

Examination Directions of Entrepreneur Visa Qualification for Foreign Nationals

1. These directions have been drawn up in relation to the Executive Yuan's plan for the promotion of Entrepreneur Visa, to regulate the qualification examination for the issuing of Entrepreneur Visa.
2. When a foreign national applies for an Entrepreneur Visa, the examination of the applicant's qualification for the issuing of an Entrepreneur Visa shall be conducted by the Investment Commission, Ministry of Economic Affairs (hereafter referred to as "the Investment Commission, MOEA") in consultation with other relevant industry competent authorities; other agencies may be invited to participate in joint review where necessary.
3. A foreign national applying for an Entrepreneur Visa must have been educated to at least senior high school level (or the equivalent), and must meet the following criteria:
 - (1) An individual applicant should comply with at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. The applicant has secured investment from a domestic or overseas venture capital enterprise, or obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million from a government-approved international fund-raising platform.
 - b. The applicant has received approval to reside at a government-approved innovation park, or in an incubator facility that is either directly run by the MOEA, operated in collaboration with the MOEA, or has been rated by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past three years.
 - c. The applicant has been awarded patents either in Taiwan or overseas.
 - d. The applicant has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition, or has received approval to participate in a government project to encourage overseas entrepreneurs to invest in Taiwan.
 - e. The applicant has already established an enterprise with the amount of investment at least NT\$1 million in Taiwan that meets the official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability, and been serving as the legal representative of that enterprise.
 - (2) A team or group applicant:
 - a. The applicant who has not yet established an enterprise in Taiwan shall meet with at least one of Items a, b, c or d under Paragraph (1) above.
 - b. For the applicant who has already established an enterprise in Taiwan that meets the

official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability, the members of the team or group shall be serving as legal representative, executive officers or managers of the enterprise, and the members of the team or group shall have invested a combined total of at least NT\$1 million in the enterprise.

4. The term “enterprise that meets the official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability” as used in the previous article refers to an enterprise that has been lawfully registered under Taiwan’s *Company Act* or *Commerce Registration Act* for less than five years, and to which at least one of the following applies:
 - (1) The enterprise has obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million from a domestic or overseas venture capital enterprise.
 - (2) The enterprise is already listed on the Go Incubation Board for Startup and Acceleration Firms (GISA,TPEX), Taipei Exchange(TPEX).
 - (3) The enterprise has either been awarded an invention patent in Taiwan, or been transferred or licensed of patent rights by the holder of a Taiwanese invention patentee and been registered with the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA.
 - (4) The enterprise has resided at an innovation park approved by the Executive Yuan , or an incubator facility that is either directly run by the MOEA, operated in collaboration with the MOEA, or has been rated by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past three years.
 - (5) The enterprise or its legal representative has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition.
5. The concerning documents of Articles 3、4 and 7, and the industry competent authorities that must be invited to participate in qualification examination, are shown in Appendix.
6. Application shall be submitted to one of Taiwan’s overseas representative offices or to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) along with , the concerning documents specified in Appendix , as well as a photocopy of the at least senior high school certificate(or the equivalent),a Taiwan R.O.C. visa application form, and a photocopy of the applicant’s foreign passport; the overseas representative office or the MOFA will pass the application on to the Investment Commission, MOEA for examination.

Where an application is submitted by a team or group, the application shall be submitted by persons who jointly conform to one of the requirements specified in Paragraph (2) of Article 3 above. If all of the team members conform to the requirements for submission of an application by a single individual, then they may submit a joint application on presentation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The number of persons that may be included in a

team or group application may not exceed three persons, except in cases where special permission being given by a joint-agency approval.

7. Initial validity for an approved Entrepreneur Visa shall not exceed one year , however, when the applicant's business enterprise in Taiwan meets at least one of the criteria listed below, the applicant may apply for an extension, the applicant shall submit the qualification review documents specified in Appendix to the Ministry of the Interior, which will forward the application to the Investment Commission, MOEA for examination. The maximum permitted period of each extension may not exceed two years:
 - (1) The sales revenue of the applicant's enterprise for the most recent year, or the average for the most recent three years, is at least NT\$3 million.
 - (2) The operating revenue of the applicant's enterprise for the most recent year, or the average for the most recent three years, is at least NT\$1 million.
 - (3) The applicant's enterprise employs at least three full-time Taiwanese nationality employees.
 - (4) The applicant's enterprise can demonstrate some other category of operational performance that leads the industry competent authority to determine that the enterprise is making a positive contribution to Taiwan's economic development.
8. The provisions of these Directions shall apply mutatis mutandis to the provision of assistance by the MOEA for the examination of applications for resident visas in order to engage in entrepreneur activity that are submitted by residents of Hong Kong or Macao to the Ministry of the Interior or to the Mainland Affairs Council offices in Hong Kong and Macao.

Appendix

	Qualification Requirement	Documents to be Submitted	Agencies Participating in Review
Single individual	<p>1.1 The applicant has secured investment from a domestic or overseas venture capital firm, or obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million from a government-approved international fund-raising platform</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An investment commitment letter or similar documentary evidence signed by the promoter of a yet-to-be-established startup and the domestic or overseas venture capital firm(s). 2. A photocopy of the corporate registration document (or equivalent written evidence of lawful establishment), or document confirming amendment of the corporate registration document, of the domestic or overseas venture capital firm(s). 3. From the legal representative of a newly-established startup (in existence for less than one year) in which a domestic venture capital firm(s) has invested: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A detailed breakdown of share subscriptions paid by shareholders issued no more than two months prior to the date of submission of application (the “Shareholders” field must give the name of the investing domestic venture capital firm). (2) A photocopy of the corporate registration document (or equivalent written evidence of lawful establishment), or document confirming amendment of the corporate registration document, of the domestic venture capital firm. 4. From the legal representative of a newly-established startup (in existence for less than one year) in which an overseas venture capital firm(s) has invested: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A detailed breakdown of share subscriptions paid by shareholders issued no more than two months prior to the date of submission of application (the “Shareholders” field must give the name of the investing overseas venture capital firm, such as “XXX 	<p>Ministry of Economic Affairs (Industrial Development Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Investment Commission); National Development Council.</p>

	<p>Venture Partners” or “XXX Venture Capital”).</p> <p>(2) A photocopy of a document issued by an overseas competent authority (or agency commissioned to issue such documents by an overseas competent authority) authorizing the overseas venture capital firm to undertake investment activity (the areas in which the firm is permitted to invest much include the business area of the start-up being invested in).</p> <p>5. Documentary evidence verifying the securing of funding from a government-approved international fund-raising platform.</p>	
<p>1.2 The applicant has received approval to locate itself within a government-approved innovation park, or in an incubator facility that is either directly run by the MOEA, operated in collaboration with the MOEA, or has been rated by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past three years.</p>	<p>A photocopy of the collaboration agreement, contract or MoU etc. (covering the provision of incubator services, operational guidance, or business cultivation etc.) signed by the applicant and the park or incubator in which the applicant has received approval to locate itself.</p>	<p>National Development Council; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration); Ministry of Education</p>
<p>1.3 The applicant has been awarded patent either in Taiwan or overseas.</p>	<p>1. A photocopy of a patent certificate issued by Taiwan’s Intellectual Property Office, MOEA.</p> <p>2. A photocopy of a patent certificate issued by a patent issuing agency in a foreign country.</p>	<p>Intellectual Property Office, MOEA</p>
<p>1.4 The applicant has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition, or has had an application approved to participate in a government project to encourage overseas entrepreneurs to invest in Taiwan.</p>	<p>1. A photocopy of a Ministry of Science and Technology Innovation & Startups Award of Excellence certificate.</p> <p>2. A photocopy of a Small and Medium Enterprise Administration (MOEA) Taiwan Innovation Competition (TIC) award certificate.</p> <p>3. A photocopy of a DEMO God Awards award certificate.</p> <p>4. A photocopy of a Red Dot Awards award certificate.</p> <p>5. A photocopy of an iF Design Awards award certificate.</p>	<p>Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration, Industrial Development Bureau,</p>

	<p>6. A photocopy of a Good Design Awards (G-Mark awards) award certificate.</p> <p>7. A photocopy of an IDEA award certificate.</p> <p>8. A proposal for an entrepreneur venture in Taiwan that has been approved by the Taiwanese government.</p>	<p>and Department of Commerce); National Development Council</p>
<p>1.5 The applicant has already established an enterprise in Taiwan that has been in existence for less than five years, is serving as the legal representative of the enterprise, and has invested at least NT\$1 million in the enterprise, and to which at least one of the following applies.</p>	<p>1. An investment authorization letter, and a letter confirming the amount of investment, issued by the government agency responsible for approving foreign investment (or another agency commissioned to undertake this task on its behalf).</p> <p>2. The corporate registration document (or document confirming amendment thereof) or permit allowing establishment of a foreign-owned company (or document confirming amendment thereof).</p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Affairs (Investment Commission)</p>
<p>1.5.1 The enterprise has obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million from a domestic or overseas venture capital firm.</p>	<p>1. From a startup in which a domestic venture capital firm(s) has invested:</p> <p>(1) A detailed breakdown of share subscriptions paid by shareholders issued within two months prior to the date of submission of application (the “Shareholders” field must indicate the name of the investing domestic venture capital firm).</p> <p>(2) A photocopy of the corporate registration document (or equivalent written evidence of lawful establishment), or document confirming amendment of the corporate registration document, of the domestic venture capital firm.</p> <p>2. From a startup in which an overseas venture capital firm(s) has invested:</p> <p>(1) A detailed breakdown of share subscriptions paid by shareholders issued no more than two months prior to the date of submission of application (the “Shareholders” field must give the name of the</p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Affairs (Department of Commerce, and Investment Commission)</p>

		<p>investing overseas venture capital firm, such as “XXX Venture Partners” or “XXX Venture Capital”).</p> <p>(2) A photocopy of a document issued by an overseas competent authority (or agency commissioned to issue such documents by an overseas competent authority) authorizing the overseas venture capital firm to undertake investment activity (the areas in which the firm is permitted to invest much include the business area of the start-up being invested in).</p>	
	<p>1.5.2 The enterprise is already listed on the Go Incubation Board for Startup and Acceleration Firms (GISA), Taipei Exchange(TPEX).</p>	<p>A photocopy of the letter issued by the Taipei Exchange agreeing to the listing of the enterprise on the Go Incubation Board for Startup and Acceleration Firms (GISA) ,TPEX.</p>	<p>Financial Supervisory Commission</p>
	<p>1.5.3 The enterprise has been awarded an invention patent in Taiwan, or the holder of a Taiwanese invention patent has transferred or licensed its patent rights to the enterprise and this has been registered with the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA.</p>	<p>1. A photocopy of the patent certificate issued by the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA.</p> <p>2. A photocopy of the document issued by the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA, authorizing the transferring or licensing of the patent.</p>	<p>Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Economic Affairs</p>
	<p>1.5.4 The enterprise has located itself within an innovation park which approved by the Executive Yuan, or in an incubator facility that is either directly run by the MOEA, operated in</p>	<p>A photocopy of the collaboration agreement, contract or MoU etc. (covering the provision of incubator services, operational guidance, or business cultivation etc.) signed by the applicant and the park or incubator in which the applicant has located itself.</p>	<p>National Development Council; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration); Ministry of Education</p>

	<p>collaboration with the MOEA, or has been rated by the MOEA as by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past three years.</p>		
	<p>1.5.5 The enterprise or its legal representative has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A photocopy of a Ministry of Science and Technology Innovation & Startups Award of Excellence certificate. 2. A photocopy of a Small and Medium Enterprise Administration (MOEA) Taiwan Innovation Competition (TIC) award certificate. 3. A photocopy of a DEMO God Awards award certificate. 4. A photocopy of a Red Dot Awards award certificate. 5. A photocopy of an iF Design Awards award certificate. 6. A photocopy of a Good Design Awards (G-Mark awards) award certificate. 7. A photocopy of an IDEA award certificate. 	<p>Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration, Industrial Development Bureau, and Department of Commerce)</p>

2. Team or Group (that has not yet established a business enterprise in Taiwan)	2.1 The applicant has secured investment from a domestic or overseas venture capital firm, or obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million from a government-approved international fund-raising platform.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An investment commitment letter signed by the overseas corporation and the domestic or overseas venture capital firm, or other documentary evidence of inward remittance. 2. A photocopy of the corporate registration document (or equivalent written evidence of lawful establishment), or document confirming amendment of the corporate registration document, of the domestic or overseas venture capital firm(s). 3. A photocopy of a document issued by an overseas competent authority (or agency commissioned to issue such documents by an overseas competent authority) authorizing the overseas venture capital firm to undertake investment activity (the areas in which the firm is permitted to invest much include the business area of the start-up being invested in). 4. Documentary evidence verifying the securing of funding from a government-approved international fund-raising platform. 	Ministry of Economic Affairs (Industrial Development Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Investment Commission); National Development Council
	2.2 The applicant has received approval to locate itself in a government-approved innovation park, or in an incubator facility that is either directly run by the MOEA, operated in collaboration with the MOEA, or has been rated by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past three years.	A photocopy of the collaboration agreement, contract or MOU etc. (covering the provision of incubator services, operational guidance, or business cultivation etc.) signed by the applicant team and the park or incubator in which the applicant has located itself.	National Development Council; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration); Ministry of Education
	2.3 The applicant has been awarded patent either in Taiwan or overseas.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A photocopy of the patent certificate issued by the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA. 2. A photocopy of a patent certificate issued by a patent issuing 	Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Economic Affairs

		agency in a foreign country.	
	2.4 The applicant has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition, or has had an application approved to participate in a government project to encourage overseas entrepreneurs to invest in Taiwan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A photocopy of a Ministry of Science and Technology Innovation & Startups Award of Excellence certificate. 2. A photocopy of a Small and Medium Enterprise Administration (MOEA) Taiwan Innovation Competition (TIC) award certificate. 3. A photocopy of a DEMO God Awards award certificate. 4. A photocopy of a Red Dot Awards award certificate. 5. A photocopy of an iF Design Awards award certificate. 6. A photocopy of a Good Design Awards (G-Mark awards) award certificate. 7. A photocopy of an IDEA award certificate. 8. A proposal for an entrepreneur venture in Taiwan that has been approved by the Taiwanese government. 	Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration, Industrial Development Bureau, and Department of Commerce); National Development Council
3. Team or Group (that has already established a business enterprise in Taiwan)	The applicant team has established an enterprise in Taiwan that has been in existence for less than five years, to which at least one of the following applies, where the members of the team are serving as legal representative, executive officers or managers of the enterprise, and the members of the team have invested a combined total of at least NT\$1 million in the enterprise.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An investment authorization letter, and a letter confirming the amount of investment, issued by the government agency responsible for approving foreign investment (or another agency commissioned with authority). 2. The corporate registration document (or document confirming amendment thereof) or permit allowing establishment of a foreign-owned company (or document confirming amendment thereof). 3. Documentary evidence of the applicant team members' employment in the Taiwan-based enterprise. 	Ministry of Economic Affairs (Department of Commerce, and Investment Commission)
	3.1 The enterprise has obtained funding of at least NT\$2 million from a domestic or overseas venture capital firm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where the start-up has received investment from a domestic venture capital firm (and the start-up is structured as a corporation limited by shares or as a limited corporation): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A detailed breakdown of share subscriptions paid by shareholders issued no more than two months prior to the date of submission of application (the 	Ministry of Economic Affairs (Department of Commerce, and Investment Commission)

		<p>“Shareholders” field must give the name of the investing domestic venture capital firm).</p> <p>(2) A photocopy of the corporate registration document (or equivalent written evidence of lawful establishment), or document confirming amendment of the corporate registration document, of the domestic venture capital firm.</p> <p>2. Where the start-up has received investment from an overseas venture capital firm (and the start-up is structured as a corporation limited by shares or as a limited corporation):</p> <p>(1) A detailed breakdown of share subscriptions paid by shareholders issued no more than two months prior to the date of submission of application (the “Shareholders” field must give the name of the investing overseas venture capital firm, such as “XXX Venture Partners” or “XXX Venture Capital”).</p> <p>(2) A photocopy of a document issued by an overseas competent authority (or agency commissioned to issue such documents by an overseas competent authority) authorizing the overseas venture capital firm to undertake investment activity (the areas in which the firm is permitted to invest much include the business area of the start-up being invested in).</p>	

<p>3.2 The enterprise is already listed on the Go Incubation Board for Startup and Acceleration Firms (GISA), Taipei Exchange.</p>	<p>A photocopy of the letter issued by the Taipei Exchange agreeing to the listing of the enterprise on the Go Incubation Board for Startup and Acceleration Firms (GISA).</p>	<p>Financial Supervisory Commission.</p>
<p>3.3 The enterprise has been awarded an invention patent in Taiwan, or the holder of a Taiwanese invention patent has transferred or licensed its patent rights to the enterprise and this has been registered with the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A photocopy of the patent certificate issued by the Intellectual Property Office, MOEA. 2. A photocopy of a patent certificate issued by a patent issuing agency in a foreign country. 	<p>Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Economic Affairs</p>
<p>3.4 The enterprise has located itself within an innovation park which approved by the Executive Yuan, or in an incubator facility that is either directly run by the MOEA, operated in collaboration with the MOEA, or has been rated by the MOEA as a first-class incubator facility within the past three years.</p>	<p>A photocopy of the collaboration agreement, contract or MoU etc. (covering the provision of incubator services, operational guidance, or business cultivation etc.) signed by the applicant team and the park or incubator in which the applicant has located itself.</p>	<p>National Development Council; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration); Ministry of Education</p>
<p>3.5 The enterprise or its legal representative has won an award in a leading domestic or overseas business start-up or design competition.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A photocopy of a Ministry of Science and Technology Innovation & Startups Award of Excellence certificate. 2. A photocopy of a Small and Medium Enterprise Administration (MOEA) Taiwan Innovation Competition (TIC) award certificate. 3. A photocopy of a DEMO God Awards award certificate. 4. A photocopy of a Red Dot Awards award certificate. 5. A photocopy of an iF Design Awards award certificate. 6. A photocopy of a Good Design Awards (G-Mark awards) 	<p>Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Economic Affairs (Small and Medium Enterprise Administration, Industrial Development Bureau, and Department of</p>

			award certificate.	Commerce)
			7. A photocopy of an IDEA award certificate.	

4. Extension of period of residence (for an enterprise in Taiwan)	4.1 The sales revenue of the applicant's enterprise for the most recent year, or the average for the most recent three years, is at least NT\$3 million.	The Profit-seeking Enterprise Annual Income Tax Return or Declaration of Sales and Business Tax by a Business Entity for either the most recent year or the most recent three years.	Ministry of Economic Affairs (Investment Commission); other relevant industry competent authorities
	4.2 The operating revenue of the applicant's enterprise for the most recent year, or the average for the most recent three years, is at least NT\$1 million.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Profit-seeking Enterprise Annual Income Tax Return or Declaration of Sales and Business Tax by a Business Entity for either the most recent year or the most recent three years. 2. A detailed breakdown of expenditure on R&D, and supporting documentary evidence. 	
	4.3 The applicant's enterprise employs at least three full-time Taiwanese nationality employees.	A register of employees, and documentary evidence of employees' Labor Insurance and National Health Insurance coverage.	
	4.4 The applicant's enterprise can demonstrate some other category of operational performance that leads the industry competent authority to determine that the enterprise is making a positive contribution to Taiwan's economic development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Documentary evidence of the enterprise's annual purchasing in Taiwan, sales in Taiwan, or imports into or exports from Taiwan, etc. 2. Such other documents as may be required by the industry competent authority. 	

Note: Regarding the scope of application of Item b and d, Paragraph (1) of Article 3 of these Directions, and of Paragraphs (4) and (5) of Article 4, please refer to the "the official criteria for designation as a business start-up with innovation capability" and the attachments thereto, forming part of the Plan for the Promotion of Entrepreneur Visas as approved by the Executive Yuan.

A list of organizations that conform to the Qualification Requirements for Innovation-driven Startups condition no. 4, are run directly by the Ministry of Economic Affairs or are collaborative incubation organizations, or have been declared a high-quality incubation organization by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the last three years:

No.	Name
Run directly by the Ministry of Economic Affairs or collaborative incubation organization	
1.	NanKang Biotech Incubation Center, SMEA
2.	NanKang Software Incubation Center, SMEA
3.	Kaohsiung Software Incubation Center, SMEA
4.	The SME Incubator at Southern Taiwan Science Park, SMEA
5.	Hsinchu Biomedical Science Park Incubation Center, SMEA
6.	Industrial Technology Research Institute Innovation Incubation Center
7.	Incubation of National Chiao Tung University
8.	Chung Yuan Innovation & Incubation Center
9.	Institute for Information Industry Small and Medium Enterprise Innovation Incubation center
10.	Industrial Technology Research Institute NanKang IC Design Incubation Center
11.	National Sun Yat-Sen University South Taiwan IC Design Incubation Center
Rated as a high-quality incubation organization by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the last	
12.	National Tsing Hua University, Center of Innovative Incubator
13.	Incubation of National Chiao Tung University
14.	National Taiwan University of Science and Technology Business Incubation Center
15.	National Taipei University of Technology, Innovation & Incubation Center
16.	National Center University Innovation & Incubation Center
17.	National Chung Cheng University Small and Medium Enterprise Innovation Incubation Center
18.	Innovation & Incubation Center, National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences
19.	Tamkang University, Cham Pion Incubation Center
20.	Ming Chuan University Enterprise Incubation Center
21.	Chung Yuan Innovation & Incubation Center
22.	Chung Hua University, Innovation & Incubation Center
23.	Business Incubation Center of Feng Chia University
24.	Chaoyang University of Technology Innovation Incubation Center
25.	Far East University Precision Machinery Incubation Center
26.	Footwear & Recreation Technology Research Institute Innovation Incubation Center

A list of organizations that conform with the Qualification Requirements for Innovation-driven Startups condition no. 5, representative domestic or international competitions for innovation and design:

Category	Name
Innovation competitions	Ministry of Science and Technology From IP to IPO Program, Taiwan
	Ministry of Economic Affairs Business Startup Award, Taiwan
	Ministry of Education U-Start Program, Taiwan
	IDG DEMO Show , International Data Group, the USA
Design competitions	Red Dot Award, Germany
	IF Design Award, Germany
	G-Mark Award, Japan
	IDEA Award, USA