

1. The business environment

Foreign employees

Residence permits

Foreigners from most countries are allowed to enter Hong Kong as a visitor for a short duration from seven days to 90 days, depending on the nationality of the visitor, without a visa. As a general rule, any person other than those having the right of abode or right to land in Hong Kong must obtain an appropriate visa before coming to Hong Kong for the purpose of education, taking up employment, training, investment or residence.

Work permits

Foreigners entering Hong Kong as visitors are not permitted to take up any employment, whether paid or unpaid and regardless of the length of such employment. In order to enter Hong Kong for the purpose of employment, or to establish or join any business, an employment visa or other appropriate visa must be obtained prior to arrival.