

A Visa to Receive Training in Hong Kong

(Non-Residents)

VisaGeeza .Ai

You Are a Non-Resident Seeking a Training Visa?

Eligibility: An application to enter or remain Hong Kong for a limited period (not more than 12 months) of training to acquire special skills and knowledge not available in the applicant's country/territory of domicile may be favourably considered if:

- there is no security objection and no known record of serious crime in respect of the applicant; the bona fides of the applicant and the sponsoring company are satisfied;
- the sponsoring company is a well-established company, capable of providing the proposed training;
- there is a contract signed between the sponsoring company and the applicant; the sponsoring company guarantees in writing the maintenance and repatriation of the applicant and that the applicant will receive training in the sponsor's premises until the end of the agreed period, after which the applicant will return to his/her place of residence; and the proposed duration and content of the training programme can be justified.

Approvability Test: The essence of approvability for a training visa boils down to (a) the bona fides of the sponsoring entity providing the training (b) whether the training can be provided in the applicant's home country or not and (c) the scope and length of the training is reasonable in all the circumstances.

The Training Plan: A detailed schedule of training which breaks down the exact activities which will go to make up the training plan is absolutely essential. It should, at the very least, include the topics to be covered, the location of the training, the number of hours of training each day/week, details of the trainer, the department involved and the like. The more information which can be provided in the makeup of this plan the better.

Submitting Your Application: The application is submitted to ImmD either (a) online or (b) via post from overseas or in person to the Receipt & Dispatch Unit of the Immigration HQ (c) as part of an application to Change Status or Visa Category if you are presently in Hong Kong as a resident (c) via the nearest Chinese diplomatic mission in your country of domicile.

The Consideration Process: Once your application has been submitted, the process will play out via email and/or fax. Occasionally ImmD will communicate with you via post. Processing time is usually 4-6 weeks.

Once approved, ImmD will write to you with a notice as to the positive outcome and invite you to complete the approval formalities which will involve the issue of a QR code Approval Letter and the payment of a fee.

Please note that applications for training visas from PRC nationals resident on the mainland will only be entertained if the applicant is an employee/associate of a well-established or multinational company with operations in both Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Once Approved: Your maximum period of stay will be for 12 months which is non-extendable. The actual period of stay is tied to the formal length of the training contract.

Refusal & Appeal: If your case is denied, you can elect to start the appeal process with a formal request for Reconsideration.

Applicants need to provide application form ID992A, a recent photograph, a copy of their passport details page and current visa (if in Hong Kong), PRC resident ID card (if applicable), a copy of their HKID card, graduation certificates, proof of relevant work experience, and household registration and identity cards for Taiwan or Macau residents.

Sponsoring training providers need to submit form ID992B, a copy of the training contract detailing work role and emoluments, a detailed training plan, a business plan for companies less than 12 months old, the sponsor company's business registration certificate and NAR1, the latest audited financial statements or profits tax return, and public-facing information about the business operations.

In summary, the Hong Kong training visa program is designed for foreign nationals or mainland Chinese residents seeking a finite period of training in Hong Kong. The visa's approvability is based on the sponsoring entity's bona fides, the training's unavailability in the applicant's home country, and a reasonable scope and length of training. The maximum stay is 12 months, typically six months, and is determined by the training plan.

A detailed training plan is required for the application, and while mainland Chinese residents can apply, they must be associated with reputable Hong Kong companies. Extensions are difficult to obtain, and changing status after the training is not allowed. Applicants admitted for training can keep their spouse, partner, or unmarried dependent children under 18 to Hong Kong under the prevailing dependent policy. The trainee will be the sponsor for accompanying dependents. The dependent's length of stay is linked to the sponsor's, and dependents are required to leave Hong Kong when the sponsor leaves. Dependents are allowed to work in Hong Kong under existing policy.

If your current limit of stay is set to expire after you have submitted your application to change visa category and extend your limits of stay you may find yourself in the Twilight Zone prior to final approval of your applications. The Twilight Zone refers to the period when an individual's residence visa in Hong Kong has expired and they are waiting for their application for an extension or change of visa sponsor/category to be processed by the Immigration Department. During this time, the individual does not have a valid period of stay endorsed in any official ImmD document, but they are allowed to remain in Hong Kong with the tacit consent of the Department. The Twilight Zone ends when the Immigration Department grants the new status and extension to the individual's current limit of stay, but being in this situation does not break the continuity of ordinary residence for the purposes of a right of abode application subsequently. However, this policy is subject to change and it is best to confirm with the Residents section of Immigration HQ to see the exact situation in your circumstances and ensure that you do not inadvertently become an overstayer.

Useful Resource 1	Training Visa General Information
Useful Resource 2	Training Visa All Content
Useful Resource 3	Useful Materials
Useful Resource 4	Step-By-Step Guide
Hong Kong Visa Handbook Contents	
Visa Information	
Preparing Your Case	
Pre-submission Checklist	
Checklist Discussion	
Application Templates	
Online Forms	
Completing The Forms	
How To Apply	
Apply Online	
Quick Summary	