

# India

## Immigration country brief



The purpose of this Immigration Country Brief is to serve as a resource and provide a general overview of the immigration requirements related to business visitors and employment authorization in India. The information contained in this document is provided as a resource 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 Immigration Manager, Asia.

### Overview: Business visas

A Business Visa is granted to a foreign national who wishes to visit India for the purposes of a short-term business visit. In general, applicant's citizenship and the purpose of visit would determine the entry visa requirements.

#### Visa types

##### **Business (B) Visa**

**Summary:** The Business B Visa allows entry to India for purposes of a short business visit to India, typically for up to six months. Note that the B visa is not an alternative to an Employment Visa.

In addition to the standard documents list, such as passport, photos and application form; an official letter issued by the sending entity and an invitation letter by an India business entity would typically be required.

**Maximum stay:** The Business B Visa will be valid for a maximum of five years (or 10 years for U.S. citizens) and can be extended in the country in increments of one year.

**Typical processing time:** Varies by applicant citizenship and Consulate.

Activities permitted include:

- Foreign nationals who want to visit India to establish a business venture or explore business possibilities in India
- Foreign nationals coming to India to look for buyers and sellers of industrial or commercial products
- Foreign nationals coming to India to engage in general meetings, board meetings, and technical discussions
- Foreign nationals coming to India to recruit locals
- Foreign nationals who are partners of a business entity or carry out functions in a director role of a company
- Foreign nationals coming to India to participate in exhibitions, trade fairs and business fairs
- Foreign buyers who come to India seek potential suppliers, or to interact with suppliers to ensure quality, provide specifications, place orders or negotiate with supplies relating to goods or services procured from India
- Foreign experts/specialists on a visit to India on a short term basis for an ongoing project to monitor progress of the work, conduct meetings with Indian customers or to provide some high level technical guidance
- Foreign trainees of multinational companies to receive in-house training in the regional division of the concerned company located in India

### Overview: Employment authorization

Foreign nationals who wish to work or undertake gainful employment in India are

must obtain proper work authorization before entry to India.

#### Work permit types

##### **Employment (E) Visa**

**Summary:** This is the principal visa category for non-immigrant employment in India. This is a category in which employers can sponsor qualified, skilled workers to work on an intra-company transfer basis to India.

**Maximum stay:** Employment visas are granted by the India Mission aboard. The period granted for the visa is typically one year, but for some highly technical jobs, the visa may be granted for over one year. For visas granted for longer than 180 days, it would state on visa that the foreigner is required to register at the Foreigners' Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) within 14 days of arrival.

**Processing time:** The visa processing time largely depends on the India Mission aboard. It typically range form 2 to 5 weeks but some may take longer time. The post arrival registration process at the FRRO is typically completed in one business day.

**Dependents:** Work permission is not granted to dependents.

### Additional information and resources

- Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs: [www.boi.gov.in](http://www.boi.gov.in)
- Embassies Worldwide: [www.embassyworld.org](http://www.embassyworld.org)