

# Fukuoka City METI Startup Visa



## About the Visa

The **Startup Visa** is a special program that allows foreign entrepreneurs to obtain "Designated Activities" status on an exceptional basis, following the review and approval of their business plan by Fukuoka City. This enables prospective entrepreneurs to enter Japan and undertake the necessary preparations for establishing their business for a period of up to two years.

It is intended as a preparatory period, giving applicants time to open bank accounts, find housing and office space, recruit employees, transfer capital, and complete incorporation paperwork. After the Startup Visa period, the applicant must meet all requirements to change their status to a "Business Manager" visa.

## Requirements



Must fall under one of the following business categories

1. Knowledge-Creation
2. Health, Medical, and Welfare-Related
3. Environment and Energy-Related
4. Logistics-Related
5. Trade-Related

(Note: Must meet additional requirements such as developing sales channels for products from Fukuoka City, utilizing Hakata Port, or having a high degree of innovation)



Proof that you have at least 30 million yen to invest as capital into your business.



Have at least one year of experience in business management or a related field; or Hold a master's degree or higher (or an equivalent qualification) in the relevant business or professional field.



The business must have an office within Fukuoka City.



The business must employ at least one full-time Japanese or permanent resident staff member.

These requirements must be met **at the time of application.**

There must be a **prospect** of meeting these requirements **during** the period of stay under the Startup Visa.

# Application Process and Next Steps



1

## APPLICATION

Consult with GBS on meeting the requirements



Submit all application documents  
\*submission by email only

2

## GETTING YOUR CONFIRMATION LETTER

Fukuoka City reviews the application  
(with input from a certified SME management consultant)

Confirmation Letter is issued

3

## GETTING YOUR VISA

Apply to the Immigration Services Agency for a Certificate of Eligibility

Apply for a visa at the Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country

Enter Japan and obtain landing permission under the "Designated Activities" visa

\*Applicants with an existing status of residence in Japan will be guided individually.

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## STAY UNDER THE STARTUP VISA

Valid for up to 2 years

Allows the following startup preparation activities:

- Securing an office
- Incorporating a company
- Hiring staff, etc.

Progress meetings with Fukuoka City held once a month

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## TRANSITION TO THE BUSINESS MANAGER VISA

Apply to the Immigration Services Agency to change your status to "Business Manager."

If you do not meet the Business Manager Visa requirements after the initial visa period, you can apply for up to two 6-month visa extensions (up to 24 months total).