

Building your business in Japan

Business Law Essentials for Australians

"Business Visa Requirements"

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Today's agenda

1. Introduction
2. Visa system in Japan
3. Business visa options for Australians

1. Introduction

What are the current border restrictions in Japan?

2. Visa systems in Japan

Two steps required

- **Certificate of residence** (Status of residence)
 - 29 types
 - Apply for a certificate that allows you to do the activities you wish to do in Japan
 - If you wish to do activities other than the permitted activities, you must apply for a new certificate
- **Visa**
 - Required to enter Japan
 - Apply after you have obtained a certificate of residence
 - Takes a couple of weeks

3. Business visa options for Australians

Common types of certificate of residence for business purposes

- **Business Manager**
 - For managing a business in Japan
- **Intracompany transfer**
 - For transferring employees to a Japanese entity
- **Engineer, Specialist in Humanities and International Services**
 - For hiring skilled employees

Do I need a sponsor to apply for a certificate of residence?

Business Manager

- **Key Requirements**
 - Set up a company with the stated capital of JPY 5million+ or 2+ full-time employees in Japan
 - Prepare a business plan
 - Have an office (virtual office not allowed)
 - Apply onshore (a resident officer or employee)
- **Period of stay**
 - Usually 1 year will be granted for initial applications
 - Longer period may be granted upon renewal

Issues in practice

- **Corporate bank account**
 - Required for the payment of stated capital
 - Must be an account with a Japanese bank or a Japanese branch of a non-Japanese bank
- **Office**
 - Virtual offices not allowed
 - A copy of lease agreement and photos of the office may be required

Issues in practice

- **Onshore application**
- **Business plan**
 - Must show the potential continuity of the business
 - Renewal of the certificate depends how the business has performed

Secondary visas for your family members

- **Secondary visas available for dependents**
 - Work permitted up to 28 hour a week (exceptions apply)

Special incentives for startups

- **6 months to 1 year stay may be granted without satisfying the Business Manager requirements for startups**
 - Business plan must be approved
 - JPY 5 million+ capital / 2+ full-time employees exempted
 - Must satisfy the Business Manager requirements in 6 months to 1 year period
 - Limited municipalities

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