

South Korea

Business visitors: FAQs

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

Who needs a business visitor visa for South Korea?

Nationals of countries that do not have visa exemption or reciprocity arrangements with South Korea, or wish to stay beyond the visa-free period granted, must obtain a relevant business visa before traveling to South Korea.

Nationals from over 150 countries can enter South Korea visa-free (for a period ranging from 30 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:

- Attending meetings or conferences
- Attending training workshops
- Observing the business operations of a local affiliate or branch office

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 South Korea and intend to stay beyond the visa-free period granted.

The foreign national must file the visa application at their nearest South Korean 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 is required to process a visa application:

1. A completed visa application form
2. A passport with a minimum of three months' validity
3. A passport-sized color photo taken within six months of the application date (3.5cm x 4.5cm)
4. Visa processing fee
5. Additional documents determined by the status of the applicant's country and at the discretion of the consulate

How long can a visitor stay in South Korea on a business visa?

For the period granted, ranging from 30 to 180 days, dependent upon the nationality of the applicant. This is at the discretion of the embassy or consulate.

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

These visas are granted for a single visit (single-entry visa). If the applicant intends to leave and re-enter South Korea during the initial period granted, a re-entry permit will be required.

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

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

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

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