Step-by-Step Visa Application Hong Kong

The information below is correct as of October 2024.
For the most up-to-date information, please visit:

https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/study.html

Your visa application will be done in conjunction with your host university. These details are here for your reference.

1. Understand the Student Visa Requirement

Seeking a visa is mandatory before entering Hong Kong. Having a visa is a crucial step in your admission process and your plans to study in Hong Kong. All non-local students, whether participating in an exchange program or enrolling in full-time studies, must apply for a student visa or entry permit.

2. Submit Documents to your Host University

All documents required for your visa application will be sent via courier. The visa processing time is at least six weeks from receipt of all required documents, so you should apply as far in advance as possible. The application fee is HK$ 230.

3. Documents Required for Visa Application

The Immigration Department generally requires the following documents. Additional supporting documents may be requested as necessary:

- **Form ID 995A**: Completed and signed by the applicant.
- **Photocopy of Admission Letter**: From a university in Hong Kong, include your letter of acceptance.
- **Photocopy of Passport**: Ensure its valid.
- **Photocopy of Identity Document**: Travel document containing personal details.
- **Recent Passport-Sized Photograph**: One required.
- **English Proficiency Evidence**: Photocopy of qualifications such as IELTS or TOEFL (this is only required for applicants whose mother tongue is not English; UK and US natives may be exempt).

- **Proof of Financial Condition**: Documentation like bank statements or scholarship letters to demonstrate financial capability. **A proof of approximately HK$120,000 is expected, but this may vary based on your educational program.**

Before sending your documents, ensure you have a scanned copy of everything.

4. Importance of Organisation with the Visa Application

If you fail to submit even one relevant document, your admission could be jeopardized, and you may not receive your visa or experience delays. It is crucial to cross-check all documents before submission to ensure everything is compiled and filled out correctly. **Stay in touch with the immigration department of your university to address any missing items.** You can also check the status of your application online.

5. Post Application

Once your visa is issued, you will receive it as a PDF. You should check your name and details to ensure that they are accurate. Print a copy of it for the immigration officer on arrival in Hong Kong.

6. Student Landing Slip

On arrival in Hong Kong, ensure the immigration officer issues you with a 'student landing slip' otherwise your student visa will not be validated.

Ensure the following information is detailed on the landing slip:

1. Student – Permitted to remain until dd/mmm/yy
2. Studying the approved course at Host University
3. Your Name
4. Your travel document number
5. Your arrival date

7. Additional requirements for year-long exchange students

For year-long exchange students, you are required to apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card (HKID) within 30 days of arrival. Please apply for a HKID in person at the Registration of Persons Office in the Hong Kong Immigration Department by yourself.

Visa Application Checklist

Obtain admission from a Hong Kong educational institution ☐

Complete and sign **Form ID 995A** ☐

Gather required documents:

- o Admission letter and course acceptance ☐

- o Photocopy of passport and identity document ☐

- o Recent passport-sized photograph ☐

- o Academic qualifications and transcripts ☐

- o Proof of English proficiency (if applicable) ☐

- o Proof of financial condition (approximately HK$120,000) ☐

Ensure all documents are scanned so that you have a copy ☐

Submit your visa application via courier to your host university ☐

Maintain contact with your university's immigration department ☐