

to enter Hong Kong without conditions, to vote, to run for election and to occupy certain civil positions reserved for permanent residents. You can also apply for an HKSAR passport.

The Right to Land

Persons who have previously held the right of permanent residency in Hong Kong, but who do not qualify for the Right of Abode, are entitled to the statutory Right to Land. This category applies to Canadians who previously lived in Hong Kong, but were not resident there for seven continuous years immediately prior to seeking entry into the HKSAR. Persons holding the Right to Land are entitled to enter Hong Kong without restrictions, but do not have political rights and can be deported for serious offences.

Work Permits

To obtain a work permit, you must normally be sponsored by a Hong Kong employer. The sponsoring employer usually handles the application to the HKSAR Immigration Department, and the process generally takes six to eight weeks.

The documents required include a contract of employment, along with a letter from your employer stating reasons for your employment. Your employer must demonstrate that the company is properly incorporated and/or registered and provide copies of financial statements. You should provide a copy of your résumé to demonstrate your qualifications for the job. If your family accompanies you, marriage and birth certificates are required.

Business Registration

The HKSAR Business Registration Ordinance requires that every person carrying on a business must register with the government within one month of commencing business. A business is defined as any work, profession or activity (other than employment) carried on for the purpose of financial gain.

Foreign corporations can register a branch under this Ordinance. Companies incorporated in Hong Kong must register, whether or not they actually conduct business in Hong Kong. A Business Registration Certificate must be displayed at the address where the business is carried on and