



Start Up Visa for Hong Kong

How to Apply



(Is It All That It's Cracked Up To Be?)

August 11, 2015

Stephen Barnes

aka the **Hong Kong Visa Geeza**

HONG KONG VISA
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- 
- 
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Order of Business

1. Who has a visa problem?
2. You naughty, naughty Visitor
3. Startup or Entrepreneur?
4. Entrepreneurs – where there's a will....
5. Can you get status?
6. Your loved ones need visas too
7. D-I-Y Application

Let me start by saying...



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FRONT PAGE NEWS

...s on the
...s Deepest

...age,

...revealed here
...ny times
...a catchy



10

10 Must-Have Resources for Any Hong Kong Investment Visa Application

by *The Visa Geeza in Front Page, 64 responses*

If you are intending to make an application for a Hong Kong investment vi



The Policy of it All

- Based upon flexible conceptual hurdles to be overcome and not...
- Legalistic and overly bureaucratic processes
- Facilitative of bona fide commercial and other socially advantageous activity
- Three undercurrents:
 1. Protection of local jobs
 2. Promotion of 'Welcome Investment'
 3. Security and rule of law



Who Doesn't Have A 'Visa Problem'?



Permanent HKID Card Holders
Right to Land Holders
Holders of Unconditional Stay
Residents with Dependant Visas
Holders of Capital Investment Entrant Scheme Visas
Holders of Quality Migrant Admission Scheme Visas



What Can You Do As a Visitor?

Genuine business visit – leave and depart quickly

Pre-relocation for business residence: orientation, preliminary – but no assumption of the job-related duties

Trade fair participation, speaking at conferences

Delineated by the attitude of the HKID to a prosecution for the activity in question/intention of the parties at the outset

Employment Visa Based On a **Job Offer**
- Approvability Test -



" Does the applicant possess a special skill, knowledge or experience which are of value to and not readily available in Hong Kong? "

Moreover, the Immigration Department will:

" take into consideration, amongst other things, whether it is justified for the employer to bring in an expatriate staff. "



The **Business Investment Visa** - **Approvability Test** -

Can You Make a Substantial
Contribution to the Economy of
Hong Kong?





An applicant who wishes to establish or join in business in Hong Kong 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 Hong Kong. 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 Immigration Department may consider whether the applicant's business belongs to or is able to **complement industries that Hong Kong 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 Economic Development Commission (i.e. transportation, convention and exhibition industries and tourism, manufacturing industries, innovative technology and cultural and creative industries, and professional services).**

If the applicant is running relevant business overseas or has joined in a business in Hong Kong, 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 Hong Kong 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 or investment to establish business in Hong Kong, the Immigration Department will also consider whether the applicant has **relevant investment or working experience in the business concerned.** If needed, the Immigration 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 Hong Kong, and can give impetus to the industry concerned.

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 Hong Kong and also support the smooth operation and sustainable growth of the business.**

The applicant should **submit documents in proof showing the amount of capital investment in Hong Kong.** The Immigration Department will consider whether the investment amount is able to sustain the operation of the business.

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.)

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

Tick YES for Your Ticket to Ride?

6. 申請投資 Application for Investment

(i) 你的業務是否獲政府支援計劃的支持? ^註
Is your business supported by a government-backed programme? ^{Note}

是 (請說明支持機構及計劃名稱並提供相關證明文件)
Yes (Please indicate the name of the supporting organisation and programme, and provide relevant supporting documents.)

機構名稱:
Name of supporting organisation: _____
計劃名稱:
Name of programme: _____

否
No

註：有關政府支援計劃的例子，請參考《企業家來港投資入境指南》[ID(C) 1000]第 II 部第 3(c)(ii)段。

Note: For examples of government-backed programmes, please refer to paragraph 3(c)(ii) of Part II of the "Guidebook for Entry for Investment as Entrepreneurs in Hong Kong" [ID(E) 1000].



(ii) 公司資料 Company Particulars

公司名稱
Name of company

開業/成立日期
Date of establishment/incorporation

日 dd	月 mm	年 yyyy
------	------	--------

公司類別 Type of company 獨資經營 Sole-proprietorship 合夥經營 Partnership 有限公司 Limited company

母公司名稱 (如適用)
Name of parent company (if applicable)

在本頁內所填報的資料均屬正確、完備和真實。
The information given on this page is correct, complete and true.



3 Pillars of Approval

Local Recruitment

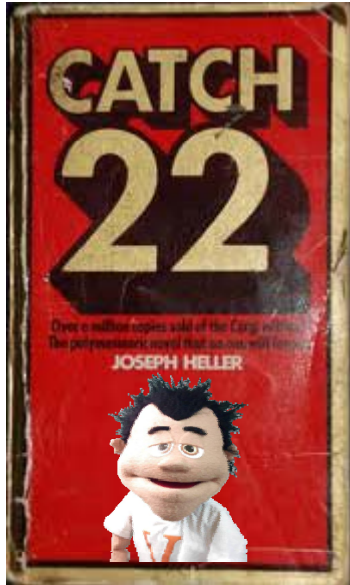


Resources

Suitable Business
Premises

How Much Cash Investment?





The Business Investment Visa Catch 22

- Test = showing benefit to Hong Kong
- Can't join in a business until HKID consent secured
- Can't secure consent of HKID until you show benefit to HKID
- Can't show benefit without joining in a business
- Can't join in a business until HKID consent secured!



Family Visas

Legal spouse

Dependant children

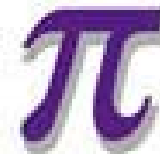
Unmarried partner

Same sex partner

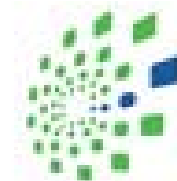





Start Up Slam Dunk



創新科技署
Innovation and
Technology Commission



Hong Kong 香港科技園
Science & Technology Parks


 **The Hong Kong Startup Visa – Is It All That It’s Cracked Up To Be? – Downloads**
 August 9th, 2015
 Posted by [The Visa Geeze](#) / in [Investment Visas](#), [Musing](#) / [No responses](#)

Tonight I gave a talk at o Connect in Sheung Wan which discussed the so-called 'Hong Kong Startup Visa' introduced on May 4, 2015.

The Hong Kong Startup Visa – Is it All that It’s Cracked Up to Be?

[Tell a friend](#) [Share](#)

 **Tuesday, August 11, 2015**
7:00 PM

 **O Connect**
24/F, Suite 1&2, 135 Bonham Strand Trade Centre, Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan ([map](#))


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Doing It Yourself

10 Must Have Resources...

And of course, if ever you get stuck and need to ask me a question, please do so [here](#).

I guarantee you a personalised [PodCast answer](#) within 48 hours – completely free of charge!

1. **INFOGRAPHIC** - One Man Investment Visa for Hong Kong
2. **PDF** – Information on the Hong Kong Business Investment Visa
3. **PLAN** – The Hong Kong Visa Application Roadmap
4. **CASE STUDY** - Hong Kong Investment Visas – 3 Case Examples That Would Not Get Approved
5. **TEMPLATES** – Business Investment Visa Application Argument & Other Supporting Letters to the HKID

VIDEO – 60 Page Business Plan Needed for a Business Investment Visa?

VIDEO – Advantages of Being An Existing Resident When You Make an Application for a Business Investment Visa

PODCAST – Freelancers in Hong Kong – Can You Get a Visa?

TEMPLATE – Business Plan for a Hong Kong Enterprise

TEMPLATE – Hong Kong Employment Contract

ps – there are 11 resources actually (including the presentation above), but hey, who's counting!

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1 ~ 5 = Must Use!

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One Man Investment Visa for Hong Kong?

Approvability Test = "Substantial Contribution to the Economy of Hong Kong"

Visitor
If you're entirely new to Hong Kong the process is extremely challenging unless your plan is exceptionally well researched

Resident
Current residents with 3-4 years history in Hong Kong tend to have an easier time persuading the HKTD of the merits of your plan

Human Capital
If you have diverse experience or a professional background in an obscure discipline this is a very positive factor

Cash Needed?
6 months' operating cash in the company bank account & sufficient back up capital on hand personally

Apply Onshore or Offshore?

Suitable Business Accomodation
Must meet business needs

Business Plan
A specific document is not actually required but you have to clearly articulate your commercial intentions

Local Employees
Create new jobs within 6-12 months

Financial Projections
Detailed 12 months' required supported by overview to 36 months

Other Resources?

The Major Considerations For Approvability

Key Takeaways

1. Exceptional human capital is as good as cash in the bank
2. Some string businesses struggle to get approved
3. Local jobs MUST be in the offering
4. 'Cutting edge' industries are especially welcomed

Progressing Your Application

Business Review
If your application was marginally approved, the HKTD might subject your business to a complete review at the time of your first extension 12 months later

Use Form IDPPA Application Form & IDPVB Sponsorship Form

The Process Will Take 3-4 Months to Complete From Beginning to End

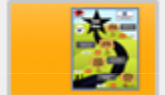
Submit your application on the 24/F of Immigration Tower [or send by mail to the 2/F Receipt & Dispatch Unit].

Expect to have to undergo several exchanges of correspondence each time submitting further & better particulars and supporting documentation

If approved, you will receive a visa label valid for 12 months

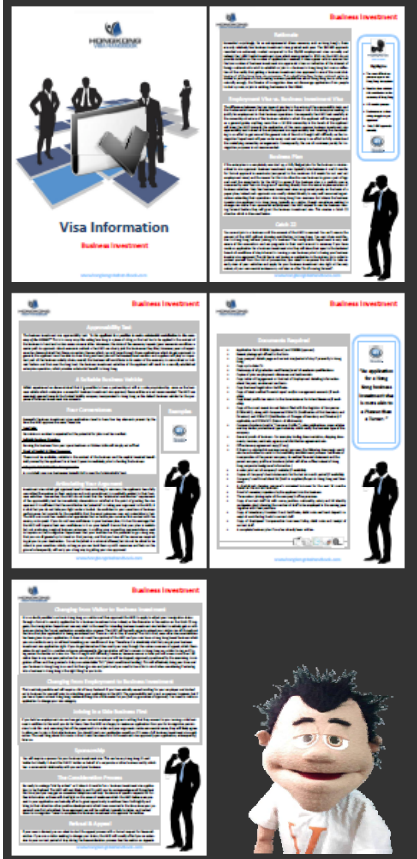
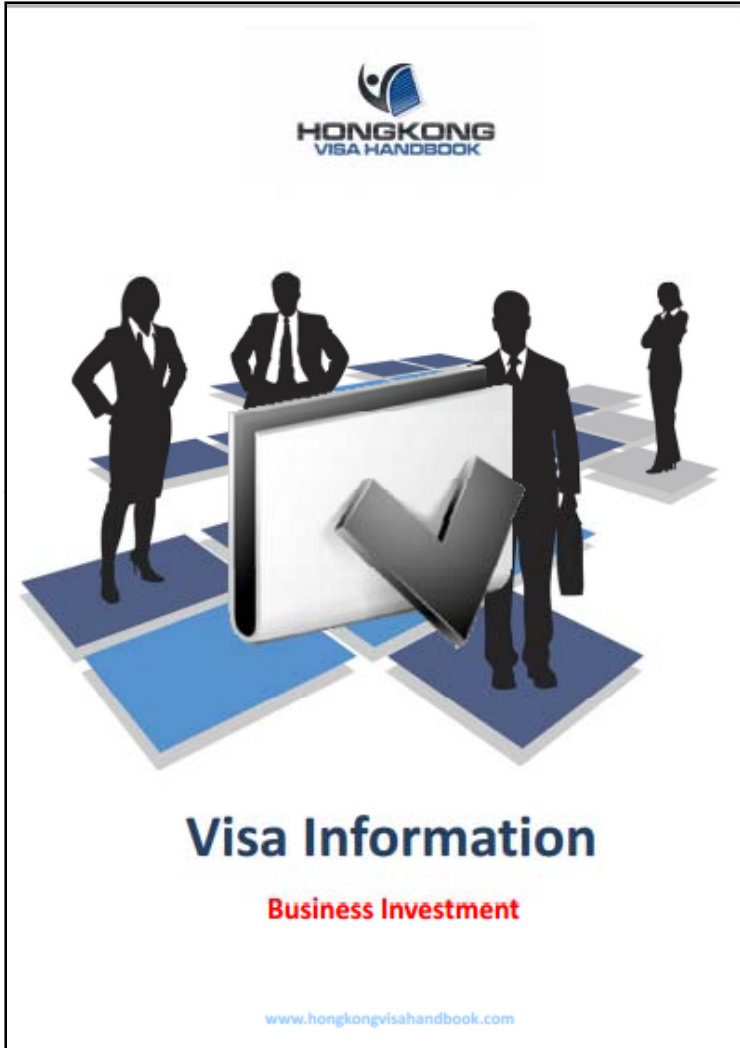
One Man Investment Visa for Hong Kong – What's Required?

Posted May 20th, 2012 by The Visa Geeza. 4 Comments



Must Use 1

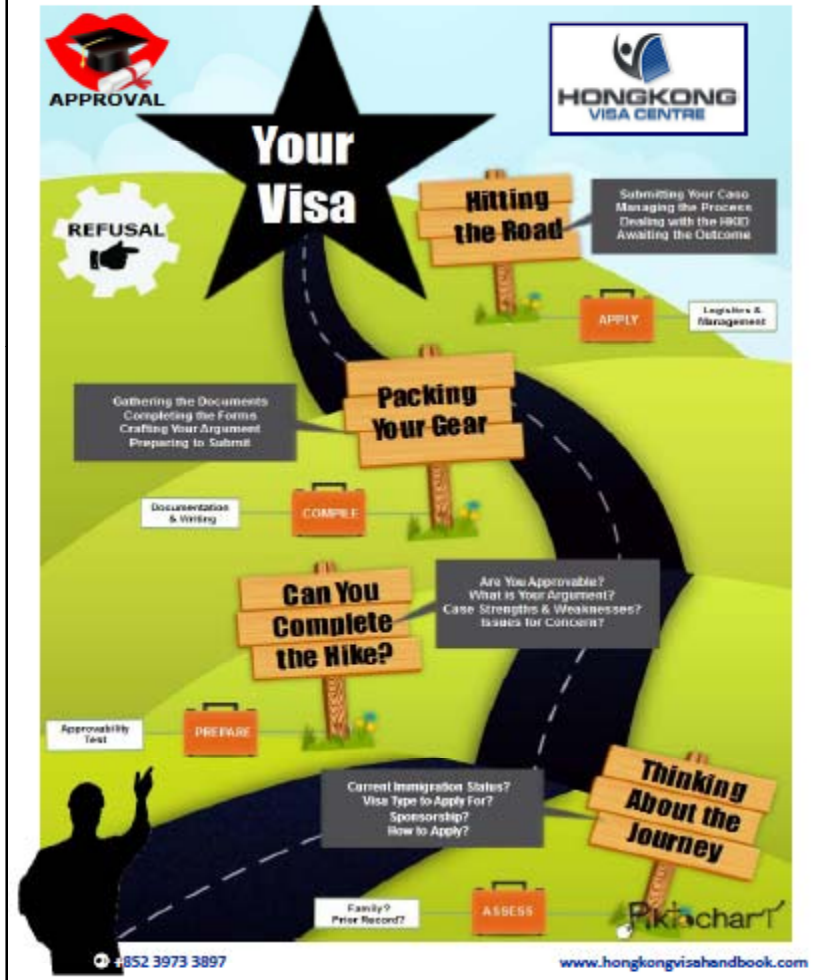




Must Use 2

YOUR HONG KONG VISA APPLICATION ROADMAP

PAGE 1



YOUR HONG KONG VISA APPLICATION ROADMAP

APPLICATION ROADMAP

APPLICATION ROADMAP

APPLICATION ROADMAP

APPLICATION ROADMAP

APPLICATION ROADMAP



Must Use 3



Hong Kong Investment Visas – 3 Case Examples Which Would Not Get Approved

Posted June 19th, 2012 by The Visa Geeza. [6 Comments](#)



Must Use **4**





About

These templates are suitable for business investment visa applications submitted either within Hong Kong ("in-country") or from outside of Hong Kong or by mail direct to the HKID ("out-of-country").

Template	Used For
BIV Cover Letter with Document List	To apply for a business investment visa with provision to include dependant visa applications for legal dependant family members
BIV Subsequent Submission Letter	To answer follow up queries of the HKID.
BIV Interim Reply Request Letter	To request an interim reply from the HKID if you have not heard from them for several weeks.
BIV Approval Processing Letter	To complete the application approval formalities. This is used where the application has been considered on an in-country Change of Status or Change of Category basis (not required for out-of-country applications).
BIV Appointment of an Authorised Representative	Where you need to appoint a third party to submit papers or progress your application at the HKID on your behalf.

[For Daily Updated Investment Visa Information Click Here](#)



Must Use 5

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Refer to the Remaining **6**
(including the **on-page video**)

48 Hour
Response!



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Your Questions Answered 

ASK A QUESTION 

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