

Japan

Business visitors: FAQs



If planning on traveling to Japan for temporary business, it is important to remain compliant with the immigration laws of Japan. 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 Japan.

Who needs a business visitor visa for Japan?

Nationals of countries that do not have reciprocal visa exemption arrangements with Japan and wish to stay in Japan for up to 90 days, must obtain a "temporary visit visa" for short-term business affairs before traveling to Japan.

Nationals from over 60 countries can enter Japan visa-free (for a period ranging from 14 to 180 days) on the condition they do not engage in remunerative activities.

What activities are permitted as a business visitor?

Activities permitted typically include:

- Participation in meetings, cultural exchange, exchange between municipalities and sports exchange
- Business liaison, business consultations, contract signing, after-sales service, advertising and market research

Activities not permitted typically include:

- Performing productive work
- Accepting paid or unpaid employment
- Working under the supervision of a host employer
- Attending school or study

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

Who is required to apply for a business visa?

Nationals of countries that do not have visa exemption arrangements with Japan and wish to stay in Japan for up to 90 days on short-term business affairs.

The foreign national must file the visa application at their nearest Japanese embassy or consulate abroad, or at the country of residence. Requirements may vary, dependent upon the nationality of the applicant, and are subject to change.

The following documents are required to process a visa application:

1. A completed visa application form
2. A valid passport
3. A passport-sized color photo
4. Confirmation slip, certificate or other documents to prove reservation of air or ship boarding ticket
5. Documents to prove ability to pay for travel expenses
6. Certificate of employment
7. Letter of reason for invitation
8. Schedule of stay
9. Letter of guarantee
10. A certified copy of the incorporation register or an overview of Company/Organization (not required if the Japanese entity has already filed its quarterly corporate report)

How long can a visitor stay in Japan on a business visa?

For the period granted, ranging from 14 to 180 days, dependent upon the nationality of the applicant.

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

These visas are granted for a single visit (single-entry visas). If the applicant intends to stay longer than the initial period granted, application for extension of stay should be lodged before the visa expiry at the immigration office. This is at the discretion of the local Immigration Officer.

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

A business visitor's spouse and children can come to Japan 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 Japan can result in serious consequences for both the employer and the business visitor, including:

- A fine and imprisonment
- Detention and deportation may be imposed upon the business visitor. He/she will be blacklisted for future entry to Japan and given an adverse record for Japanese visa applications

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