



Hong Kong - Country overview

Business visitor activities

Visa waiver nationals are eligible to enter Hong Kong without obtaining a visa in advance, for a duration of between 7 days and 180 days depending on nationality. A full list of visa waiver countries is available on the Immigration Department of Hong Kong website.

Permitted activities as a business visitor include:

- Attending business meetings and conferences.
- Submitting tenders.
- Visiting exhibitions or trade fairs as a potential buyer.
- Speaking or presenting at one-off events (if the visit is for less than 7 days and the visitor is not paid to do so).

Main work permit types

All foreign nationals who wish to work in Hong Kong are required to obtain work authorisation. Below is a brief overview of the common categories of work permits available:

Employment visa – General Employment Policy (GEP)

The GEP is the most common work permit category

for foreign nationals entering Hong Kong for work purposes.

Key eligibility requirements:

- The applicant must have relevant educational qualifications suitable for the position in Hong Kong.
- Genuine job vacancy and offer of employment in Hong Kong in a role relevant to the qualifications of the applicant.
- The minimum salary threshold must be met which is based on the standard market rate.
- The role cannot be filled by the local workforce.

Duration of permit:

- The GEP permit is generally granted for a duration of 2 years and can be extended twice for an additional 3 years.

Approximate processing times:

- 1-2 months once the complete application has been submitted.

Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMP)

The ASMP is for residents of mainland China applying to come and work in Hong Kong.



Key eligibility requirements:

- Must be residents of mainland China and possess specialised skills, knowledge or experience of value that are not readily available in Hong Kong.
- The applicant must have relevant educational qualifications suitable for the position in Hong Kong.
- Genuine job vacancy and offer of employment in Hong Kong in a role relevant to the qualifications of the applicant.
- The minimum salary threshold must be met which is based on the standard market rate.
- The role cannot be filled by the local workforce.

Duration of permit:

- The ASMTTP permit is generally granted for a duration of 2 years and can be extended twice for an additional 3 years.

Approximate processing time:

- 1-2 months once the complete application has been submitted.

Key documents for GEP/ASMTTP permits:

- Application form from the employer and from the employee.
- Passport.
- Proof of academic qualifications and relevant work experience.
- CV.
- Employment contract and references.
- Proof of companies' financial standing and background (business registration certificate, business plan, tax returns, company brochure).

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Please note that all immigration rules, requirements and processing times are subject to change and whilst correct at the time of publication, the information on this document should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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