to 1 year. The duration of stay in Russia with a multiple-entry visa may not exceed 90 days within any 180 days period.

**Processing time:** Between 4 and 10 business days.

**Gender:** N/A



## Requirements:

- Documents:
  - The invitation for an entry into Russia issued by the respective government agency (<https://en.guvm.mvd.ru/>) issued of the corresponding Ministry (<https://en.mvd.ru/>); or the decision of the respective Ministry ([https://mid.ru/en/main\\_en](https://mid.ru/en/main_en)) to issue a visa.
  - Passport with no less than 2 empty pages for visas, valid for 6 months from the visa expiry date.
  - Copy of the data page of the passport (the page containing personal data and photograph of the holder, passport number, issue and expiry dates).
  - Electronic Visa Application Form filled out in Russian or English and printed directly from the following website of the corresponding Consular Department (<https://evisa.kdmid.ru/>) of the respective Ministry ([https://www.mid.ru/en/main\\_en](https://www.mid.ru/en/main_en)).
  - One passport size (3.5 x 4.5 cm) clear photo in color.
- Citizens of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland should submit medical insurance certificate valid for Russia for all period of stay. The insurance must contain:
  - the policy number.
  - the full name of the person insured.
  - the policy must cover territory of Russia and the entire period of stay there.
  - a list of medical and medical-transport services provided for, including repatriation.
  - the minimum amount of cover must be 30,000 EUR;

### 4) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Russia is a member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The granting process for citizens and the admission process with the card to the economy for non-citizens are detailed.

#### I. For Russian Citizens

No information available in English

#### II. For Non-Russian Citizens

APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) holders with “RUS” inscribed on the back enjoy a visa-free entry into Russia for official or business visits. While passing Russian border control ABTC holders need to present their valid citizen passport and the valid ABTC.

**Official sources:**

Highly Skilled Migrant Visa <https://rusemb.org.uk/skilledmigrant/>  
(Consulted on 06/06/2019)

Business Visa <https://washington.mid.ru/en/consular-services/citizens-usa/visa-to-russia/business-visa/>  
(Consulted on 06/06/2019)

Humanitarian Visa  
<https://interlinkservice.world/australia/en/visa-humanitarian>  
(Consulted on 06/06/2019)

Foreign ABTC cardholders  
<https://hongkong.mid.ru/web/hongkong-en/needvisa>  
(Consulted on 06/06/2019)

# SINGAPORE

Singapore offers **five skilled work visas** and it is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC). The following visas are listed:

## 1) Employment Pass

**Visa category:** Work visa.

**Target:** Foreign professionals, managers and executives to work in Singapore.

**Visa fee:** When you submit the application: SGD\$ 105 for each pass and when pass is issued: SGD\$ 225 for each pass/ SGD\$ 30 for each Multiple Journey Visa (if applicable).

**Duration:** Up to 2 years for first-time candidates, can be renewed for up to 3 years.

**Processing time:** If you apply online: within 3 weeks for most cases.

If you apply manually: within 8 weeks for most cases.

**Gender:** N/A

- Family Pass: Pass holders who have a fixed monthly salary of at least SGD\$ 6,000, are eligible for a Dependant's Pass or Long Term Visit Pass for their spouse and children. Pass holders who have a fixed monthly salary of at least SGD\$ 12,000 are eligible for a Long Term Visit Pass for their parents

### **Requirements:**

- Have a job offer in Singapore.
- Work in a managerial, executive or specialized job.
- Have acceptable qualifications, usually a good university degree, professional qualifications or specialised skills.
- Employers making Employment Pass applications must first advertise on MyCareersFuture.sg and consider all candidates fairly.
- An employer or appointed employment agent needs to apply on behalf of the candidate.
- Company's latest business profile or instant information registered with the respective regulatory authority (<https://www.acra.gov.sg/>).
- There are specific requirements for China in terms of transcripts, marksheets and verification proof for diploma and above qualifications. There are also requirements for India for transcripts and marksheets.

- Additional documents are required for the following:
  - For regional representatives of overseas company: A copy of the approval letter from Enterprise Singapore for setting up the representative office in Singapore and a letter from the representative's office headquarters
  - For healthcare professionals, lawyers, football players or coaches: supporting documents from the respective Singapore professional bodies (e.g. Singapore Dental Council for Dentists).
  - For employees in a food establishment: A copy of the food shop license issued by the corresponding agency (<https://www.sfa.gov.sg/>).
- Financial:
  - Earn at least SGD\$ 3,900 a month (older, more experienced candidates need higher salaries). Employers can use the Self-Assessment Tool to check on candidate's eligibility before applying.

## 2) EntrePass

**Visa category:** Work visa.

**Target:** For entrepreneurs, high-caliber innovators or experienced investors that want to operate a business in Singapore.

**Visa fee:** When you submit the application SGD\$ 105 for each pass. When pass is issued: SGD\$ 225 for each pass/ SGD\$ 30 for each Multiple Journey Visa (if applicable).

**Duration:** Up to 1 year for new candidates. Can be renewed for 1 year (first time) and 2 years (for subsequent renewals).

**Processing time:** Within 8 weeks for most cases.

**Gender:** N/A

- Family Pass: To be eligible for a Family Pass, you will need to meet the requirement for minimum business spending and local jobs created.

### **Requirements:**

- Have started, or intend to start, a private limited company registered with the respective regulatory authority (<https://www.acra.gov.sg/>).
- If registered, the company must be less than 6 months old on the date of application. If not registered, you can do so after the outcome of the application.
- Foreigners must meet any of the following innovative criteria for application as an entrepreneur, innovator or investor.

- Entrepreneur:
  - Has at least SGD\$ 100,000 from a government investment vehicle, venture capitalist (VC) or business angle that is recognized by a Singapore Government agency.
  - Is an existing incubate at a government-recognized incubator or accelerator in Singapore.
  - Has business network and entrepreneurial track record.
  
- Innovator:
  - Holds an intellectual property (IP).
  - Has ongoing research collaboration with a research institution under the corresponding agency (<https://www.a-star.edu.sg/>), or an Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) in Singapore.
  - Has exceptional technical or domain expertise in an area related to the proposed business.
  
- Investor:
  - Has investment track record.
  
- Documents:
  - Personal particulars page of your passport
  - Past employment testimonials in English or resume to elaborate on professional experiences, awards or recognitions (if available).
  - (For businesses registered with ACRA) Company's latest business profile or instant information from Bizfile.
  - A business plan in English, not more than 10 pages, consisting of:
    - Business idea:
      - Product and service offered.
      - Market analysis.
      - Supporting documents – e.g. licensing agreements, product certifications and endorsements.
    - Implementation plan
      - Market plan.
      - Operation plan.
      - Profile of management team.

### 3) Personalised Employment Pass

**Visa category:** Work visa.

**Target:** For high-earning foreign professionals.

**Visa fee:** When you submit the application: SGD\$ 105 for each pass and when pass is issued: SGD\$ 225 for each pass/ SGD\$ 30 for each Multiple Journey Visa (if applicable).

**Duration:** Up to three years, it cannot be renewed. If this pass is expiring, you will need to get an Employment Pass or S Pass to continue working in Singapore.

**Processing time:** Within 8 weeks for most cases.

**Gender:** N/A

- Family Pass: You are eligible to apply for Dependent's Pass for your: spouse (legally married) and children under 21 years of age; or Long Term Visit Pass for your: common-law spouse, unmarried handicapped children above 21 years of old, unmarried stepchildren under 21 years old, parents.

**Requirements:**

- To keep holding a Personalised Employment Pass, you must not be unemployed in Singapore for more than 6 months at any time.
  - Notify the corresponding Ministry (<https://www.mom.gov.sg/>) in these situations: change in employment status or employer, change in local contact person's details, change in residential address, change in personal particulars, declaration of annual salary.
- Financial:
  - If you are an overseas foreign professional, your last drawn fixed monthly salary overseas must be at least \$18,000 to qualify. Your last drawn salary should have been within 6 months before you apply. If you are an Employment Pass holder, you need to earn a fixed monthly salary of at least \$12,000 to qualify.
  - To keep holding a Personalised Employment Pass, you must earn a fixed salary of at least SGD\$ 144,000 per calendar year, regardless of the number of months you are in employment.

4) S Pass

**Visa category:** Work visa.

**Target:** For mid-level skilled foreign employees (e.g. technicians).

**Visa fee:** When you submit the application: SGD\$ 75 for each pass and when the pass is issued: SGD\$ 100 for each pass.

**Duration:** Up to 2 years.

**Processing time:** Within 3 weeks for most cases.

**Quota:** The number of S Pass holders a company can hire is capped at: 13% of the company's total workforce in the services sector (reduce to 10% on 1 Jan 2021) and 20% in all other sectors (for construction, marine shipyard and process sectors, reduce to 18% and 15% on 1 Jan 2021 and 1 Jan 2023 respectively). The S pass quota will be counted within the Work Permit quota.

**Levy:** The employer must pay the levy for all S Pass holders. The levy rate depends on the number of S Pass holders hired. The levy liability starts from the day the S Pass is issued and ends when the pass is cancelled or expired.

**Gender:** N/A

- Family Pass: Pass holders who have a fixed monthly salary of at least SGD\$ 6,000, are eligible for a Dependant's Pass for their spouse and children.

### **Requirements:**

- An employer or authorized third party has to apply for a candidate's S Pass.
- An employer must buy and maintain medical insurance for the S Pass holder as long as they are under their employment. The insurance coverage must be at least SGD\$ 15,000 per year and cover inpatient care and day surgery.
- The employer needs to pay the salaries electronically and start electronic payments within 3 months after the S Pass is issued. Employer also need to maintain a record of the salary payments.
- There are specific requirements for China in terms of transcripts, marksheets and verification proof for diploma and above qualifications. There are also requirements for India for transcripts and marksheets.
- Documents:
  - A degree or diploma. We may consider technical certificates; such as courses for qualified technicians or specialists. The certification should include at least 1 year of full-time study.
  - Relevant work experience.
- Additional documents are required for the following:
  - For regional representatives of overseas company: A copy of the approval letter from the corresponding agency (<https://www.enterpriseg.gov.sg/>) for setting up the representative office in Singapore and a letter from the representative's office headquarters
  - For healthcare professionals, lawyers, football players or coaches: supporting documents from the respective Singapore professional bodies (e.g. Singapore Dental Council for Dentists).
  - For employees in a food establishment: A copy of the food shop license issued by the corresponding agency (<https://www.sfa.gov.sg/>).



- Financial:
  - Earn a minimum fixed monthly salary of SGD\$ 2,400. The salary should reflect work experience. Older, more experienced applicants need higher salaries to qualify. Employers can use the Self-Assessment Tool to check on candidate's eligibility before applying.

#### 5) Work Permit for foreign worker

**Visa category:** Work visa.

**Target:** For semi-skilled foreign.

**Visa fee:**

- When you submit the application: SGD\$ 35 for each pass and when the pass is issued: SGD\$ 35 for each pass.
- Levy: The employer must pay the levy for all Work Permit holders. The levy rate depends on the worker's qualifications and the number of Work Permit or S Pass holders hired.

**Duration:** Up to 2 years, depending on the validity of the worker's passport, security bond and employment period.

**Processing time:** Within 1 week, unless more information is required.

**Quota:** The quota available for each company is dependent on the industry and number of local employees.

**Levy:** The employer must pay the levy for all Work Permit holders. The levy rate depends on the worker's qualifications and the number of Work Permit or S Pass holders hired.

**Gender:** N/A

- No Family Pass available for this visa.

**Requirements:**

- If the organisation has never applied for a Work Permit or S Pass before, you need to declare your business activity before submitting any application.
- An employer or appointed employment agent needs to apply for the permit.
- There are sector specific rules/requirements to adhere to.
- A non-Malaysian worker must not be in Singapore at the time of work permit application.

#### 6) APEC Business Travel Card

- Singapore is a full member of the ABTC.
- Only Singapore citizens with a valid Singapore passport may apply for an ABTC.
- To qualify, you must be either:

- A bona fide business person representing an economically active business entity.
- A member of a professional body (for example, a doctor, lawyer or accountant).
- A public officer representing a ministry, government department, economic agency or statutory board, travelling in your official capacity.
- Also, you must have no criminal convictions.

**Processing fee:** A non-refundable SGD\$ 100 fee is payable. Payment can be made using either Visa or MasterCard credit/debit card, American Express (AMEX) credit card or Internet Direct Debit (DBS/POSB, OCBC, UOB, Standard Chartered Bank and Citibank internet banking accounts in Singapore).

**Processing time:** It will take at least three months to process your ABTC application. In some cases, it may take up to a year to secure pre-clearance from all ABTC-participating economies.

**Requirements:**

- You will need the following to apply for an ABTC using e-Service.
- Documents:
  - Your recent passport-sized, digital, colour photograph taken within the last three months.
  - Scanned signature image file:
    - In JPEG format ('jpg' extension).
    - Preferred dimension of 250 x 220 pixels.
    - File size of less than 60 Kbytes.
  - Scanned copy of a letter of authorization or support from the organization:
    - In JPEG format ('jpg' extension) or PDF format.
    - File size of less than 1 MB.
    - If the letter of support is self-signed, please provide a scanned copy of your ACRA Business Profile.
  - For members of professional bodies who are applying for the ABTC in their personal capacity, a letter stating the reason for application, along with proof of membership from the professional body must be provided.
  - If you are applying as part of an overseas company, you must submit a scanned copy of the company's overseas business registration certificate written in any of the four official languages (English, Mandarin, Tamil or Malay).
  - Valid Singapore passport.

**Official sources:**

Employment Pass <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/employment-pass>  
(Consulted on 6/7/20)

EntrePass <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/entrepass>  
(Consulted on 6/7/20)

Personalised Employment Pass <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/personalised-employment-pass>  
(Consulted on 6/7/20)

S Pass <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/s-pass>  
(Consulted on 6/7/20)

Work Permit for foreign worker <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/work-permit-for-foreign-worker>  
(Consulted on 6/7/20)

APEC Business Travel Card [https://www.ica.gov.sg/citizen/travel/citizen\\_travel\\_apec](https://www.ica.gov.sg/citizen/travel/citizen_travel_apec)  
(Consulted on 3/26/19)

## CHINESE TAIPEI

Chinese Taipei offers **two kinds of skilled visas**, one in the work sector and one for business. Chinese Taipei is also a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card. The following visas are listed:

### 1) Resident visa for entrepreneur

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa (Please visit <https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-166-277-41131-2.html> for detailed and most updated information)

**Target:** People who intend to engage in entrepreneurial activity.

#### **Visa fee:**

- Non-US passport holders
  - Single-entry resident visa plus special handling fees: NT\$3,000 per application; US\$66 per application made overseas.
- US passport holders
  - Single-entry resident visa plus special handling fees: NT\$5,920 per application; US\$160 per application made overseas.

**Duration:** Those who on a resident visa, or obtain one after arrival, must apply for an alien resident certificate (ARC) and reentry permit at local service centers of the competent agency of the respective Ministry (<https://www.immigration.gov.tw/5475/>). The former must apply within 15 days from the day after arrival, and the latter must apply within 15 days from the resident visa issuance date. Visa validity is noted on the ARC.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but dependents (applicant's spouse and children) may be included in the application.

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Application form
    - Go to the [website https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw](https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw). Fill out the application form online and print and sign it. Make sure the application form shows a bar code.
  - Two color passport-size photos
    - On the application form, attach two color passport-size photos with a white background taken within the last six months.
  - Passport: original and one photocopy

- The passport must have remaining validity of least six months, as well as blank pages. One photocopy of the passport bio page, including the holder's picture, is required.
- Documents requested by the corresponding Commission of the respective Ministry (<https://www.moeaic.gov.tw/english/index.jsp>)
  - Applicants should meet the requirements listed under the [Examination Directions of Entrepreneur Visa Qualification for Foreigners](#).
- Other supporting documents
  - Other supporting document may be requested on a case-by-case basis. Applicants who apply for a resident visa after arrival are required to also present (one photocopy of visitor visa and the immigration entry stamp).

## 2) Resident visa for employment

**Visa category:** A permanent skilled work visa (Please visit <https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-166-276-48430-2.html> for detailed and most updated information).

**Target:** People who intend to work.

**Visa fee:**

- Non-US passport holders
  - Single-entry resident visa plus special handling fees: NT\$3,000 per application; US\$66 per application made overseas.
- US passport holders
  - Single-entry resident visa plus special handling fees: NT\$5,920 per application; US\$160 per application made overseas.

**Duration:** Those who on a resident visa, or obtain one after arrival, must apply for an alien resident certificate (ARC) and reentry permit at [local service centers of the corresponding immigration agency](#) (<https://www.moi.gov.tw/english/index.aspx>). The former must apply within 15 days from the day after arrival, and the latter must apply within 15 days from the resident visa issuance date. Visa validity is noted on the ARC.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but dependents (applicant's spouse and children) may be included in the application.

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Application form

- Go to the website <https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw>. Fill out the application form online, and print and sign it. Make sure the application form shows a bar code.
- Two color passport-size photos
  - On the application form, attach two color passport-size photos with a white background taken within the last six months.
- Passport: original and one photocopy
  - The passport must have remaining validity of least six months, as well as blank pages. One photocopy of the passport bio page, including the holder's picture, is required.
- Original and one photocopy of work permit issued by competent authorities of the government
  - Employers must apply for a work permit for the applicant with a competent authority.
  - Remaining period of employment indicated on the work permit must be more than six months at the time of resident visa application.
- Other supporting documents
  - Other supporting document may be requested on a case-by-case basis. Applicants who apply for a resident visa after arrival are required to also present one photocopy of their visitor visa and the immigration entry stamp.

### 3) Resident visa for investment

**Visa category:** A permanent business visa (Please visit <https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-166-278-9b20e-2.html> for detailed and most updated information)

**Target:** People who intend to engage in investment activity.

**Cost:**

**Visa fee:**

- Non-US passport holders
  - Single-entry resident visa plus special handling fees: NT\$3,000 per application; US\$66 per application made overseas.
- US passport holders
  - Single-entry resident visa plus special handling fees: NT\$7,360 per application; US\$205 per application made overseas.

**Duration:** Those who on a resident visa, or obtain one after arrival, must apply for an alien resident certificate (ARC) and reentry permit at [local service centers of the corresponding immigration agency](#)

<https://www.moi.gov.tw/english/index.aspx>. The former must apply within 15 days from the day after arrival, and the latter must apply within 15 days from the resident visa issuance date. Visa validity is noted on the ARC.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but dependents (applicant's spouse and children) may be included in the application.

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Application form
    - Go to the website <https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw>. Fill out the application form online, and print and sign it. Make sure the application form shows a bar code.
  - Two color passport-size photos
    - On the application form, attach two color passport-size photos with a white background taken within the last six months.
  - Passport: original and one photocopy
    - The passport must have remaining validity of least six months, as well as blank pages. One photocopy of the passport bio page, including the holder's picture, is required.
  - Original and one photocopy of proof of investment issued by the respective investment commission of the corresponding Ministry (<https://www.moeaic.gov.tw/english/index.jsp>)
    - According to the [Regulations on the Operation of Foreign Investors or Representatives of Foreign Corporations Applying for Resident Visas](#), a minimum investment of US\$200,000 is required.
  - Other supporting documents
    - Other supporting document may be requested on a case-by-case basis. Applicants who apply for a resident visa after arrival are required to also present one photocopy of their visitor visa and the immigration entry stamp.

4) Visitor visa for employment-seeking purpose

**Visa category:** A temporary skilled work visa (Please visit <https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-158-4158-09d5a-2.html> for detailed and most updated information).

**Target:** People who intend to seek short-term employment.

**Cost:**

**Visa fee:**

- Single-entry visitor visa: US\$50 per application made overseas.
- Multiple-entry visitor visa: US\$100 per application made overseas.

**Duration:** up to 180 days

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Application form
    - Go to the website <https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw>. Fill out the application form online and print and sign it. Make sure the application form shows a bar code.
  - Two color passport-size photos
    - On the application form, attach two color passport-size photos with a white background taken within the last six months.
  - Passport: original and one photocopy
    - The passport must have remaining validity of least six months, as well as blank pages. One photocopy of the passport bio page, including the holder's picture, is required.
- Proof of meeting one of the following conditions:
  - Proof of employment and average monthly salary or remuneration over the past six months (only for applicants with working experience)
  - Certificate of highest education level attained.
  - Working experience, with an average monthly salary or remuneration over the past six months that is not lower than the equivalent of NT\$47,971.
  - Graduated within the past year from any of the world's top 500 universities as listed by the Ministry of Education, and not yet employed.
    - Please click any of the following websites to check whether the university you graduated from is listed among the world's top 500 universities.
      - a. QS World University Rankings  
<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2018>
      - b. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings  
[https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2018/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort by/rank/sort order/asc/cols/stats](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2018/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort%20by/rank/sort%20order/asc/cols/stats)



c. U.S. News and World Report Best Global Universities Rankings  
<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/rankings?page=4>

- Proof of sufficient financial resources (at least NT\$100,000 or its equivalent)
- Deemed otherwise eligible by the corresponding Ministry (<https://www.mofa.gov.tw/en/default.html>) following consultations with the competent authority.
- Proof of health and full hospitalization insurance for the entire duration of stay.
- Certificate of good conduct.
- Plan for seeking employment.
- Other supporting documents.

#### 5) Employment Gold Card

**Category:** A skilled work visa. (4 in 1 card which includes work permit, resident visa, Alien Resident Certificate and re-entry permit). (Please visit <https://coa.immigration.gov.tw/coa-frontend/four-in-one/entry/golden-card> for detailed and most updated information).

**Target:** 8 fields (Science & Technology, Economy, Education, Culture and Arts, Sports, Finance, Laws and Architectural Design) for foreign special professionals who plan to work.

**Cost:** NT 3700-9100 as per applicant's citizenship.

**Duration:** 1-3 years

**Processing time:** 30 working days.

**Gender:** N/A

#### **Requirements:**

- In accordance with Article 8 of the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, foreigners or Hong Kong, China/Macau, China residents, of whom are professionals that have applied to work, must be certified by competent authority of the government to be working in one of the following eight fields of profession: ( [website of the competent authority of the government \(https://www.ndc.gov.tw/en/default.aspx\)](https://www.ndc.gov.tw/en/default.aspx) regarding the recognition standard of the eight fields of profession)

<https://foreigntalentact.ndc.gov.tw/en/Content List.aspx?n=66193EBEB13765E7>

- Field of Technology (<https://www.most.gov.tw/?l=en>)
  - Field of Economics (<https://www.moea.gov.tw/MNS/english/home/English.aspx>)
  - Field of Education (<https://english.moe.gov.tw/mp-1.html>)
  - Field of Culture and Arts (<https://www.moc.gov.tw/en/>)
  - Field of Sports (<https://english.moe.gov.tw/mp-1.html>)
  - Field of Finance (<https://www.fsc.gov.tw/en/index.jsp>)
  - Field of Law (<https://www.mof.gov.tw/Eng>)
  - Field of Architectural Design (<https://www.moi.gov.tw/english/index.aspx>)
- Application documents:
    - A color scanned e-file of the following documents shall be attached:
      - a. Passport with at least 6-month validity remaining.
      - b. 2-inch hatless facial color photo taken within 6 months (size identical to the Identification Card of this economy).
      - c. Documents of eligibility for Foreign Special Professionals announced by the competent authorities.
      - d. Other documents required for application of resident visa, alien residency certificate, and reentry permit.
      - e. Those applying under Foreign Special Professionals from Hong Kong, China/Macao, China are not required to obtain an affidavit, police record certificate, or a health certificate.
    - Specific Professional Talent from foreign economies or Hong Kong, China/Macao, China whom has been recommended by competent authority of the government must submit the previously mentioned documents in written format.
    - Required Documents for Employment Gold Card information Changes:
      - Passport, Employment Gold Card, documents certifying changes (related documents certifying changes: renewed passport, police reports or declarations certifying damaged, lost or reissuance of documents) and 2-inch hatless facial color photo taken within 6 months (size identical to the Identification Card of this economy).

#### 6) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

Information only available in Mandarin Chinese.

**Official Sources:**

Resident visa for entrepreneur

<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-166-277-41131-2.html>

Resident visa for employment

<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-166-276-48430-2.html>

APEC Business Travel Card

<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-42-8-78480-1.html>

Resident visa for investment

<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-166-278-9b20e-2.html>

visa for employment-seeking purpose

<https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-158-4158-09d5a-2.html>

Employment Gold Card

<https://coa.immigration.gov.tw/coa-frontend/four-in-one/entry/main#INFO>

## THAILAND

Thailand offers **six skilled work visas**, specifically four business visas and two work visas. Four of these visas are under the SMART visa category which was created to attract science and technology experts, senior executives, investors and startups. This is not including the APEC Business Travel Card, in which Thailand has full membership. The following visas are listed:

### 1) SMART Visa (for skilled work)

**Visa category:** Temporary skilled work visa that requires a work contract.

**Target:** For Highly skilled professionals in the targeted industries or experts working in government agencies/higher education institutions/specialized training institutions/Alternative Dispute Resolution. Ten specific industries (Next-Generation Automotive, Smart Electronics, Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Food for the Future, Automation and Robotics, Aviation and Logistics, Biofuels and Biochemicals, Digital, Medical Hub).

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Up to 4 years, but not exceeding the employment/service contract term. It can be renewed.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but spouse and children can apply for visa "O" under de SMART visa category.

### **Requirements:**

- General case:
  - Having expertise in science and technology relevant to the targeted industries and endorsed by an agency within the corresponding talent network (<https://www.boi.go.th/stc/>).
  - Certificate of incorporation, memorandum of association and company registration certificate in Thailand (not more than 3 months old).
  - Evidence of qualification and employment.
- Government agencies and other:
  - In case of experts working for a government agency, expertise in the fields of science and technology in the targeted industries must be endorsed by the hiring or employing government agency.
  - In case of the experts working in a higher education institution and specialized training institution in the private sector, expertise in the fields of science and technology in the targeted industries must be

certified by the employing agency in the corresponding talent network (<https://www.boi.go.th/stc/>).

- In case of the experts working in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution, expertise in the relevant fields must be certified by an arbitration institute in the economy. Evidence of qualification and employment.
- Documents:
  - Medical certificate showing no prohibited diseases (Leprosy, Tuberculosis, drug addiction, Elephantiasis, third phase of Syphilis).
- Financial:
  - Minimum income of no less than 100,000 Baht/month or equivalent.
  - In case of experts having an employment contract with a startup, or retired experts having endorsements from a relevant agency, minimum income of no less than 50,000 Baht per month is required.

## 2) SMART Visa (for Investor)

**Visa category:** Temporary business visa.

**Target:** Investors in technology-based business in the targeted industries. Ten specific industries (Next-Generation Automotive, Smart Electronics, Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Food for the Future, Automation and Robotics, Aviation and Logistics, Biofuels and Biochemicals, Digital, Medical Hub).

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Up to 4 years and can be renewed.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but spouse and children can apply for visa “O” under de SMART visa category.

### **Requirements:**

- The business to be set up or invested in must be certified as technology-based in manufacturing or delivering services in the targeted industries by relevant government agencies such as:  
<https://www.nia.or.th/diplomacy>  
<https://www.depa.or.th/en/home>  
<https://www.nstda.or.th/en/index.php>
- Or In case of investing through a venture capital company, the investment must be certified by relevant agencies as being either a venture capital company investing in the technology-based business in manufacturing or delivering services in the targeted industries.

- The investor can invest in more than 1 business but must maintain the investment throughout the validity period of Smart Visa, Shareholder list (not more than 3 months old) or other evidence showing individual investment, Certificate of incorporation, memorandum of association and company registration certificate in Thailand (not more than 3 months old).
  - Documents:
    - Medical certificate showing no prohibited diseases (Leprosy, Tuberculosis, drug addiction, Elephantiasis, third phase of Syphilis).
  - Financial:
    - Directly investing in technology-based business in the targeted industries in Thailand, as an individual investor or through a venture capital company in Thailand for a total amount of at least 20 million Baht.
    - Or directly investing as an individual investor for a total amount of at least 5 million Baht in a startup or an incubation or accelerator program endorsed by relevant agencies.

### 3) SMART Visa (for Executive)

**Visa category:** Temporary business visa that requires a work contract and a degree.

**Target:** Senior executives in technology-based companies in the targeted industries. Ten specific industries (Next-Generation Automotive, Smart Electronics, Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Food for the Future, Automation and Robotics, Aviation and Logistics, Biofuels and Biochemicals, Digital, Medical Hub).

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Up to 4 years, but not exceeding the employment/service contract term.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but spouse and children can apply for visa “O” under de SMART visa category.

**Requirements:**

- Holding a senior management position such as Chairman or Managing Director.
- The employing companies must be certified as being technology-based in manufacturing or delivering services in the targeted industries by relevant government agencies such as:
  - <https://www.nia.or.th/diplomacy>
  - <https://www.depa.or.th/en/home>
  - <https://www.nstda.or.th/en/index.php>

- Corporate organization chart.
- Documents:
  - Evidence of education and employment, Certificate of incorporation, memorandum of association and company registration certificate in Thailand (not more than 3 months old).
  - Evidence of employment contract or service contract with entity in Thailand.
  - Medical certificate showing no prohibited diseases (Leprosy, Tuberculosis, drug addiction, Elephantiasis, third phase of Syphilis).
- Financial:
  - Minimum income of no less than 200,000 Baht/month or equivalent.

#### 4) SMART Visa (for Startup)

**Visa category:** Temporary business visa.

**Target:** Technology-based startup entrepreneurs in the targeted industries. Ten specific industries (Next-Generation Automotive, Smart Electronics, Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Food for the Future, Automation and Robotics, Aviation and Logistics, Biofuels and Biochemicals, Digital, Medical Hub).

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Up to 2 years, can be renewed.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but spouse and children can apply for visa “O” under de SMART visa category.

**Requirements:**

- Have established a startup company in Thailand, certified as being the ones in the targeted industries by relevant government agencies such as:
  - <https://www.nia.or.th/diplomacy>
  - <https://www.depa.or.th/en/home>
- Hold no less than 25% of the company’s registered capital or a position of a director of the abovementioned company.
- Documents:
  - Medical certificate showing no prohibited diseases (Leprosy, Tuberculosis, drug addiction, Elephantiasis, third phase of Syphilis).
  - Have health insurance covering the entire period of stay in Thailand for the applicant as well as spouse and children in the case of being accompanied by them.
- Financial:

- Have a deposit of no less than 600,000 Baht or equivalent in a bank account in Thailand or in the economy of his/her citizenship or residence, which has been held for at least 3 months.
- In the case of being accompanied by spouses and children, an additional amount of deposit of no less than 180,000 Baht per person or equivalent is required in a bank account in Thailand or in the economy of his/her citizenship or residence, which has been held for at least 3 months.

#### 5) Application for 1-year visa

**Visa category:** Temporary skilled work visa.

**Target:** Foreigners who have attended an incubation or accelerator program or any other similar program in the targeted industries or received joint venture funding from the public sector or endorsed by relevant government agencies.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Up to 1 year, can be renewed for a term of up to 2 years.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but spouse and children can apply for visa “O” under de SMART visa category.

#### **Requirements:**

- Attending an incubation or accelerator program or any other similar program which is in the targeted industries and certified by relevant government agencies such as:  
<https://www.nia.or.th/diplomacy>  
<https://www.depa.or.th/en/home>
- In case of not participating in an incubator or a similar program, the applicant must either receive joint venture funding with the public sector or endorsed by relevant government agencies such as:  
<https://www.depa.or.th/en/home>.
- Documents:
  - Medical certificate showing no prohibited diseases (Leprosy, Tuberculosis, drug addiction, Elephantiasis, third phase of Syphilis).
  - Have health insurance covering the entire period of stay in Thailand for the applicant as well as spouse and children in the case of being accompanied by them.
- Financial:



- Having a deposit of no less than 600,000 Baht or equivalent in a bank account in Thailand or in the economy of his/her citizenship or residence, which has been held for at least 3 months, In the case of being accompanied by spouses and children, an additional amount of deposit of no less than 180,000 Baht per person or equivalent is required in a bank account in Thailand or in the economy of his/her citizenship or residence, which has been held for at least 3 months.

#### 6) Application for 6-month visa

**Visa category:** Temporary business visa.

**Target:** Foreigners who plan to set up a startup company in Thailand or engage in promotional activities for startups or Startup Camps.

**Visa fee:** N/A

**Duration:** Up to six months, can be renewed for a term of up to 2 years.

**Processing time:** N/A

**Gender:** Not specifically, but spouse and children can apply for visa “O” under de SMART visa category.

**Requirements:**

- Have a plan to set up a tech startup in Thailand, which must be endorsed by relevant agencies such as:
  - <https://www.nia.or.th/diplomacy> (Public Organization).
- Or being engaged in an activity aimed to promote startups, or an activity similar to Startup Camp, endorsed by government agencies such as:
  - <https://www.boi.go.th/en/index/> and;
  - <https://www.nia.or.th/diplomacy> (Public Organization).
- Documents:
  - Medical certificate showing no prohibited diseases (Leprosy, Tuberculosis, drug addiction, Elephantiasis, third phase of Syphilis).
  - Have health insurance covering the entire period of stay in Thailand for the applicant as well as spouse and children in the case of being accompanied by them.

#### 7) APEC Business Travel Card

Information only available in Thai.

**Official sources:**

SMART Visas

[https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=detail\\_smart\\_visa](https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=detail_smart_visa)

[https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=required\\_doc\\_smart\\_visa](https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=required_doc_smart_visa)

(Consulted on 3/19/19) - Available in Thai, English, German, Chinese, French, Japanese and Korean

SMART Visa (Talent)

[https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist\\_Smart%20T.pdf](https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist_Smart%20T.pdf)

(Consulted on 3/19/19) - Only available in English

SMART Visa (Investor)

[https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist\\_Smart%20I.pdf](https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist_Smart%20I.pdf)

(Consulted on 3/19/19) - Only available in English

SMART Visa (Executive)

[https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist\\_Smart%20E.pdf](https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist_Smart%20E.pdf)

(Consulted on 3/19/19) - Only available in English

SMART Visa (Startup)

[https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist\\_Smart%20S.pdf](https://www.boi.go.th/upload/Checklist_Smart%20S.pdf)

(Consulted on 3/19/19) - Only available in English

Application for 1-year visa

[https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=detail\\_smart\\_visa](https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=detail_smart_visa)

(Consulted on 3/19/19) - Available in Only available in Thai, English, German, Chinese, French and Korean

Application for 6-month visa

[https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=detail\\_smart\\_visa](https://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=detail_smart_visa)

(Consulted on 3/19/19) - Available in Thai, English, German, Chinese, French and Korean

<https://abtc-jscib.org/login-page.html>

(Consulted on 5/10/19) - Only available in Thai

## UNITED STATES

The United States offers **thirteen** temporary (non-immigrant) and permanent (immigrant) skilled work visas to perform work and conduct business. It is also a transitional member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC). The standard visa application fee is \$160 but may vary by visa category. Many of these visas are highly specialized. The requirements outline here should not be considered exhaustive. The following are listed:

### 1) E-3 Specialty Occupation from Australia

**Visa category:** A visa for Australian citizens to work in specialty occupations; Requires a valid qualifying job offer, certified Labour Condition Application and a at least a bachelors degree in a specialized field of study, or its equivalent

**Target:** For citizens of Australia coming to the United States as temporary (nonimmigrant) workers solely to perform services in a specialty occupation.

**Visa fee:** \$205.00

**Duration:** Up to 24 months; renewable indefinitely provided the applicant remains qualified.

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days.

**Gender:** No. Spouse<sup>16</sup> and unmarried children under 21 years of age are entitled to the same E-3 classification; they need not be citizens of Australia. The dependent is entitled to apply for work authorization, but not the dependent children.

### **Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of Australia.
- Have a legitimate and qualifying offer of employment in the United States.
- Possess the necessary academic or other qualifying credentials.
- Fill a position that qualifies as a specialty occupation.
- Unlike a traditional H-1B visa, an employer does not have to obtain an approved Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker from the corresponding government service (<https://www.uscis.gov/>).

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<sup>16</sup> At this time, only a relationship legally considered to be a marriage in the jurisdiction where it took place establishes eligibility as a spouse for immigration purposes.

- Documents:
  - Certified Labour Condition Application (LCA).
  - Employer must pay the E-3 worker a required wage (i.e. the actual wage paid to similarly employed U.S. workers or the prevailing wage in the area of intended employment, whichever is higher).
  - Online non-immigrant visa application (Form DS-160)
  - Academic or other credentials demonstrating qualifications for the position.
  - Job offer letter or other documentation from the employer establishing employment in a specialty occupation.
  - If required, before commencing employment in the specialty occupation in the U.S., must have the necessary license or other official permission to practice in the specialty occupation.
  - Photograph
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Proof of Australian citizenship for the principal applicant.
  - Appropriate fee

## 2) H-1B Specialty Occupations

**Visa category:** A visa to work in a specialty occupation; Requires approved petition from the corresponding government service (<https://www.uscis.gov/>) and certified Labour Condition Application

**Target:** For temporary (nonimmigrant) workers in a specialty occupation.

**Visa fee:** \$190.00 (May require additional fee based on economy of applicant citizenship).

**Duration:** Up to three years. Renewable, generally up to a total of 6 years.

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days.

**Gender:** No; Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for H-4 visas. Certain H-4 dependents may apply for employment authorization separately.

### **Requirements:**

- The job must meet one of the following criteria to qualify as a specialty occupation:
  - Bachelor's or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum entry requirement for the position.

- The degree requirement for the job is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations, or, in the alternative, or the job is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree.
  - The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position.
  - The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that the knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree.
- For you to qualify as a specialty occupation worker, you must meet one of the following criteria:
  - Have completed a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher required by the specific specialty occupation from an accredited college or university.
  - Hold a foreign degree that is the equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's or higher degree in the specialty occupation.
  - Hold an unrestricted state license, registration, or certification which authorizes you to fully practice the specialty occupation and be engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment.
  - Have education, training, or progressively responsible experience in the specialty that is equivalent to the completion of such a degree and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.
- Petition generally must be filed by a U.S. employer who will have a valid employer-employee relationship with the H-1B worker.
- Employer must agree to pay the H-1B worker a required wage (i.e. the actual wage paid to similarly employed U.S. workers or the prevailing wage in the area of intended employment, whichever is higher).
- H-1B Cap
  - The H-1B classification has an annual numerical limit "cap" of 65,000 visas each fiscal year.<sup>17</sup>
  - An exemption from the H-1B cap for beneficiaries who have earned a U.S. master's degree or higher is available until the number of beneficiaries who are exempt on this basis exceeds 20,000.
- Documents:
  - Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160.
  - Photograph.
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States.

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<sup>17</sup> Including H-1B2s and H-1B3s.

- Employer must apply for and receive a certified Labor Condition Application from the respective Government Department (<https://www.dol.gov/>) before filing the H-1B petition
- Employer must apply for and receive Form I-129, Petition for a Non-Immigrant Worker approval from the corresponding government service (<https://www.uscis.gov/>)
- Appropriate fee

### 3) H-1B1 Specialty Occupations

**Visa category:** A visa for citizens of Chile and Singapore citizens to work in specialty occupations; Requires a valid qualifying job offer, certified Labour Condition Application and at least a bachelor's degree in a specialized field of study, or its equivalent.

**Target:** For citizens of Chile and Singapore coming to the United States as temporary (nonimmigrant) workers solely to perform services in a specialty occupation.

**Visa fee:** \$190.00 (May require additional fee based on economy of applicant citizenship).

**Duration:** Up to one year. Renewable,

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for H-4 visas.

#### **Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of Chile or Singapore.
- The position must be a specialty occupation, with limited exceptions; that is, it must require theoretical and practical application of a body of specialized knowledge. Some examples of specialty occupations are jobs in the fields of engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, computer sciences, medicine and health care, education, biotechnology, and business specialties such as management and human resources.
- You must have at least a bachelor's degree in a specialized field of study directly related to the position, or its equivalent, unless employed in certain occupations.
- You cannot be self-employed or an independent contractor.

- The period of employment in the U.S. must be temporary, so you must demonstrate non-immigrant intent.
- Employer must pay the H-1B1 worker a required wage (i.e. the actual wage paid to similarly employed U.S. workers or the prevailing wage in the area of intended employment, whichever is higher).
- Unlike a traditional H-1B visa, an employer does not have to obtain an approved Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker from the corresponding government service (<https://www.uscis.gov/>).
- Documents:
  - Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160.
  - Photograph.
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States.
  - Appropriate fee
  - Job letter from U.S. employer specifying the details of the temporary position (including job responsibilities, salary and benefits, duration, description of the employing company, qualifications of the applicant, etc.) and confirming the employment offer.
  - Certified Labour Condition Application
  - Proof of meeting the educational or work experience requirement, including copies of a university diploma and/or an equivalency certificate from a credentialing agency.

#### 4) L-1 Intracompany Transferee

**Visa category:** Intracompany transferee is an alien who, within three years preceding the time of his or her application for admission into the United States, has been employed abroad continuously for one year by a firm, corporation, or other legal entity or parent, branch, affiliate, or subsidiary thereof, and who seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to render his or her services to a branch of the same employer or a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary thereof, in a capacity that is managerial, executive, or involves specialized knowledge.

**Target:** For temporary (nonimmigrant) workers wishing to enter the United States of America as intracompany transferees in managerial or executive positions or in positions involving specialized knowledge.

**Visa fee:** \$190.00 (May require additional fee based on economy of applicant citizenship and/or type of petition). Applicant may also have to pay an anti-fraud fee of \$500.

**Duration:** Up to 1 year to establish a “new office,” (as defined by the corresponding Government Department (<https://www.dhs.gov/>) regulations at 8 CFR

214.2(I)(1)(ii)(F)) for all others up to 3 years. Renewable in increments of up to 2 years, until the employee's maximum limit of 7 years (L-1A) or 5 years (L-1B). Once the maximum limit has been reached, the individual must reside and be physically present outside of the United States (except for brief visits for business or pleasure) for the immediate prior year before he or she may be approved for L status again.

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for L2 visas. L-2 spouses may, by statute, also seek employment authorization. See section 214(c)(2)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 USC 1184(c)(2)(E).

### **Requirements:**

- To qualify for L-1 classification in this category, the employer must:
  - Have a qualifying relationship with a foreign company (parent company, branch, subsidiary, or affiliate, collectively referred to as qualifying organizations).
  - Currently be, or will be, doing business as an employer in the United States and in at least one other economy directly or through a qualifying organization for the duration of the beneficiary's stay in the United States as an L-1.
- To qualify, the named employee must also:
  - Generally, have been working for a qualifying organization abroad for one continuous year within the three years immediately preceding his or her admission to the United States.
  - Be seeking to enter the United States to provide service in an executive or managerial capacity (L-1A) or in a specialized knowledge capacity (L-1B) for a branch of the same employer or one of its qualifying organizations.
- For foreign employers seeking to send an employee to the United States as an executive or manager to establish a new office (as defined by the corresponding Government Department (<https://www.dhs.gov/>) regulations at 8 CFR 214.2(I)(1)(ii)(F)), the employer must also show that:
  - The employer has secured sufficient physical premises to house the new office.
  - The employee has been employed as an executive or manager for one continuous year in the three years preceding the filing of the petition.



- The intended U.S. office will support an executive or managerial position within one year of the approval of the petition.
- For foreign employers seeking to send an employee with specialized knowledge to the United States, the employer must also show that:
  - The employer has secured sufficient physical premises to house the new office
  - The employer has the financial ability to compensate the employee and begin doing business in the United States.
- Documents:
  - Approved Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker or blanket petition (Form I-129S, Nonimmigrant Petition Based on Blanket L Petition)
  - Online non-immigrant visa application (Form DS-160)
  - Appropriate fee.
  - Supporting documentation.
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Photograph
  - Initial blanket L visa applications require the payment of an \$500 anti-fraud fee
  - Some blanket L visa applications require the payment of a \$4500 if their employer meets certain conditions.

a) L-1A Intracompany Transferee Executive or Manager

- The L-1A nonimmigrant classification enables a U.S. employer to transfer an executive or manager from one of its affiliated foreign offices to one of its offices in the United States. This classification also enables a foreign company which does not yet have an affiliated U.S. office to send an executive or manager to the United States with the purpose of establishing one.

b) L-1B Intracompany Transferee Specialized Knowledge

- The L-1B nonimmigrant classification enables a U.S. employer to transfer a professional employee with specialized knowledge relating to the organization's interests from one of its affiliated foreign offices to one of its offices in the United States. This classification also enables a foreign company which does not yet have an affiliated U.S. office to send a specialized knowledge employee to the United States to help establish one.
- Specialized knowledge means either special knowledge possessed by an individual of the petitioning organization's product, service, research, equipment, techniques, management, or other interests and its application in

international markets, or an advanced level of knowledge or expertise in the organization's processes and procedures.

- In the case of blanket petitions, the L-1B must be a specialized knowledge "professional."

### 5) O-1 Extraordinary Ability

**Visa category:** The O classification was created to provide specifically for the temporary admission of persons with extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, and athletics, or extraordinary achievement in motion picture or television industry, and their essential support personnel.

**Target:** For temporary (nonimmigrant) workers wishing to enter the territory of the United States of America as persons with extraordinary ability in sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics and extraordinary achievement in the motion picture or TV industry.

**Visa fee:** \$190.00 (May require additional fee based on economy of applicant citizenship).

**Duration:** Up to 3 years, with possible extension.

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for O3 visas.

#### **Requirements:**

- To qualify for an O-1 visa, the beneficiary must demonstrate extraordinary ability by sustained domestic or international acclaim and must be coming temporarily to the United States to continue work in the area of extraordinary ability.
- Documents (with visa application):
  - Approved form I-129, Petition for a Non-Immigrant Worker.
  - Appropriate fee.
  - Online non-immigrant visa application (Form DS-160)
  - Photograph
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Consultation.
    - A written advisory opinion from a peer group (including labour organizations) or a person with expertise in the beneficiary's area of ability. If the O-1 petition is for an individual

with extraordinary achievement in motion picture or television, the consultation must come from an appropriate labour union and a management organization with expertise in the beneficiary's area of ability.

- Contract between petitioner and beneficiary.
  - Itineraries.
  - Evidence to support application as detailed below.
  - Additional documents will be required if the agent is performing the function of an employer or if the agent acts for multiple and/or foreign employers.
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- O-1A - Individuals with an extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, business, athletics. This means a level of expertise indicating that the person is one of the small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavour.
  - O-1B – Individuals with an extraordinary ability in the arts. Extraordinary ability in the field of arts means distinction. Distinction means a high level of achievement in the field of the arts evidenced by a degree of skill and recognition substantially above that ordinarily encountered to the extent that a person described as prominent is renowned, leading, or well-known in the field of arts.
  - O-1B - Extraordinary achievement in the motion picture or TV industry. The beneficiary must demonstrate extraordinary achievement evidenced by a degree of skill and recognition significantly above that ordinarily encountered to the extent the person is recognized as outstanding, notable or leading in the motion picture and/or television field.
  - Evidence that the beneficiary has received a major, internationally-recognized award, such as a Nobel Prize, or, significant domestic or international awards or prizes in the particular field, such as an Academy Award, Emmy, Grammy or Director's Guild Award, or evidence of at least (3) three of the following (the list of specific criteria depends on whether the beneficiary will be an O-1A or O-1B):
    - Receipt of locally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavour.
    - Membership in associations in the field for which classification is sought which require outstanding achievements, as judged by recognized domestic or international experts in the field.
    - Published material in professional or major trade publications, newspapers or other major media about the beneficiary and the beneficiary's work in the field for which classification is sought.

- Original scientific, scholarly, or business-related contributions of major significance in the field.
- Authorship of scholarly articles in professional journals or other major media in the field for which classification is sought.
- A high salary or other remuneration for services as evidenced by contracts or other reliable evidence.
- Participation on a panel, or individually, as a judge of the work of others in the same or in a field of specialization allied to that field for which classification is sought.
- Employment in a critical or essential capacity for organizations and establishments that have a distinguished reputation.
- Performed and will perform services as a lead or starring participant in productions or events which have a distinguished reputation as evidenced by critical reviews, advertisements, publicity releases, publications, contracts or endorsements.
- Achieved domestic or international recognition for achievements, as shown by critical reviews or other published materials by or about the beneficiary in major newspapers, trade journals, magazines, or other publications.
- Performed and will perform in a lead, starring, or critical role for organizations and establishments that have a distinguished reputation as evidenced by articles in newspapers, trade journals, publications, or testimonials.
- A record of major commercial or critically acclaimed successes, as shown by such indicators as title, rating or standing in the field, box office receipts, motion picture or television ratings and other occupational achievements reported in trade journals, major newspapers or other publications.
- Received significant recognition for achievements from organizations, critics, government agencies or other recognized experts in the field in which the beneficiary is engaged, with the testimonials clearly indicating the author's authority, expertise and knowledge of the beneficiary's achievements.
- A high salary or other substantial remuneration for services in relation to others in the field, as shown by contracts or other reliable evidence.

## 6) TN NAFTA Professionals

**Visa category:** A work visa for those with specific skills and a work contract.

**Target:** For temporary (nonimmigrant) workers wishing to enter the territory of the United States of America as North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) temporary professionals from Mexico and Canada. The worker must have at least a baccalaureate degree or appropriate credentials demonstrating status as a professional in a profession set forth in Appendix 1603.D.1 of the NAFTA.

**Visa fee:** \$160.00

**Duration:** Up to 3 years with no limit on the number of renewals. Must maintain ties with economy of permanent residence (Canada or Mexico). Extension of stay applications for TNs who are physically in the United States are filed with the corresponding government service (<https://www.uscis.gov/>).

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for TN visas. The dependents do not need to be citizens of Mexico or Canada.

#### **Requirements:**

- Must be a citizen of Canada or Mexico.
- Profession qualifies under the regulations.
- Position in the United States requires a NAFTA professional.
- Must have a prearranged full-time or part-time job with a U.S. employer (but not self-employment - see documentation required below).
- Must have the qualifications to practice in the profession in question.

#### a) Canadian Citizens

- Canadian citizens are not required to apply for a TN visa at a U.S. consulate.
- Must provide the following documentation to the officer from the respective Government Department (<https://www.cbp.gov/>):
  - Proof of Canadian citizenship.
  - Letter from prospective U.S. employer including their Appendix 1603.D.1 NAFTA profession, a description of their professional activities including daily job duties, length of stay, remuneration, and educational qualifications.
  - Diplomas, degrees, or membership in a professional organization. Credentials evaluation (if applicable), together with any applicable fees.

## b) Mexican Citizens

- Mexican citizens require TN visas to request admission to the United States in this status.
  - Proof of Mexican citizenship.
  - Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160.
  - Photograph.
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Letter from prospective U.S. employer including Appendix 1603.D.1 NAFTA profession, a description of their professional activities including daily job duties, length of stay, remuneration, and educational qualifications.
  - Diplomas, degrees, or membership in a professional organization. Credentials evaluation (if applicable).

## 7) EB-1 First Preference

**Visa category:** An immigration visa

**Target:** There are three sub-categories. To be considered in the first sub-category as an alien with extraordinary ability, the alien must have sustained citizen or international acclaim. The alien must be seeking to enter the United States to continue work in the field, and the entry of such alien must substantially benefit prospectively the United States. This category can also include outstanding professors and researchers with at least three years of experience in teaching or research, who are recognized internationally. Finally, multinational managers or executives who have been employed for at least one of the three preceding years by the overseas affiliate, parent, subsidiary, or branch of the U.S. employer.

**Visa fee:** \$345.00.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Appointment wait time varies by embassy or consulate. Employment based immigrant visa cases take additional time because they are in numerically limited visa categories. The length of time varies from case to case and cannot be predicted for individual cases with any accuracy.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for E11 & E16 immigrant visas.

### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Approved Form I-140, Petition for Alien Worker
  - Online Immigrant Visa Application (DS-260)

- Two Photos (2x2)
- Passport valid for travel to the United States
- Certain Civil Documents
- Financial support documentation
- Completed medical examination
- Appropriate fee

a) Extraordinary Ability (documentation to be submitted with the petition)

- Must be able to demonstrate extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics through sustained domestic or international acclaim. Achievements must be recognized in your field through extensive documentation. No offer of employment is required.
- Must meet 3 of 10 criteria, or provide evidence of a one-time achievement (i.e., Pulitzer, Nobel Prize, Olympic Medal).
  - Evidence of receipt of lesser domestic or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence.
  - Evidence of your membership in associations in the field which demand outstanding achievement of their members.
  - Evidence of published material about you in professional or major trade publications or other major media.
  - Evidence that you have participated as the judge of the work of others, either individually or on a panel.
  - Evidence of your original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business-related contributions of major significance to the field.
  - Evidence of your authorship of scholarly articles in professional or major trade publications or other major media.
  - Evidence that your work has been displayed at artistic exhibitions or showcases.
  - Evidence of your performance of a leading or critical role in distinguished organizations.
  - Evidence that you command a high salary or other significantly high remuneration in relation to others in the field.
  - Evidence of your commercial successes in the performing arts.
  - Other comparable evidence of eligibility is also acceptable.

b) Outstanding professors and researchers

- Must demonstrate international recognition for your outstanding achievements in a particular academic field. Must have at least 3 years' experience in teaching or research in that academic area. Must be entering the United

States in order to pursue tenure or tenure track teaching or a permanent research position. Offer of employment is required from a U.S. university or institution of higher education or private employer with at least three full-time researchers and documented accomplishments in the field.

- Employer must file a Form I-140, Petition for Alien Worker.
- Must include documentation of at least two criteria and an offer of employment from the prospective U.S. employer.
  - Evidence of receipt of major prizes or awards for outstanding achievement.
  - Evidence of membership in associations that require their members to demonstrate outstanding achievement.
  - Evidence of published material in professional publications written by others about the alien's work in the academic field.
  - Evidence of participation, either on a panel or individually, as a judge of the work of others in the same or allied academic field.
  - Evidence of original scientific or scholarly research contributions in the field
  - Evidence of authorship of scholarly books or articles (in scholarly journals with international circulation) in the field.
  - Other comparable evidence of eligibility is also acceptable.

c) Multinational manager or executive

- Must have been employed for 1 year outside the United States by an affiliated or related entity during the 3 years preceding the petition or lawful entry to the U.S. to work for the qualifying entity and you must be seeking to enter the United States to work for a related qualifying entity. If the beneficiary is already in the United States and is working for the petitioning U.S. employer, then this 1 year of employment must have occurred in the 3 years immediately preceding his or her entry into the United States as a nonimmigrant. Employment must have been outside the United States in a managerial or executive capacity and with the same employer, an affiliate, a parent, or a subsidiary of the employer. The prospective employment must also be in a managerial or executive capacity.
- Petitioning employer must be a U.S. employer. Employer must have been doing business for at least 1 year, as a related qualifying entity of the foreign entity that employed the applicant abroad.

8) EB-2 Second Preference



**Visa category:** An immigration visa for those with an advanced degree or exceptional ability. An offer from a U.S. employer is required unless a National Interest Waivers (NIW) is granted.

**Target:** An alien may qualify as an employment-based second preference immigrant if the alien is a member of the professions holding an advanced degree or the equivalent or an alien may qualify as an employment-based second preference immigrant if the alien has exceptional ability in the sciences, arts, or business, which will substantially benefit prospectively the citizen economy, cultural, or educational interests, or welfare of the United States.

**Visa fee:** \$345.00.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Appointment wait time varies by embassy or consulate. Employment based immigrant visa cases take additional time because they are in numerically limited visa categories. The length of time varies from case to case and cannot be predicted for individual cases with any accuracy.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for E21 & E22 immigrant visas.

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Approved Form I-140, Petition for Alien Worker
  - Many, but not all, employment-based, second-preference petitions must generally be accompanied by an approved individual labour certification from the respective Government Department (<https://www.dol.gov/>) on Form ETA-9089.
  - Online Immigrant Visa Application (Form DS-260)
  - Two Photos (2x2)
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Certain civil documents
  - Financial support documents
  - Completed Medical Examination
  - Appropriate fee
  
- a) Advanced Degree (evidence to accompany the petition)
  - The job must require an U.S. advanced degree (above a U.S. bachelor's) and you must possess such a degree or its equivalent (at least a U.S. bachelor's degree with 5 years of progressive work experience in the field), or a U.S. master's foreign equivalent degree), and you must possess such a degree. Documentation such as an official academic record showing that you have:

- A U.S. advanced degree.
- Or a foreign equivalent degree.
- Or an official academic record showing that you have a U.S. bachelor's degree and letters from current or former employers showing that you have at least 5 years of progressive post-baccalaureate work experience in the specialty.
- Or a foreign equivalent degree and letters from current or former employers showing that you have at least 5 years of progressive post-baccalaureate work experience in the specialty.

b) Exceptional Ability

- You must be able to show exceptional ability in the sciences, arts, or business. Exceptional ability “means a degree of expertise significantly above that ordinarily encountered in the sciences, arts, or business.”
- You must meet at least three of the criteria listed below.
  - Official academic record showing that you have a degree, diploma, certificate, or similar award from a college, university, school, or other institution of learning relating to your area of exceptional ability.
  - Letters documenting at least 10 years of full-time experience in your occupation.
  - A license to practice your profession or certification for your profession or occupation.
  - Evidence that you have commanded a salary or other remuneration for services that demonstrates your exceptional ability.
  - Membership in a professional association(s).
  - Recognition for your achievements and significant contributions to your industry or field by your peers, government entities, professional or business organizations.
  - Other comparable evidence of eligibility is also acceptable.

c) NIW<sup>18</sup>

- Aliens seeking a NIW waiver do not need a certified Labour Certification Application. They are requesting that the job offer requirement be waived because their employment is in the interest of the United States. Though the jobs that qualify for a NIW are not defined by statute, BIW are granted to those whose employment in the United States would greatly benefit the

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-second-preference-eb-2>

domestic interest. Those seeking a NIW may self-petition (they do not need an employer to sponsor them) using Form I-140, Petition for Alien Worker.

- You must meet the requirements for an advanced degree professional or an individual of exceptional ability, as listed above and demonstrate that it is in the national interest.
- NIW Criteria
  - The individual's proposed endeavour must have substantial merit and domestic importance;
  - The individual must be well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavour; and
  - On balance, it must be beneficial to the United States to waive the requirement of a job offer and thus of a labour certification.

### 9) EB-3 Third Preference

**Visa category:** A immigration visa for skilled workers, members of the professions with a bachelor's degree or unskilled workers.

**Target:** For permanent workers wishing to enter the territory of the United States of America under the preference reserved for professionals, skilled workers, and other workers (further defined below).

**Visa fee:** \$345.00.

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Appointment wait time varies by embassy or consulate. Employment based immigrant visa cases may take additional time because they are in numerically limited visa categories. The length of time varies from case to case and cannot be predicted for individual cases with any accuracy.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for E34, EW4, or E35 immigrant visas.

#### **Requirements:**

- Documents:
  - Approved labour certification on Form ETA-9089
  - A permanent, full-time job offer from a U.S. employer
  - Approved Form I-140, Petition for Alien Worker
  - Online Immigrant Visa Application (Form DS-260)
  - Photographs
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Certain civil documents

- Financial support documents
- Completed medical examination
- Appropriate fee

a) Skilled Workers

- Must be able to demonstrate at least 2 years of job experience or training and that you meet all of the job requirements on the Labour Certification.
- Must be performing work for which qualified U.S. workers are not available in the United States.

b) Professionals

- Must be able to demonstrate that you possess a U.S. baccalaureate degree or foreign degree equivalent, that a baccalaureate degree is the normal requirement for entry into the occupation, and that you meet all of the job requirements on the Labour Certification.
- Must be performing work for which qualified U.S. workers are not available in the United States.
- Education and experience may not be substituted for a baccalaureate degree.

c) Unskilled Workers (Other Workers)

- Must be capable, at the time the petition is filed on your behalf, of performing unskilled labour (requiring less than 2 years training or experience), that is not of a temporary or seasonal nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States.

10) B-1 Temporary Business Visitor

**Visa category:** A business visa for the conduct of short term business meetings and certain other business-related activities that are necessary incident to a person's foreign employment and/or a permissible international transaction, and do not constitute "local labour for hire" or entry into the U.S. labour market. The applicant must have a foreign residence s/he has no intention of abandoning and will leave the United States upon completion of the short-term/temporary business activity in the United States. The B-1 visa is frequently combined with a B-2 tourist visa.

**Target:** For temporary business visitor to conduct activities of a commercial or professional nature.

**Visa fee:** \$160.00 (May require additional fee based on economy of applicant citizenship)

**Duration:** Visa validity varies by economy of citizenship. Individuals are typically admitted for 6 months, subject to respective Government Department (<https://www.cbp.gov/>) determination at port of entry. A B-1 visitor may seek extensions of B-1 stay in the United States, on a case-by-case basis, but there is no assurance that such an extension of stay will be approved.

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days

**Gender:** N/A

### **Requirements:**

- Business activities including but not limited to:
  - Consulting with business associates.
  - Traveling for a scientific, educational, professional or business convention, or a conference on specific dates.
  - Settling an estate.
  - Negotiating a contract.
  - Providing certain after sales, during lease, services;
  - Providing training regarding installation of a foreign purchased product, provided the person does not actually engage in the actual 'hands-on' installation of such products (or engage in construction);
  - Participating in short-term training.
  - Deadheading: provided the person will not, following arrival in the United States deadhead between two points in the United States. The B-1 classification is not available to operators of motor vehicles and other forms of transportation, who will engage in point-to-point pick-up and delivery of persons or goods exclusively within the United States, nor may they engage in sabotage.
- Must demonstrate the following in order to be eligible to obtain a B-1 visa.
  - Purpose of the trip is to enter the United States for business of a legitimate nature.
  - Plan to remain for a specific limited, temporary period of time
  - Have the funds available to cover the expenses of the trip and stay in the United States.
  - Have a residence outside the United States of which there is no intention of abandoning, as well as other binding ties that ensure a return abroad at the end of the visit.

- Must not be coming to the United States for the purpose of study, performing skilled or unskilled labor (i.e. engaging in “local labor for hire”) or as a representative of the media.
- Are otherwise admissible to the United States.
- Documents
  - Online non-immigrant visa application (Form DS-160)
  - Photographs
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Appropriate fee

### 11) E-1 Treaty Traders

**Visa category:** Treaty Trader (E-1) visa is for citizens of economies with which the United States maintains treaties of commerce and navigation or other international agreements, or for which Congress has enacted legislation permitting E-1 classification. The applicant must be coming to the United States solely to engage in substantial trade, including trade in services or technology, in qualifying activities, principally between the United States and the treaty economy, or must be a certain employee of the principal treaty trader or qualifying entity.

**Target:** For temporary (nonimmigrant) workers wishing to enter the territory of the United States of America as treaty traders and certain qualified “essential” employees of a treaty trader who have special qualifications.

**Visa fee:** \$205.00 (May require additional fee based on economy of applicant citizenship)

**Duration:** Status in the U.S. up to 2 years, with extension possible by increments of up to 2 years (no maximum limit)<sup>19</sup>.

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for E1 nonimmigrant visas. By statute, spouses of E-1 treaty traders and employees may also seek “open market” employment authorization.

#### **Requirements:**

- The Treaty Trader must:

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<sup>19</sup> All E-1 nonimmigrants, however, must maintain an intention to depart the United States when their status expires or is terminated.

- Be a citizen of an economy with which the United States maintains a treaty of commerce and navigation
  - Carry on substantial trade.
  - Carry on principal trade between the United States and the treaty economy which qualified the treaty trader for E-1 classification.
- To qualify for E-1 classification, the employee of a treaty trader must:
  - Be the same citizenship of the principal alien employer (who must have the citizenship of the treaty economy).
  - Meet the definition of “employee” under the relevant law.
  - Either be engaging in duties of an executive or supervisory character, or if employed in a lesser capacity, have special qualifications making him or her “essential” to the efficient operation of the treaty trader’s enterprise
- A treaty trader or employee may only work in the activity for which he or she was approved at the time the classification was granted. An E-1 employee, however, may also work for the treaty organization’s parent company or one of its subsidiaries as long as the:
  - Relationship between the organizations is established.
  - Subsidiary employment requires executive, supervisory, or essential skills.
  - Terms and conditions of employment have not otherwise changed.
- Documents:
  - Approved Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker.
  - Online nonimmigrant visa application (Form DS-160)
  - Photograph;
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Appropriate fee

## 12) E-2 Treaty Investors

**Visa category:** Treaty Investor (E-2) visa is for citizens of economies with which the United States maintains treaties of commerce and navigation or other international agreements, or for which Congress has enacted legislation permitting E-2 classification. The applicant must be coming to the United States solely to develop and direct the operations of an enterprise in which the applicant has invested a substantial amount of capital (E-2), or must be a certain employee of the principal investor or qualifying entity.

**Target:** For temporary (nonimmigrant) workers wishing to enter the territory of the United States of America as treaty investors and certain “essential” employees of a treaty investor who have special qualifications.

**Visa fee:** \$205.00 (May require additional fee based on economy of applicant citizenship)

**Duration:** The status in the U.S. is granted for up to 2 years, with extension possible by increments of up to 2 years (no maximum limit)<sup>20</sup>.

**Processing time:** Appointment availability varies by embassy and consulate. After interview and subject to visa approval, most passports are returned within 3-5 business days.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for E2 nonimmigrant visas. By statute, spouses of E-2 treaty traders and employees may also seek “open market” employment authorization.

### **Requirements:**

- To qualify for E-2 classification, the treaty investor must:
  - Be a citizen of a economy with which the United States maintains a treaty of commerce and navigation.
  - Have invested, or be actively in the process of investing, a substantial amount of capital in a bona fide enterprise in the United States.
  - Be seeking to enter the United States solely to develop and direct the investment enterprise. This is established by showing at least 50% ownership of the enterprise or possession of operational control through a managerial position or other corporate device.
- If the principal alien employer is not an individual, it must be an enterprise or organization at least 50% owned by persons in the United States who have the citizenship of the treaty economy.
- To qualify for E-2 classification, the employee of a treaty investor must:
  - Have the same citizenship of the principal alien employer (who must have the citizenship of the treaty economy).
  - Meet the definition of “employee” under relevant law.
  - Either be engaging in duties of an executive or supervisory character, or if employed in a lesser capacity, have special qualifications, making him or her “essential” to the efficient operation of the treaty investor’s enterprise
- Documents:
  - Approved form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker.
  - Online nonimmigrant visa application (Form DS-160)
  - Photograph
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States

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<sup>20</sup> Although there is no requirement that an E-2 nonimmigrant maintain a foreign residence abroad while in E-1 classification, all E-2 nonimmigrants must still maintain an intention to depart the United States when their status expires or is terminated.



- Appropriate fee

### 13) EB-5 Employment-Based Fifth Preference

**Visa category:** An immigrant visa for those an alien may qualify as an employment creation immigrant and may be entitled to employment-based fifth preference status if he or she has invested or is actively in the process of investing a minimum required amount of capital in a new commercial enterprise in the United States that will benefit the U.S. economy and create full-time employment for not fewer than 10 U.S. citizens, lawfully admitted permanent residents or other immigrants lawfully authorized or be employed in the United States (excluding the investor and the investor's spouse or children).

**Target:** For business investors making the necessary investment in a new commercial enterprise in the United States and which will plan to create (or preserve in certain circumstances) full-time positions for at least 10 qualifying U.S. workers.

**Visa fee:** \$345.00

**Duration:** Permanent.

**Processing time:** Appointment wait time varies by embassy or consulate. Employment based immigrant visa cases take additional time because they are in numerically limited visa categories. The length of time varies from case to case and cannot be predicted for individual cases with any accuracy.

**Gender:** No: Spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age may apply for EB5 immigrant visas.

#### **Requirements:**

- All EB-5 investors must invest in a new commercial enterprise, which is a commercial enterprise:
  - Established after Nov. 29, 1990.
  - Or if established on or before Nov. 29, 1990:
    - Purchased and the existing business is restructured or reorganized in such a way that a new commercial enterprise result.
    - Or expanded through the investment so that at least a 40-percent increase in the net worth or number of employees occurs.
- An EB-5 investor must show that he or she has invested or is actively in the process of investing the required amount of capital, namely, that the investor has placed the required amount of capital at risk for the purpose of generating a return on the capital placed at risk.

- An EB-5 investor must show that the capital was obtained through lawful means.
- Job Creation Requirements
  - An EB-5 investor must invest the required amount of capital in a new commercial enterprise that will create full-time positions for at least 10 qualifying employees. If investing through a designated Regional Centre, the investor may rely in indirect job creation as demonstrated by reasonable methodologies.
  - Job preservation is permitted in certain circumstances.
- An EB-5 investor must show that he or she is or will be engaged in the management of the new commercial enterprise, either through day-to-day managerial control or through policy formulation.
- Documents:
  - Approved Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur
  - Online Immigrant Visa Application (Form DS-260)
  - Photographs
  - Certain civil documents
  - Financial documents
  - Completed medical examination
  - Appropriate fee
  - Passport valid for travel to the United States
  - Financial:
    - General.
      - For Form I-526 petitions filed before November 21, 2019, the minimum qualifying investment in the United States is \$1 million.
      - For Form I-526 petitions filed on or after November 21, 2019, the minimum qualifying investments in the United States is \$1.8 million.
    - Targeted Employment Area (High Unemployment or Rural Area).
      - For Form I-526 petitions filed before November 21, 2019, the minimum qualifying investment in a Targeted Employment Area in the United States is \$500,000.
      - For Form I-526 petitions filed on or after November 21, 2019, the minimum qualifying investment in a Targeted Employment Area in the United States is \$900,000.

#### 14) APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

The United States is a transitory member of APEC Business Travel Card.

a) For U.S. Citizens

- Foreign APEC member economies will not recognize the U.S. APEC Business Travel Card in lieu of a visa. Card holders must present any travel or identity documentation, such as a passport and visa (where applicable), required by the foreign APEC member economy.
- The U.S. APEC Business Travel Card will enable access to a dedicated fast-track lane for expedited immigration processing at participating foreign APEC member airports.
- U.S. APEC Business Travel Card holders may also use the Global Entry kiosks at participating airports upon their U.S. return.

**Visa fee:** \$70 (in addition to the fee for the selected Trusted Traveller Program from the respective Government Department (<https://www.cbp.gov/>)).

**Duration:** For a period of five years, subject to passport and the respective Government Department (<https://www.cbp.gov/>) Trusted Traveller Program validity.

**Processing time:** No specific timeline, but once the application is registered, progress status is available online.

**Gender:** N/A

**Requirements:**

- To be eligible for the U.S. APEC Business Travel Card Program, you must meet three criteria:
  - you must be a U.S. citizen;
  - you must be an existing member in good standing or be approved for membership in a trusted traveller program from the respective Government Department (<https://www.cbp.gov/>) (SENTRI, NEXUS, or Global Entry) during the U.S. APEC Business Travel Card application process, meaning they will go through a thorough vetting process including a review of all relevant citizen security and criminal databases prior to enrolment.
  - you must be either a verified businessperson, or a U.S. government official, who is actively engaged in APEC business.
- Documents:
  - Apply for a trusted traveller program from the respective Government Department (<https://www.cbp.gov/>) on the Trusted Traveller Program (TTP) website, <https://ttp.cbp.dhs.gov>.

- For ABTC, you must apply on the Trusted Traveller Program (TTP) website, <https://ttp.cbp.dhs.gov>.
  - Check the box in TTP for the U.S. APEC Business Travel Card.
  - Then schedule a visit to any trusted traveller enrolment centre from the respective Government Department (<https://www.cbp.gov/>) for an interview (if you are not already a trusted traveller) and for electronic signature collection.

b) For Non-U.S. Citizens Seeking APEC Business Entry Permit

- The U.S. does not recognize the ABTC as a visa. Cardholders from non- Visa Waiver Program economies still need to present valid passports and obtain U.S. visas as required by United States law.

## Official Sources:

E-3 Certain Specialty Occupation Professionals from Australia (E-3).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/e-3-certain-specialty-occupation-professionals-australia>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

Visas for Employees of International Organizations and NATO (G).

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/other-visa-categories/visa-employees-nato.html>

(Consulted 06/08/19)

H-1B Specialty Occupations, DOD Cooperative Research and Development Project Workers, and Fashion Models (H1-B, H-1B2, H-1B3).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-dod-cooperative-research-and-development-project-workers-and-fashion-models>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

H1B1 Chile

<https://cl.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas/>

<https://cl.usembassy.gov/es/visas-de-trabajo-bajo-el-tratado-de-libre-comercio-h-1b1/>.

(Consulted 06/08/19)

U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Professional Visa (H1B1 Singapore).

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/sg/sg-niv-typeh1b1.asp>

(Consulted 06/08/19)

H-3 Non-immigrant Trainee or Special Education Exchange Visitor (H-3).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-3-nonimmigrant-trainee/h-3-nonimmigrant-trainee-or-special-education-exchange-visitor>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

I Representatives of Foreign Media (I).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/i-representatives-foreign-media>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

L-1A Intracompany Transferee Executive (L-1A).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/l-1a-intracompany-transferee-executive-or-manager>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

UL-1B Intracompany Transferee Specialized Knowledge (L-1B).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/l-1b-intracompany-transferee-specialized-knowledge>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

UO-1 Visa: Individuals with Extraordinary Ability or Achievement (O-1).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/o-1-visa-individuals-extraordinary-ability-or-achievement>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-1A Internationally Recognized Athlete (P-1A).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-1a-internationally-recognized-athlete>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-1B Internationally Recognized Entertainment Group (P-1B).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-1b-member-internationally-recognized-entertainment-group>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-2 Individual Performer Under Reciprocal Exchange (P-2).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-2-individual-performer-or-part-group-entering-perform-under-reciprocal-exchange-program>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-3 Artist Part of a Culturally Unique Program (P-3).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-3-artist-or-entertainer-coming-be-part-culturally-unique-program>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

Q Cultural Exchange (Q).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/q-cultural-exchange>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

TN NAFTA Professionals (TN).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/tn-nafta-professionals>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

EB-1 First Preference (EB-1).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-first-preference-eb-1>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

UL-1B Intracompany Transferee Specialized Knowledge (L-1B).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/l-1b-intracompany-transferee-specialized-knowledge>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

UO-1 Visa: Individuals with Extraordinary Ability or Achievement (O-1).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/o-1-visa-individuals-extraordinary-ability-or-achievement>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-1A Internationally Recognized Athlete (P-1A).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-1a-internationally-recognized-athlete>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-1B Internationally Recognized Entertainment Group (P-1B).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-1b-member-internationally-recognized-entertainment-group>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-2 Individual Performer Under Reciprocal Exchange (P-2).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-2-individual-performer-or-part-group-entering-perform-under-reciprocal-exchange-program>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

P-3 Artist Part of a Culturally Unique Program (P-3).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/p-3-artist-or-entertainer-coming-be-part-culturally-unique-program>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

Q Cultural Exchange (Q).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/q-cultural-exchange>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

TN NAFTA Professionals (TN).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/tn-nafta-professionals>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

EB-1 First Preference (EB-1).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-first-preference-eb-1>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

EB-2 Second Preference (EB-2).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-second-preference-eb-2>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

EB-3 Third Preference (EB-3).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-third-preference-eb-3>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

EB-4 Fourth Preference (EB-4).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-fourth-preference-eb-4>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

B-1 Temporary Business Visitor (B-1).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-visitors-business/b-1-temporary-business-visitor>

(Consulted on 05/01/19)

WB Temporary Business Visitor under Visa Waiver Program (WB).

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-visitors-business/wb-temporary-business-visitor-under-visa-waiver-program>

(Consulted 06/08/19)

E-1 Treaty Traders

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/e-1-treaty-traders>  
(Consulted on 05/01/19)

UE-2 Treaty Investors  
<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/e-2-treaty-investors>  
(Consulted on 05/01/19)

EB-5 Fifth Preference  
<https://www.uscis.gov/eb-5>  
(Consulted on 05/01/19)

APEC Travel Card Program FAQs (ABTC)  
<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/apec-faqs>  
(Consulted 06/08/19)

Fees for Visa Services (Visa fees)  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/fees/fees-visa-services.html>  
(Consulted 06/08/19)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services - Check Case Processing Times (Processing times)  
<https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>  
(Consulted 06/08/19)



## VIET NAM

Viet Nam is a full member of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC). All of the information regarding Viet Nam's visas as well as the information about the APEC Business Travel Card is only available in Vietnamese.

### **Official Sources:**

<https://lanhsuvi-etnam.gov.vn/Lists/BaiViet/B%C3%A0i%20vi%E1%BA%Bft/DispForm.aspx?List=dc7c7d75-6a32-4215-afeb-47d4bee70eee&ID=93>

(Consulted on 3/19/19) – Only available in Vietnamese

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout the formulation of this compendium, we identified trends in the skilled work visa information provided by the APEC economies. Based on these findings we developed a set of recommendations to enhance regional cooperation and skilled labour mobility in the APEC region. These recommendations take into priority the dissemination of information that promotes people-to-people connectivity and sustainable and inclusive growth for economies.

The following recommendations were formulated as relevant suggestions for all APEC economies to take into consideration:

### **1. Incorporate this compendium online in the APEC website.**

This initiative would allow APEC economies to view the visas of other APEC members in an interactive and easy manner. This format would allow economies to keep their own visa information updated in a collaborate manner that takes advantage of technology advancements and promote the sharing of information and overall skilled labour mobility.

### **2. Improve the format and overall accessibility of government official websites for the APEC economies.**

Official sources that contain skilled work visa information should be more accessible and friendlier to navigate in order to enhance regional cooperation through labour mobility. Since we are entering a new era of digitalization and technological advancement, it is crucial for APEC members to take advantage of these tools to develop better ways of diffusing valuable information across the APEC region. Some suggestions are making websites more interactive and hence user-friendly, having information formatted in a simple and organized manner that is all contained in one web page and doesn't contain extensive links.

### **3. Provide information on gender quotas and/or specific gender requirements.**

APEC has recognized the inclusion of women in the global workforce as an important tool for overall growth and development of economies. Female labour participation in the regional economy can be furthered by creating skilled work opportunities across the APEC region that specifically integrate women via skilled work visas or by providing information on partner and dependent

children requirements. While many economies provided some information on partner or dependent, there was no economy that offered skilled work visas to only women or who had a quota based on gender.

**4. Translate official economy websites containing skilled visa information.**

It is recommended to provide all content in English and ideally other languages if possible. This would allow for easier access to information and would in turn increase people-to-people connectivity in the APEC region. APEC promotes the dissemination of information, and a language barrier is easy to overcome.

**5. Select an APEC economy to be responsible for maintaining the information of this compendium updated on an annual basis.**

Regarding the information provided in the compendium, it would be beneficial for all APEC economies to maintain this information updated and current. It is recommended that Chile, who initially prepared this compendium with the intention of presenting it during the 2019 Summit hosted in Chile, offers to keep the information in the compendium updated annually.

## REFERENCES

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- APEC Business Mobility Group (2014) "Supporting Continued Growth in Trade and Facilitation: End to End Review of the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme Final Report". APEC Project: CTI 09 2013A. Available online at: <https://www.apec.org/Publications/2014/11/Supporting-Continued-Growth-in-Trade-and-Facilitation-End-to-End-Review-of-the-APEC-Business-Travel> [Date of Access: July 10th, 2019].
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