

India

Business visitors: FAQs



If planning on traveling to India for temporary business, it is important to remain compliant with the immigration laws of India. The purpose of the visitor's intended travel, duration of stay and citizenship will determine if and what type of visa is required. The information in this document is intended to serve as an informational resource about business visitor requirements in India.

Who needs a business visitor visa for India?

A business visa may be granted to a foreign national who wants to visit India for the purposes of a short-term business visit. This can be defined as activities to establishing and exploring possibilities of setting up a business venture; or looking for buyers and sellers for industrial products in India.

What activities are permitted as a business visitor?

- Exploring the possibilities of or establishing a business venture in India
- Looking for buyers and sellers for industrial, commercial products or consumer durables
- Attending meetings
- Recruiting locals for the effort to set up the business venture
- Be a partner of a business entity
- Function as a director in a company

- Participating in exhibitions and business fairs
- Acting as a foreign buyer to make deals with local suppliers in India
- Foreign experts or specialists would generally be allowed to carry out high-level technical guidance, monitoring work in progress or conducting meetings with customers for an ongoing project on a short term basis
- Acting as a subject matter expert to provide short term training to the company division in India of a multinational corporate

Activities not permitted typically include:

- Carrying out paid employment and engaging in work-related activities other than the activities stated above
- Volunteering work for a non-governmental organization
- Attending school or study
- Being an employee or intern of a company in India

These lists are subject to change and are not all-inclusive.

How long can a traveler stay in India as a business visitor?

Business visas may be granted for a period of up to five years. The Indian Mission may prescribe the duration of stay for each visit.

Is there a limit on the number of times a visitor may travel to India as a business visitor in any given period?

There is not a limit on how many visits a person may make to India in any given period. However, frequent travels to the country may trigger questions from the immigration officer at the port of entry.

Can a visitor's spouse and children also come to India?

A business visitor's spouse and children can come to India as visitors; however, they must each apply for their own separate visa.

Penalties related to non-compliance for the business visa category?

Engaging in unlawful work in India can result in serious consequences for both the employer and the business visitor, including:

- Fines
- Detention
- Blacklisted from future applications

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is provided for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any further enquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact Crown's Regional Immigration Manager, Asia.