

20 Countries Offer The STARTUP VISA To Overseas Talented Entrepreneurs



After H-1B, the US now turns its attention to the coveted investor visa. Starting Nov. 21. In targeted employment areas (TEAs), the cost will go up from \$500,000 to \$900,000.

Investor migrants may also be interested in learning about other countries that offer entrepreneur/startup visa programs like the E-2 program in the U.S. Many countries have found that an entrepreneur/startup visa program is a very effective way to achieve both goals.

Startup Scheme allows foreign residents to live and start the start-up in the country that can contribute to its economy. It is an opportunity provided by each government to the overseas talented entrepreneurs to take this platform to excel their business which can contribute to the economy on global level. The aim of this scheme is to begin poignant and influential startups in the country.

The European goal is catching American and Chinese digital giants, Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, AirBnB, Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent,

Venture capital deals in the top four hubs of Europe — London, Berlin, Paris and Stockholm — have increased by 22% per year for the past five years. Over 50 venture-backed unicorns have been created in Europe in the past decade, compared with just 3 between 2000 and 2010 (sources Financial Times). Europe has the tech talent, great universities and research centers and is on the verge of becoming a player.

Venture capitalists invested about \$23 billion in the EU for 2018 far less than invested \$130 billion in the U.S. In Europe, there are no venture firms with sufficient capital to deploy.

Now, Brussels is considering funding a 100 billion euro sovereign wealth fund to invest in worthy tech companies. The fund would include the EU's existing venture-capital and R&D subsidy budgets. It needs always the capital and so many governments of world launched foreign entrepreneur/startup programs recently.

The Startup Visa is a conditional residence permit provided by some countries to invite entrepreneurs talents who either are on the lookout for a permanent residency afterward or raise funding. Since foreign entrepreneurs often face legal and cultural obstacles to establish and maintain their businesses, granting the startup visa could be a good opportunity for their burdensome starting in a new country.

Many developed countries implemented the startup visa and some immigration rules to attract foreign founders of promising business so that their businesses could perform under a better environment.

From Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Chile, New Zealand, UK and other European capitals, we've identified 20 countries where you can apply to the Startup Visa, relocate, and build a thriving business.

We give a guidance to compare programs and countries and decide which program best fits your specific requirements. Two common requirements of all of these programs are capital investment with a comprehensive business plan that will document the nature of the business and realistic business plan how it will successfully compete.

1. U.K.

To apply for the Tier-1 entrepreneur visa, you need to set up or run a business in the UK. You can apply if you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Requirements include knowledge of English, access to at least £50,000 of investment capital, a valid passport, and a business plan. The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel. The visa will last for 3 years and 4 months maximum. However, if you completed 5 years in the UK, you can apply for settlement known as 'indefinite leave to remain'.

BREXIT from November, 2019 new expert endorsement requirement. Applicants would need to be endorsed by a designated endorsing body approved by the UK government, who would assess whether the applicant's proposed business is innovative, viable and scalable. Eligibility for Indefinite Leave to Remain (settlement). Innovators who satisfy at least two of the Home Office's new criteria may qualify for settlement after three years, down from five under the existing route.

The criteria include:

Investing at least GBP 50,000 into a business;

- Doubling the business's customers;
- Applying for intellectual property protection after research & development activity;
- Generating annual gross revenue of GBP 1 million;
- Creating 10 full-time jobs for resident workers.

Effect on existing Tier 1 (Entrepreneurs).

Existing Entrepreneurs can continue to extend their visa under the current rules until April 5, 2023, but would be required to provide more detailed information on their role in the business and the jobs they have created. Settlement applications for existing Entrepreneurs will remain open until April 5, 2025.

2. GERMANY

Entrepreneur Visa "Entrepreneurs must have a strong Business Plan and financing concept with a superior economic motive" with past entrepreneurial experience and success. The government insists that there is "no threshold investment," (but, investment amount EUR 250.000 is recommended) German Freelance "Freiberufler" Visa Freelance has become an ever-growing self-employment type, as it gives greater independency and less bureaucracy compared to the conventional type. the profession you're thinking to exercise here is acknowledged as a liberal professions 'Freibe Berufe', you'll be able to be a freelancer 'Freiberufler'. Otherwise, if the job is listed as a

commercial profession, you'll only be able to be a businessperson 'Gewerbe'.

3. SINGAPORE

A candidate must apply for an EntrePass (up to 2 years) either before formation of the company or within a period of 6 months from the date of registration of the company. After 6 months, the entrepreneur should apply for Employment Pass instead.

Set up a private limited company registered with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) in Singapore.

The candidate must hold at least 30% of the share capital of the company. The candidate must fulfill at least one of the following requirements as an Entrepreneur, Innovator or Investor

4. DENMARK

The Startup-Denmark visa requires to get a business plan approved by a panel of experts appointed by the Danish Business Authority. He must submit documents that you have enough funds to cover his first year in Denmark (+137.076 DKK). if you are in Denmark without any accompanying family members. He needs to show his presence and take part in handling the business activities for the growth and establishment of the business.

5. SWEDEN

Requirements for obtaining a residence permit as a self-employed include showing that you have significant experience in your field and previous experience of running your own business. With documented and relevant knowledge in Swedish or English, you have to show that the business' services or goods are sold or produced in Sweden. Have sufficient funds to support you and your family. These funds have to be enough for the first two years (equivalent to SEK 200,000 for you (€19.500), SEK 100,000 (€10.000) for your spouse and SEK 50,000 (€5.000) for each accompanying child). Reliable source documentation for your budget.

6. JAPAN

Start-up visa (Business Manager category) makes smooth pathway to facilitate start-up and business activities for visa validity of 6 months (USD 50.000)

Setting up business at one of particular 'National Strategic Special Zone', there is fast-track pathway to start a business and residing in Japan.

(Tokyo metropolitan area, Kanagawa, Nigata, Sendai, Aichi, Hiroshima, Imabari, Fukuoka, Kitakyushu...)

The applicant does not have to register the company or invest yet at the time of application and apply for Business Manager visa in Japan as a next step

in case of Japanese Visa exemption nationals.

7. IRELAND

The Startup Entrepreneur Programme intends to support migrants with a proposal for a high potential startup presenting innovative product for the local and global markets with funding of €75,000. Ability to create 10 jobs in Ireland and raise €1 million in sales within three to four years of starting up. The startup must be headquartered and controlled in Ireland and operating for less than six years. Incentives for R & D



The Google in Silicon Docks in Dublin, Ireland.

8. NEW ZEALAND

Requirements for the Entrepreneur Work Visa include English language knowledge. establish a business or buy a business that suits your expectations and experience

You need to provide a detailed business plan, and have a minimum capital investment of NZ\$100,000.

9. AUSTRALIA

The Investors and Entrepreneur visa offers 3 types of visas, including: 2 types of Business Innovation and Investment and Business Talent visa. Each one of them requires a different size of capital, proof of knowledge of English and a business plan.(except businesses of residential real estate, labour hire or purchase of an existing enterprise or a franchise in Australia)

10. FINLAND

Entrepreneur's Residence Permit. Applicant must register his business operations in the Trade Register of the Finnish Patent and Registration Office before applying for an entrepreneur's residence permit." The permit can initially be issued for max. two years, after which it can be renewed. The permit does not involve investments or financial support.

Apply with this application for a residence permit if applicant intends to come to Finland as a startup entrepreneur. He must obtain a positive eligibility statement from Business Finland before he can apply for this permit. A start-up entrepreneur cannot get a residence permit without a positive statement from Business Finland.

11. CHILE

The Startup-Chile acceleration program has duration of six months, and provides free workspace as well as a 1-year work visa. The minimum requirements for the application are that startups are no older than 3 years, with a base team 100% dedicated to the project, having a functional product and early validation.

12. ITALY

There are documents to be sent directly to the Italian Ministry of Economic Development's Committee to receive the 1-year Italia Startup Visa. You can apply through two ways for the visa: a direct startup visa application, or a visa application through a licensed incubator. The online application should include a business plan, a copy of your passport cover a letter of proof of financial resources and capital worth \$56,000. The permit is renewable for 2 more years.

13. FRANCE

French Tech Visa or Talent Passport Visa is valid for 4 years and renewable, with no diploma requirements (previously Master's degree required), extends to immediate family members, and is free! Whether you are forming a new company, setting up a startup, or are the director of a multinational company, you are eligible for the Talent Passport!

French Tech Visa applies for international Start-Up Founders, Tech Employees (with objective to fast-track hiring international talent for French companies) & Tech Investors to settle in France. To be eligible for the French Tech Visa as a startup founder, you must have:

- financial resources at least equal to the French annual minimum wage, €18,254.60 as of January 1, 2019
 - be selected by one (or several) of the French Tech Visa partner incubators and accelerators, through their regular process of selection.
 - Each incubator selects startups differently: all year long, by call for projects, by promotion...
 - International startups that applied to the partner incubators before the French Tech Visa was launched are eligible to it (if eligible to the French Tech Visa program). Apply to one (or several) of the French Tech Visa
- * Otherwise, it is possible to apply Residence Permet by founding company (finance ressource EUR +30.000)

14. THAILAND

The Thai government issued the Smart Visa, targeting entrepreneurs investing in new businesses, highly-skilled professionals, or executives. The visa permit is for 4 years and is open for talents, investors, executives, and startups. The startup applicant should submit a proof of 600,000 Baht deposit. They should be participating in an endorsed incubation, accelerator or

similar program. The entrepreneur must set up in Thailand within 1 year with at least 25% ownership, or being a board member of a company in the targeted industries.

15. CANADA

The Start-up Visa Program connects Canadian business organizations with immigrant entrepreneurs who have the skills and potential to build innovative businesses in Canada.

With the support of a designated organization, immigrant entrepreneurs can apply for permanent residence in Canada and launch their start-up here. Designated organizations include venture capital funds, angel investor groups and business incubators that have been approved to support these start-ups

- Canadian Venture Capital & Private Equity Association (CVCA)
- National Angel Capital Organization (NACO)

“ Most countries apply StartUp Visa by founding a LLC company (EUR 30.000)

Applicants have to meet the language requirement, and give proof that they have sufficient funds to support themselves and they must submit an application for permanent residence under Start-up Visa before the commitment certificate expires. They must include the Letter of Support with their application

16. PORTUGAL

Startup Visa is a residence visa for entrepreneurs, which aims to attract investment, talent, and innovation to Portugal. This is one of the most innovative entrepreneurship programs across Europe that is attracting international talent.

17. NETHERLANDS

Self-employed Dutch visa fore freelancers and entrepreneurs.

Coming to work as a self-employed person or to set up your own business in the Netherlands, there are certain conditions that must be met to receive approval for your Dutch permit, most notably proving that your business activities serve an essential Dutch interest using a point-based system by evaluation of the the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), a division of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, which awards points in three different areas: your personal experience, your business plan and how the business will benefit the Dutch economy. As of January 2016 startups may introduce a favourable recommendation from their

business facilitator that will replace the points-based system.

18. SPAIN

If you are a citizen from a non-EU country who wants to start living and working legally in Spain, the startup visa may be your preferred option.

In order to be accepted, S.A. or S.L. requires submitting a business plan fulfilling the following conditions:

- Create employment for the country by an innovative plan enhancing the socio-economic development
- Having patents, recommendation letters or clients already will increase your chances of getting your application accepted
- Having sufficient means for her/his and family (if they apply jointly) is also needed (2.130€ for the main applicant and 532€ for each family member)
- To start a company in Spain, you have to follow one of the two types of formation of Spanish legal entity, (“Sociedad Anónima” – S.A.). Entrepreneur benefits tax rate of 15% for first 2 years.

19. BELGIUM

Belgium offers a golden visa also known as “investor visa” program. The investor has no obligation to reside in the country, instead he can stay in the other european country as expatriate also. If the applicant wants to remain in business alone the investor should incorporate a LLC company naming the investor as the sole shareholder (12,400 Euros) with business plan to a notary. Regardless of the investor's country of origin, there must be a signed and notarized version of the bylaws that is written in the French, German, or Dutch languages. The business plan must detail the company's prospective operations and the goods it will sell or the services it will provide, and must also describe why the amount of initial capital is necessary and appropriate for the business. The plan should also demonstrate how the initial capital amount will provide for the business's operations for at least two years. Typical investment throughout the five year period is €350,000

20. SOUTH KOREA

D8 visa called the D8-4 visa otherwise known as the Startup Visa. This visa allows foreign entrepreneur to start a company in Korea without having to bring in a direct investment of \$100,000 or \$300,000 from outside of Korea. It's a points based system/program to get this visa for startup companies and it's called OASIS(Overall Assistance for Startup Immigration System). If he has a startup item that can grow and scale into a repeatable business, especially something the falls in either of the following:

- Technology related: Software, Hardware, Science, etc...