

Global Immigration alert

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Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea formalizes its Digital Nomad Visa program with expanded eligibility and extended stay period

Executive summary

Effective 30 June 2026, the Republic of Korea formally adopted its Digital Nomad Visa (F-1-D) program following approximately two and half years of pilot operations. The revised framework introduces tiered income thresholds based on applicants' age and intended place of residence and extends the maximum stay period from two years to three years.

Background

The Ministry of Justice has announced the formal implementation of the Digital Nomad Visa program, together with enhancements designed to attract international professionals and promote economic activity and residence in regional areas.

Key developments

The revised framework replaces the previous single-income threshold with age- and location-based requirements:

- Applicants aged 18 to 34 residing in non-metropolitan or designated population-decline areas must demonstrate annual income of at least the Republic of Korea's gross 2025 national income (GNI) per capita (i.e., KRW52,410,000/approximately USD39,980).
- Applicants aged 18 to 34 residing in the Seoul metropolitan area, and applicants aged 35 or older residing in non-metropolitan or designated population-decline areas must demonstrate annual income of at least 1.5 times the 2025 GNI per capita (i.e., KRW78,620,000/approximately USD59,970).
- Applicants aged 35 or older residing in the Seoul metropolitan area must demonstrate annual income of at least twice the 2025 GNI per capita (i.e., KRW104,830,000/approximately USD79,960).
- Applicants accompanied by dependents (i.e., a spouse and/or minor children) must demonstrate annual income of at least twice the 2025 GNI per capita when residing

in the Seoul metropolitan area, or 1.5 times the 2025 GNI per capita when residing in non-metropolitan or designated population-decline areas, regardless of the principal applicant's age.

While the Digital Nomad Visa holders were previously eligible to remain in the country for up to two years, qualifying individuals may now stay for up to three years through one-year extension, provided they continue to meet all the visa requirements.

Impact on employers

The formalization of Digital Nomad Visa program with more flexible eligibility requirements provides employers and foreign nationals with greater flexibility for long-term remote working arrangements.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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