



Immigration Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Guidebook for Entry for Residence as Dependants
in Hong Kong

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I. Introduction

This guidebook sets out the entry arrangement for persons who wish to enter the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) for residence as dependants.

2. This entry arrangement does not apply to:

- (a) Chinese residents of the Mainland of China (the Mainland) [except for those whose sponsors have been admitted to take up employment (as professionals, for investment to establish/join in business, or for training) or studies (in full-time undergraduate or post-graduate local programmes¹ in local degree-awarding institutions), or whose sponsors have been admitted as entrants under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme², the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme or the Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents];
- (b) former Mainland Chinese residents residing in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) who have obtained Macao identity cards for less than seven years, unless they have acquired residence in the Macao SAR through the One-way Permit Scheme; and
- (c) nationals of Afghanistan and Korea (Democratic People’s Republic of).

II. Eligibility Criteria

3. For a sponsor who has been admitted into the HKSAR to take up employment (as a professional, for investment to establish/join in business, or for training) or studies (in a full-time undergraduate or post-graduate local programme¹ in a local degree-awarding institution), or who is permitted to remain in the HKSAR as an entrant under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme², the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme or the Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents, the following dependants may apply to join him/her for residence in the HKSAR:

- (a) (i) his/her spouse; or
- (ii) the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially

¹ Local programmes refer to programmes leading to degrees awarded by local degree-awarding institutions whereas non-local programmes refer to programmes leading to degrees awarded solely by non-local institutions, irrespective of whether the programmes are jointly run by local and non-local institutions.

² With effect from January 15, 2015, the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme has been suspended until further notice.

- recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration³; and
- (b) his/her unmarried dependent children under the age of 18.

4. For a sponsor who is a Hong Kong permanent resident or a resident who is not subject to a limit of stay (i.e. a resident with the right to land or on unconditional stay), the following dependants may apply to join him/her for residence in the HKSAR:

- (a) (i) his/her spouse; or
- (ii) the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration³; and
- (b) his/her unmarried dependent children under the age of 18; and
- (c) his/her parents aged 60 or above.

5. An application for admission of a dependant may be favourably considered if:

- (a) there is reasonable proof of a genuine relationship between the applicant and the sponsor;
- (b) there is no known record to the detriment of the applicant; and
- (c) the sponsor is able to support the dependant’s living at a standard well above the subsistence level and provide him/her with suitable accommodation in the HKSAR.

III. Application Procedures

Application Forms

6. Applicants should complete Part A of application form ID 997, while Part B of the form should be completed by the sponsor. The application form (ID 997) can be obtained free of charge from the following offices:

³ For the avoidance of doubt, the terms “civil partnership” and “civil union” above mean a legal institution of a nature which is akin to spousal relationship in a marriage. The same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership and opposite-sex civil union entered into in accordance with laws outside Hong Kong are limited to only relationships which are legally and officially recognised in the places of celebration. Such relationships normally have the following features: (a) the entering into and dissolution of the relationship are governed by legislation of the place where it is entered into; (b) the relationship requires registration by the competent authority specified by the legislation of the place where it is entered into; (c) the registration is evidenced in a written instrument issued by the competent authority; and (d) parties to the relationship have a mutual commitment to a shared life akin to spouses to the exclusion of others on a permanent basis. Such relationships do not include de facto spouse, partners in cohabitation, fiancé/fiancée, etc.

- (a) Immigration Department Headquarters;
- (b) Immigration Branch Offices;
- (c) Overseas Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions; and
- (d) HKSAR Government offices outside Hong Kong.

The form can also be downloaded from the Immigration Department's website at www.immd.gov.hk.

Note: The existing entry application forms, i.e. Application for Entry for Employment as Professionals in Hong Kong (ID 990A), Application for Entry for Training in Hong Kong (ID 992A), Application for Entry for Study in Hong Kong (ID 995A), Application for Entry for Investment as Entrepreneurs in Hong Kong (ID 999A), Application for Entry under the Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ID 1017) and Technology Talent Admission Scheme – Application for Visa/Entry Permit (ID 1024) have built in the accompanying dependant's application. The sponsor may include his/her accompanying dependant's application for entry for residence when completing the aforesaid entry application forms, and the accompanying dependant will not be required to complete application form ID 997 separately.

Supporting Documents

7. Please refer to the checklist in Part VII.

Submission of Application

8. The application form must be duly completed and signed. For an applicant under the age of 16, it must be signed by the parent or legal guardian. Completed application form, i.e. ID 997, and all supporting documents should be submitted by the applicant or the local sponsor in one of the following ways:

- (a) By post directly or through the local sponsor in the HKSAR to:

Receipt and Despatch Sub-Unit
Hong Kong Immigration Department
2/F, Immigration Tower
7 Gloucester Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

- (b) Applicants residing in overseas countries or territories may submit their application forms together with the relevant supporting documents and their valid travel documents in person to the nearest Chinese diplomatic and consular mission in their place of domicile⁴.
- (c) Holders of foreign passports who are living in the Mainland may submit the application forms together with all supporting documents to the Immigration Division of the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing (Beijing Office) or the Immigration Division of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (SHETO). Applicants are required to produce their valid travel documents to the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office or the Immigration Division of the SHETO so that a visa/entry permit could be issued if the application is approved. The addresses of the two Mainland offices are:

The Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing
No. 71, Di'anmen Xidajie, Xicheng District
Beijing 100009
People's Republic of China

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai
21/F, The Headquarters Building
168 Xizang Road (M), Huangpu District
Shanghai 200001
People's Republic of China

IV. Travel Documentation Requirement

9. A visa/entry permit label will be issued upon successful application. It should be collected by the sponsor from the Immigration Department for onward transmission to the successful applicant. For applications submitted to Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office or the Immigration Division of the SHETO, visas/entry permits will be issued through the relevant Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office or the Immigration Division of the SHETO as appropriate.

10. The visa/entry permit label should be affixed onto a blank visa page of the applicant's travel document for presentation to an immigration officer upon arrival in the HKSAR.

⁴ Some Chinese diplomatic and consular missions have implemented the arrangement that applications for visas for Hong Kong from persons holding foreign ordinary passports will be handled by the "Chinese Visa Application Service Center". Applicants may contact the nearest Chinese diplomatic and consular mission for details.

11. A successful applicant who is a Chinese resident of the Mainland should apply for an “Exit-entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao” (EEP) and a relevant exit endorsement from the Public Security Bureau office where his/her household registration is kept. If the applicant’s EEP bearing the relevant exit endorsement is an electronic EEP, it should be presented together with the entry permit label issued to him/her for immigration examination upon arrival in the HKSAR. In case the applicant’s EEP on which his/her relevant exit endorsement has been obtained is of booklet type, the entry permit label should be affixed onto a blank endorsement page of the EEP. The applicant should present the EEP for immigration arrival examination.

V. Extension of Stay

12. A dependant may apply for extension of stay for residence in the HKSAR within four weeks before his/her limit of stay expires. Such applications will be considered only when the applicant continues to meet the eligibility criteria for entry for residence as dependants and the sponsor remains a bona fide Hong Kong resident living in the HKSAR.

13. Extension of stay in respect of dependants of persons who are Hong Kong permanent residents or residents who are not subject to a limit of stay (i.e. a resident with the right to land or on unconditional stay), if approved, will normally follow the 3-3 years pattern for the spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration⁵ and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18; and the 2-2-3 years pattern for parents aged 60 or above.

14. The length of stay of dependants of persons who have been admitted into the HKSAR to take up employment or who are permitted to remain in the HKSAR as entrants under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme⁶, the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme or the Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents, will normally be linked to that of their sponsors. Dependants of persons who

⁵ For the avoidance of doubt, the terms “civil partnership” and “civil union” above mean a legal institution of a nature which is akin to spousal relationship in a marriage. The same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership and opposite-sex civil union entered into in accordance with laws outside Hong Kong are limited to only relationships which are legally and officially recognised in the places of celebration. Such relationships normally have the following features: (a) the entering into and dissolution of the relationship are governed by legislation of the place where it is entered into; (b) the relationship requires registration by the competent authority specified by the legislation of the place where it is entered into; (c) the registration is evidenced in a written instrument issued by the competent authority; and (d) parties to the relationship have a mutual commitment to a shared life akin to spouses to the exclusion of others on a permanent basis. Such relationships do not include de facto spouse, partners in cohabitation, fiancé/fiancée, etc.

⁶ With effect from January 15, 2015, the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme has been suspended until further notice.

have been admitted into the HKSAR to take up studies will normally be granted an initial stay of 12 months upon entry which is subject to annual extension upon approval.

VI. Other Information

15. In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in the HKSAR, he/she requires a visa/entry permit to take up residence as dependant in the HKSAR. While each application is determined on its individual merits, an applicant should meet normal immigration requirements (such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her country of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to the HKSAR; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on the HKSAR, etc.) as well as the relevant specific eligibility criteria detailed above before he/she may be considered for the grant of a visa/entry permit. It should be noted that the eligibility criteria may be subject to change from time to time without prior notice. Please check the Immigration Department's website at www.immd.gov.hk for up-to-date information.

Conditions of Stay

16. Dependants of the following persons are not prohibited from taking up employment in the HKSAR:

- (a) Hong Kong permanent residents;
- (b) persons who are not subject to a limit of stay (i.e. residents with the right to land or on unconditional stay);
- (c) persons who have been admitted for employment (as professionals, for investment to establish/join in business or for training); and
- (d) entrants under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme⁷, the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme or the Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents.

17. However, dependants of persons who have been admitted into the HKSAR to study are prohibited from taking up employment in the HKSAR unless they have obtained prior permission from the Director of Immigration.

18. All dependants do not require prior permission from the Director of Immigration to study in the HKSAR.

⁷ With effect from January 15, 2015, the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme has been suspended until further notice.

Re-entry into the HKSAR

19. Non-permanent residents of the HKSAR, irrespective of their nationality and type of travel document held, do not require a re-entry visa/entry permit to enter the HKSAR provided that they return within the validity of their permitted limit of stay and that the circumstances upon which they have acquired their residential status remain unchanged.

Right of Abode

20. Persons admitted for residence as dependants who have ordinarily resided in the HKSAR for a continuous period of not less than seven years may apply for the right of abode in the HKSAR in accordance with the law.

Payment of Fees

21. If the application is submitted to the Immigration Department directly, payment of fees should be made upon collection of the visa/entry permit by the local sponsor in cash, by EPS or by cheque. The cheque should be crossed, made payable to “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”, properly dated and signed.

22. If the application is submitted to an overseas Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office or the Immigration Division of the SHETO, the visa/entry permit fee should be paid directly to the Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office or the Immigration Division of the SHETO as appropriate.

Processing Time

23. It normally takes six weeks to process a visa/entry permit application for residence as dependant upon receipt of all the required documents. The Immigration Department will not be able to start processing the application unless all the required documents and information have been received.

24. All applications are processed and determined by the Immigration Department. Approval of applications is entirely discretionary and is subject to changes in government policies. The Director of Immigration reserves absolute discretion to refuse any application even if the application meets all eligibility criteria.

Warning

25. It is an offence to make false statements or representations to an immigration officer. To verify the authenticity of the information and documents submitted with a visa application, field visits may be conducted. A person who knowingly and wilfully makes a statement or gives information which he/she knows to be false or does not believe to be true shall be guilty of an offence under the Laws of Hong Kong and any such visa/entry permit issued or permission to enter or remain in the HKSAR granted shall have no effect.

Disclaimer

26. The information in this guidebook serves as reference only. The Immigration Department of the HKSAR is not responsible for any loss or damage whatsoever arising out of or in connection with any information in this guidebook. The Immigration Department reserves the right to omit, suspend or edit any information in this guidebook at any time in its absolute discretion without giving any reason or prior notice. The Immigration Department further reserves the right to change the eligibility criteria and details of the arrangement set out above from time to time without prior notice.

Enquiries

27. For more information, please contact the Immigration Department by enquiry hotline at (852) 2824 6111, by fax at (852) 2877 7711, by email to enquiry@immd.gov.hk, or visit the Immigration Department's website at www.immd.gov.hk.

VII. Checklist of Forms and Documents to be Submitted

(A) Forms and Documents to be Submitted by the Applicant

Forms/Documents Required
Application for Entry for Residence as Dependants in Hong Kong (ID 997)
The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 1 of application form ID 997)
Photocopy of the applicant's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held (if applicable). For an applicant who is currently staying in Hong Kong, photocopy of his/her travel document page containing the latest arrival stamp/landing slip/extension of stay label in the HKSAR. A Chinese resident of the Mainland who has not been issued with a valid travel document may submit a photocopy of his/her People's Republic of China resident identity card.
Photocopy of the applicant's Hong Kong identity card (if any)
Photocopy of proof of the applicant's relationship with the sponsor, e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, family photographs, family letters (with envelopes), census record book and Privilege Card for Single Child (if applicable)
Photocopy of the applicant's Macao identity card [<i>for Macao SAR residents only</i>]
Photocopy of the applicant's household registration in Taiwan and Taiwan identity card [<i>for Taiwan residents only</i>]

(B) Forms and Documents to be Submitted by the Sponsor

Forms/Documents Required
The applicant's application form, Application for Entry for Residence as Dependants in Hong Kong (ID 997) with Part B duly completed by the sponsor
Photocopy of the sponsor's Hong Kong identity card
Photocopy of the sponsor's valid travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry, and the current visa/entry permit/extension of stay label in the HKSAR (for non-permanent residents of the HKSAR only)
Photocopy of proof of the sponsor's financial standing, e.g. bank statements, savings accounts passbooks, tax receipts and salary slips
Photocopy of proof of sponsor's accommodation, e.g. rental receipts

(C) Forms and Documents to be Submitted by the Applicant for Extension of Stay Application

Forms/Documents Required
Application for Extension of Stay (ID 91)
Original and photocopy of the applicant's valid travel document and, where applicable, his/her previous travel document page showing the latest visa/entry permit label/arrival stamp/landing slip/extension of stay label in the HKSAR
Photocopy of the applicant's Hong Kong identity card
Photocopy of the sponsor's valid travel document (showing personal particulars and current permission of stay) or Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card
Completed form ID 481A
Completed form ID 481B (for dependent spouse, civil partner, civil union or "same-sex spouse" only)

Important Notice:

1. Notwithstanding that the documents and information required have been furnished, applicants and sponsors may still be required to submit further supporting documents and information in connection with the application(s) when necessary.
2. Where a document is not in Chinese or English, it must be accompanied by a Chinese or English translation certified as a true translation by a sworn translator, court translator, authorised public translator, certified translator, expert translator or official translator.