GUIDE

Business immigration to Hong Kong: paths and conditions

How a business founder or a hired employee can relocate to Hong Kong: two paths, conditions, documents and timing — from filing to extensions.

2 paths
entrepreneur visa for a founder, employment visa for an employee

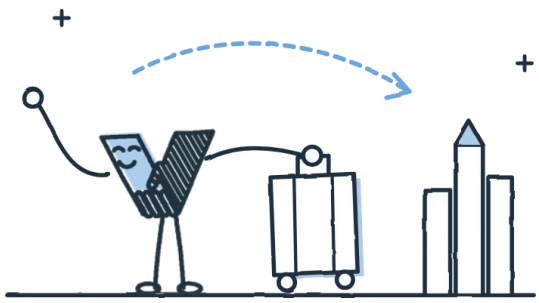
~4 weeks
processing of a complete application

Up to 36 mo.
the usual first term, then extensions

7 years
after which you can apply for permanent status

The key point. There is no fixed investment amount and no required number of staff. What is assessed is how useful your business is to Hong Kong: the plan, turnover, investment, jobs, new technology, know-how, patents.

The rule: a strong business plan with figures matters more than the size of the capital.



Two paths: founder or employee

Entrepreneur visa

- For a founder building a business in Hong Kong.
- The contribution to the economy is assessed: plan, turnover, investment, jobs, new technology, know-how, patents.
- The main document is a 2-year business plan.
- A plus — taking part in a government start-up support programme: Cyberport, HKSTP, StartmeupHK.

Employment visa for an employee

- For a hired manager or specialist — not the founder of the business.
- A job offer and employment contract with the company.
- Education and experience for the role, a market salary.
- The company must show that the role cannot be filled on the local labour market.

6 conditions

1 No criminal record or security concerns
Checked for every applicant.

2 Relevant education
Usually a degree; without one — experience, achievements, qualifications.

3 A company in Hong Kong
Existing or new.

4 A clear business plan
Clients, turnover, investment, hiring — with figures.

5 Funds to launch
To fit your plan; there is no fixed minimum.

6 A sponsor in Hong Kong
A company — often your own — or a Hong Kong resident over 18 who knows you.

> Not available to residents of mainland China or nationals of Afghanistan, Cuba and North Korea.

Documents

From you

- Travel document and photo.
- Degrees and evidence of experience.
- Evidence of personal funds.
- A 2-year business plan.
- Evidence of activity: contracts, invoices, staff, taxes.
- Family documents — if they come with you.

We prepare

- The application — yours and the sponsor's.
- Company documents, the job offer and employment contract.
- Translations.
- We check the business plan and all documents before filing.

Stages and timing

1 Choice of path
Profile, business and family.

2 Company and facts
We support the company launch if there is none. We check your business plan and evidence of activity before filing. Facts beat plans.

3 Online filing
About 4 weeks after a complete set of documents. An incomplete application is not processed.

4 Extensions
Apply within 3 months before the term ends and no later than 6 weeks before; processing — 2–3 weeks.

5 7 years
After 7 years of continuous residence — an application for permanent status.

Why applications are refused

Common reasons

- Inaccurate information.
- Plans instead of facts.
- No benefit to Hong Kong's economy.
- The role is easy to fill locally.
- Salary below market.
- Experience unrelated to the role or business.
- Too little money or an unclear source.
- An incomplete file.

Family and fees

- Spouse and children under 18; they can study and work.
- Fees for each person: HKD 600 for processing (non-refundable if refused) and HKD 1,300 on approval.

Planning to relocate? We can help

We will tell you free of charge which path suits you and what to prepare.

Message us on WhatsApp

Channels: Telegram · YouTube · Facebook · Instagram · Medium

Business immigration

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