

Hong Kong

Types of Student Visa

Since a visa is a precondition to your admission procedure and your plans to study in Hong Kong, it is essential to understand the types of a student visa. The type of student visa depends on type and duration of your course / educational program. If you are aspiring for full time and long-term graduate course, the visa duration would certainly be different from that of full-time postgraduate course, part-time graduate/postgraduate programs, short-term graduate / postgraduate programs and exchange study programs at bachelors or above level. However, in either case, seeking a visa is mandatory before entering the land of Hong Kong as per the law.

Documents required for Visa application

In addition to understanding the type of visas, you must also be aware of various documents that you will need to complete the admission and visa formalities. For your reference, here is the list of forms and documents that are needed by non-resident students:

- Form ID 995A, completed and signed by the applicant
- Form ID 995B, completed and signed by the sponsor

Both the forms can be downloaded online or can also be sought from concerned branches of Immigration Department. Along with the above forms following documents should be submitted for applying for a visa:

- A photocopy of your letter of admission from a university in Hong Kong and your letter of acceptance to the specific course.
- Photocopy of Passport.
- A photocopy of Identity Card/travel document which contains personal credentials
- One passport sized recent photograph.
- Photocopy of Highest Public Examination/Academic Result along with transcripts, awards, and certificates.
- Photocopy of other qualifications such as IELTS or TOEFL (which is required for applicants whose mother tongue is not English; UK and US natives may not need it).
- Proof of your financial condition. Proof of scholarship funds, bank statements, passbooks, etc. (This is to prove that you can afford education and living expenses at Hong Kong. A proof of HK\$120,000 approximately is expected, rest depends on the educational program under consideration).
- Evidence of your accommodation arrangement in Hong Kong. An undertaking by the sponsor to provide you accommodation can also do the needful.

Care while compiling documents along with Visa application form

By any chance, if you fail to submit even one relevant document, your admission could be at stake, as you may not get a visa or there could be a delay in seeking a visa. It is wise to cross check all the documents before submission (whether you have compiled all documents and all are duly filled/attested as per requirement, etc.) and also keep in touch with the immigration department of the University so that you can make up for anything missed. You can also check the status of your application time to time online. Also, it is advisable to

complete and submit the necessary documents before time (starting of the academic session) so that you may have time in hand to finish anything left out.

Where to submit Visa application and related documents?

Submitting the documents at the right place and through a reliable channel cannot be overlooked. You can send the documents either directly by post to Receipt and Despatch Sub-Unit, Hong Kong Immigration Department, 2/F, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. The post may also be sent to your chosen local sponsor. Applicants from abroad may submit their applications to the nearest Chinese Embassy. It is advisable to get in touch with your concerned educational institution to understand the procedure better. Most of the educational institutions lend a helping hand to help the applicants do all the necessary formalities and sometimes even complete the process for them.

By when can you expect Visa approval?

If you succeed to submit all the necessary documents astutely and if they are approved by the Immigration Department then the whole visa process may take up to 6 weeks to complete all the necessary formalities. Duration of your approved visa will depend on the duration of your study program.

When to renew your Visa?

Overstay after the expiry of visa is strictly prohibited. Thus it is suggested to apply for renewal of visa at least one month before the expiry of old visa if you plan to stay/study/work after completion of the study program, as the case may be. Accordingly, you can choose your application form and proceed for further formalities.

Studying in the economic hub of Hong Kong would certainly add colors to your career as four universities here have been ranked amongst top 200 universities in the world and 35-50 graduate and postgraduate courses are being offered here.