Hong Kong

Visa requirements relaxed for Cambodian nationals

Executive summary

From 1 March 2017, Cambodian nationals are eligible to apply to enter Hong Kong for employment, certain investment activities, training and study.

Background

Historically Cambodian nationals were ineligible to apply for certain types of Hong Kong visas.

In order to help foster cooperation and exchanges between Hong Kong and Cambodia, the Hong Kong Immigration Department has recently relaxed the immigration policy, allowing Cambodian nationals to enter Hong Kong under various other visas schemes.

Key points

Under the new policy, Cambodian nationals will be eligible to apply for the following visa schemes effective from 1 March 2017:

- Employment Visa (under the General Employment Policy)
- Investment as Entrepreneurs (to establish or join in business)
- Training Visa
- Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates
- Quality Migrant Admission Scheme
- Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents.

Furthermore, Cambodian nationals are now eligible to apply for Student Visas and Employment Visas under as Foreign Domestic Helpers effective from 1 March 2017.

There have been no other changes to the historical visa eligibility for Cambodian nationals.

Next steps

With the relaxation of visa requirements for Cambodian nationals, employers should be aware of the extended eligibility when considering candidates to assign to Hong Kong. Whilst these changes are welcomed and will open Hong Kong’s borders to easier mobility for Cambodian nationals, we note all visa applications remain subject to the review and approval of the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

Should you have any questions with regard to the above content, please contact Ernst & Young advisors as detailed below.
Mobility: immigration alert

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