

Content

Title : Examination Directions of Entrepreneur Visa Qualification for Foreign Nationals [Ch](#)

Date : 2019.12.19

Legislative : 1. Promulgated on June 29, 2015
2. Amended on December 18, 2015
3. Amended on April 26, 2017
4. Amended on December 19, 2019

Content : 1. These directions have been drawn up in relation to the Executive Yuan's plan for the promotion of Entrepreneur Visa, to regulate the qualification examination for the issuing of Entrepreneur Visa.

2. When a foreign national applies for an Entrepreneur Visa, the examination of the applicant's qualification for the issuing of an Entrepreneur Visa shall be conducted by the Investment Commission, Ministry of Economic Affairs (hereafter referred to as "the Investment Commission, MOEA") in consultation with other relevant industry competent authorities; other agencies may be invited to participate in joint review where necessary.

3. A foreign national applying for an Entrepreneur Visa must meet the following criteria:

- (1) An individual applicant should comply with at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. The applicant has secured investment from a domestic or overseas venture capital firm, secured investment from the Executive Yuan National Development Fund Startup Angel Project, or obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million in investment (fund-raising) from a government-approved domestic, foreign, or international startup fund-raising platform.
 - b. The applicant has located itself at any point in the past year or is now located within an international startup innovation park and project which has been approved by the central or local government; or in an incubator facility that is approved, directly ran, or recognized by the central or local government, or has been rated or recognized by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past five years.
 - c. The applicant has been awarded an invention patent in a foreign country or domestic invention or design patents, or can demonstrate other evidence of professional expertise.
 - d. The applicant has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition, or has received approval to the project of encouraging overseas entrepreneurs to invest in Taiwan from government.
 - e. The applicant who once stationed or is now stationing accelerator facility that is approved by related government institutions.
 - f. The applicant has ever been shortlisted or awarded in significant domestic or foreign film festivals.
 - g. The applicant possesses such other innovation capability as may be specified or recommended by the central competent authority.

h. The applicant has already established an enterprise with the amount of investment at least NT\$1 million in Taiwan that meets the official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability, and been serving as the legal representative, manager or director of that enterprise.

(2) A team or group applicant:

- a. The applicant who has not yet established an enterprise in Taiwan shall meet with at least one of Items a, b, c, d, e, f, g under Paragraph (1) above.
- b. For the applicant who has already established an enterprise in Taiwan that meets the official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability, the members of the team or group shall be serving as legal representative, executive officers or managers of the enterprise, and the members of the team or group shall have invested a combined total of at least NT\$1 million in the enterprise.

4. The term “enterprise that meets the official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability” as used in the previous article refers to an enterprise that has been lawfully registered under Taiwan’s Company Act or Commerce Registration Act for less than five years, and meet at least one of the following applies. However, enterprises that have received additional approval from the central competent authority shall not be subject to the aforementioned five-year limit:

- (1) The applicant has secured investment from a domestic or overseas venture capital firm, meets the requirements in Article 23-2 of the Statute for Industrial Innovation, secured investment from the Executive Yuan National Development Fund Startup Angel Project, or obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million in investment (fund-raising) from a government-approved domestic, foreign, or international startup fund-raising platform
- (2) The enterprise is already listed on the Go Incubation Board for Startup and Acceleration Firms (GISA, TPEx), Taipei Exchange (TPEx).
- (3) The enterprise has either been awarded an invention or design patent in Taiwan, or been transferred or licensed of invention or design patent rights by the holder of a Taiwanese invention or design patentee and been registered with the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA.
- (4) The applicant has located itself at any point in the past year or is now located within an international startup innovation park and project which has been approved by the central or local government; or in an incubator facility that is approved, directly run, or recognized by the central or local government, or has been rated or recognized by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past five years.
- (5) The enterprise or its legal representative has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition.
- (6) The enterprise or its legal representative has ever been shortlisted or awarded in significant domestic or foreign film festivals.
- (7) The enterprise has ever been granted above NT\$2 million subvention for startup or related project by central government, or has ever been granted above NT\$1 million subvention for startup or anything relates to startup by local government.
- (8) The enterprise conforms to such other requirements as may be specified by the central competent authority.

Regarding the applicable scope of Items b, d, and e of Paragraph (1) of Article 3, and of Paragraphs (4) to (6) of the preceding Articles, please refer to the “official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability” and the attachments thereto.

5. The concerning documents of Articles 3, 4 and 7, and the industry competent authorities that must be invited to participate in qualification examination, are shown in Appendix.

6. Application shall be submitted to one of Taiwan’s overseas representative

offices or to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) along with , the concerning documents specified in Appendix , as well as a photocopy of a Taiwan R.O.C. visa application form, and a photocopy of the applicant's foreign passport or a photocopy of Alien permanent residence permit; the overseas representative office or the MOFA will pass the application on to the Investment Commission, MOEA for examination.

Where an application is submitted by a team or group, the application shall be submitted by persons who jointly conform to one of the requirements specified in Paragraph (2) of Article 3 above. If all of the team members conform to the requirements for submission of an application by a single individual, then they may submit a joint application on presentation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The number of persons that may be included in a team or group application may not exceed three persons, except in cases where special permission being given by a joint-agency approval.

7. Initial validity for an approved Entrepreneur Visa shall not exceed one year; however, when the applicant's business enterprise in Taiwan meets at least one of the criteria listed below, the applicant may apply for an extension. The applicant shall submit the qualification review documents specified in Appendix to the Ministry of the Interior, which will forward the application to the Investment Commission, MOEA for examination. The maximum permitted period of each extension may not exceed two years:

- (1) The sales revenue of the applicant's enterprise for the most recent year, or the average for the most recent three years, is at least NT\$3 million.
- (2) The operating expenses of the applicant's enterprise for the most recent year, or the average for the most recent three years, is at least NT\$1 million.
- (3) The applicant's enterprise employs at least three full-time Taiwanese nationality employees.
- (4) The applicant's enterprise can demonstrate some other category of operational performance that leads the industry competent authority to determine that the enterprise is making a positive contribution to Taiwan's economic development.

8. The provisions of these Directions shall apply mutatis mutandis to the provision of assistance by the MOEA for the examination of applications for resident visas in order to engage in entrepreneur activity that are submitted by residents of Hong Kong or Macao to the Ministry of the Interior or to the Mainland Affairs Council offices in Hong Kong and Macao.

Attachments : Appendix.pdf

Data Source : Ministry of Economic Affairs R.O.C.(Taiwan) Laws and Regulations Retrieving System